

SERMON

Theme: “United We Go”

Text: Joshua 1:1-9

Introduction:

This is the fourth day of our Conference and as we will in our worship this blessed morning focus on the **word “go”** under the theme of this Conference **“United we go”**. We have not come to this conference to stay on the mountain just as Peter and others wanted to stay at the Mountain when Jesus was transfigured. I know that you are experiencing wonderful fellowship, conversations, discussions, uplifting sermons and may be also disappointments, but let us all know that at the end of it all, we need **“to go”** wherever we have come from.

As we all read our text this morning which is an Old Testament text of **Joshua 1:1-9**, there are great insights and special revelations which God wants to speak to each one of us in this Conference today. The passage we have read starts with a phrase **“After the death of Moses – Then God spoke to Joshua”**. Listen to this, before the death of Moses, it means God did not speak to Joshua. The question we can raise is why did God not speak to Joshua when Moses was alive? Some known facts about Moses:

- i) Moses was a celebrated leader and the Bible says God spoke face to face with Moses.
- ii) Moses was a very humble leader even in the face of a crisis, he still called for prayer
- iii) Moses was a courageous leader who challenged Pharaoh plus he led the Israelites for 40 years. Sure enough that is not easy. 40 years is a long time.
- iv) Moses was a visionary leader taking the Israelites to the Promised land by a path he himself did not know of.

Yes with all these characteristics, we see that **all ministry**, temporal and spiritual **circled** around Moses hence the whole community **looked to Moses** and **depended** on him for **all solutions** in the community. This means the community depended on Moses instead of the Community **to depend of the God** who delivered them from Egypt. **ONLY when the things you depend on die can then God start to speak to your life direct**. Church of God listen to this, there are things that you **depend** on which are **hindering** God to speak to you. Yes as United Methodist’s there are some:

- i) Who depend on their culture and traditions
- ii) Who depend on their education
- iii) Who depend on the technological advancement

Yes, these have become a hindrance to us that God can no longer speak to us. **There is need to let them “die” in order for God to speak to us in a new way.**

Yes listen to this, “when Moses the Servant of the Lord died, God spoke to Joshua”. ONLY when you allow the “Moses” of our time to die will there be a message from God. And the good news to Joshua was and is **“Prepare to go to the promised land”**. Yes, this is the whole purpose of this Conference to allow God to speak to you so that you should **“prepare to go to the promised land”** which are the Promises God has made specifically for you as:

- a) Youth
- b) Whole Church of God
- c) Conferences of the United Methodist Church.

Yes, we all need to get to the Promised land which are the promises God has made. Remember in Jeremiah 29:11 God says, I know the plans I have for you, plans to give you a future and hope. That is our destination.

- **Tell your Neighbor, promised land is my destination.**

The only challenge we face is that a lot more people today are **contented** with their current situations. Yes, they are:

- a) Contented with the current leadership they have
- b) Contented with their traditional and cultural ways of doing their things
- c) Contented with their ways how they worship their God even how they pray and amount of time they give to God.

- **Yes, tell your neighbor “This is the time to cross over to my promises”.** Just to know, what are some of these promises God has in store for us:

- a) The promises of healing both spiritually and physically
- b) The promises of possessing the land (Inheritance)
- c) The promises of defeating your enemy
- d) The promises of justice (There has to be fairness in society).

The underlying question therefore is, **“How do I prepare to cross over to my promises?** There are many but will just speak four things as you prepare to cross over or “go”:

- 1) In verse 8, it says **“This Book of the Law should not depart from your mouth- meditate on it day and night”.** – Sure, there is **URGENT** need to have full knowledge of the Promises of God as

you Meditate yes meditate and indeed meditate. (**Ask your Neighbor “Do you meditate on the Word of God? Do you have time for God in your life?”**)

2) In verse 6 it says **“Be strong and courageous”**. As you prepare to cross over, be strong and courageous to:

- a) confront the injustices in our societies,
- b) Confront oppression in the world,
- c) Confront poverty in our communities,
- d) Confront the established structures in this world

➤ **Ask your Neighbor, are you strong and courageous?**

3) In verse 9, God says, **“I will be with you always”**. As you prepare to cross over to your promises, you need **an assurance from God**. The biggest challenge is that **many have no assurance** whether God will be with them or not. Remember, Moses in Exodus 33:15, said **“Lord if you do not go with us, we will not go”**. There is need for Divine assurance.

4) Lastly, in verse 6, as you prepare to go, **you need to have full knowledge of your mission**. Joshua was told his mission to say **“You will distribute the land to this people”**. As you prepare to go, **know your mission in the body of Christ which is His Church**.

➤ **Ask your Neighbor, do you know the mission God has sent you on?**

Yes, as I conclude, the fundamental question each one of us needs to address at this Conference is **“Are you prepared to go to your promises?”**

Position yourself before God this morning and find out whether:

- You have time to meditate on the Word of God
- You are strong and courageous
- You have the assurance from God and
- You have the knowledge of your mission in the Body of Christ.

Therefore “United we go” to our promises. May the good God bless you. Amen and Amen