



Creatures of Habit

Old Dogs & New Tricks (Joshua 1:6-9)

By Pastor David Hillis, 08 January 2017

BIG IDEA: With God at your side, you are able to change any habit you are motivated to change.

If we want something, regardless of age, we have the ability to learn the habit to do it, with time and intentionality.

In Joshua 1:6-9. God reassures Joshua that his life can have purpose and be successful, if he chooses to build the habit of reading and meditating on His Word every day and night. If he does that, he won't just know what the Bible says, but it will be a part of him, motivating him to live a life that honors God. It will cause him to make Godly decisions as a leader when tough calls have to be made, and it will help keep his relationship with God at the forefront of his life. This isn't just true for Joshua; it's true for all of us.

Why read the Bible?

1. **It is God's message to us, and it is perfect.** (Psalm 19:7-9; Proverbs 30:5) Some people struggle with understanding God's will for their lives, but the more regularly we take in God's message, the clearer we can hear God's voice in our lives.
2. **More than any other book, it is powerful and can bring lasting change into our lives.** (Hebrews 4:12; Philippians 4:13) It exposes those things in us that we might not otherwise see or pay attention to.
3. **God will want us to give an account of our lives one day.** (Job 14:3-5) Not only does God know the exact length of our lives and how we will spend them, but He will also demand an accounting of them.

4. **God has too much in store for us in this life to be distracted by a few creature habits.** (1 John 2:14; Jeremiah 29:11) 1 John 2 reminds us that the people to whom this letter was originally written were strong because the Word of God abided in them, so there was nothing that stood in their way. No bad habits, no sins, no anything!

NEXT STEP:

What habit(s) do you want to add, or get rid of, this coming year?

What do you need to believe & do differently to ensure that happens?

FOR MY PERSONAL TIME WITH GOD THIS WEEK:

1. Read Deuteronomy 31-34 and Joshua 1. As the story unfolds and leadership transfers from Moses to Joshua, what did Joshua need to know and do to fully live into God's plan? How might this inform you to create a habit such as daily meditation on Scripture?
2. Read Psalms 1 and 19. What do they teach about how the Word can change your life? What do they say is required?
3. If you haven't already, consider signing up to read through the New Testament with us in January and February as part of your new year's resolutions! Go to gracetucson.org/cbe for more details.