

**Joshua 1:6, Formula of Encouragement: Definition & Description;
Motivational & Functional Virtues; The Concept of Virtue: The
Greek Noun ἀρετή / *arete* /**

- 7- Notice that the Lord accompanies His mandates with a set of promises.
- 8- In order for Joshua to respond to the promises and execute the commands, he must have “strength and courage.”
- 9- The “strength and courage” mandate is linked with conditions:
 - 1) Keep the law; do not turn from it to the left or to the right, so that you may have success wherever you go. (Joshua 1:7)
 - 2) Do not cease to talk about it and meditate on it day and night. Three reasons:
 - a. So that you may do what is written in it.
 - b. For then you will make your way prosperous.
 - c. And then you will have success.
- 10- What we discern from this analysis is that strength and courage can only occur by observing the divine mandates.
- 11- In other words, if Joshua will study, teach, and meditate on the law he will establish wheel-tracks of righteousness from which he will not deviate either left or right.
- 12- From this lifestyle of righteous function Joshua will have confidence in the Lord’s promises from which will come the courage to execute His mandates.
- 13- Thus in the Formula of Encouragement, *chazaq*, or “be strong,” refers to the confidence which is developed in the soul of the believer toward the integrity of God.
- 14- The second word, *’amats*, or “good courage,” refers to the courage born out of confidence which can be focused on the execution of the mandates.

- 15- In the Age of Israel, the spiritual life was the execution of the Faith-Rest Drill. Confidence was placed in divine promises, which enabled the believer to concentrate on the requirements contained in divine mandates.
- 16- The end result was the courage to execute those mandates knowing that the God who ordered them was always with them, would never leave them, and was riding point ahead of them.
- 17- What resulted was courage toward man and circumstances.
- 18- In the Church Age the spiritual life is centered in the four spiritual mechanics.
- 19- This brings us to a discussion of the motivation and functional virtues of gates 5 and 6 of the Divine Power System.
- 20- Remember that motivational virtue is directed toward God while functional virtue is directed toward our fellow man. There are three categories:

- 1) Confidence in God is a motivational virtue that supports the functional virtue of courage toward man.

Isaiah 41:10 - Fear not, for I am with you. Do not anxiously look about for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, yes, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

- 2) Worship of God is a motivational virtue which generates the functional virtue of morality toward man.

Colossians 3:16 - Let the Word of Christ richly dwell within you with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

v 17 - And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

- 3) Personal love for God is a motivational virtue which sustains the functional virtue of unconditional love toward man.

1 John 4:20 - If someone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen.

B. Developing the Concept of Virtue:

- 1- The Greek word for “virtue” is ἀρετή and is found on four occasions in the New Testament:

Philippians 4:8 - [CTL] Therefore, royal family, everything that is true, everything that is honorable, everything that is righteous, everything that is pure, everything that is love, everything that is commendable, if there is any virtue and anything worthy of praise, concentrate on these things.

1 Peter 2:9 - You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of God’s own possession, in order that you may proclaim the virtues of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

2 Peter 1:5 - Applying all diligence, in your doctrine supply virtue, and in your virtue, knowledge ...

- 2- Paul tells us in Philippians that virtue consists of anything worthy of praise, including honor, righteousness, purity, love, and commendation. We are to concentrate on these things.
- 3- Peter uses the term in 1 Peter to define the purpose for which God called us out of darkness and into the operational divine power system—so we could proclaim His virtues through Client Nation function.
- 4- And in 2 Peter he admonishes us to supply our doctrinal inventory with virtue and to our virtue we are to supply knowledge.

- 5- In the mandate given to Joshua, “Be strong and of good courage,” the best translation for the word “strong,” or *chazaq* in the Hebrew, is “confidence.”
- 6- Confidence is the result of our spiritual growth which results in our weakness being turned into strength.
- 7- Thus, once we have developed confidence in the Word of God it becomes the virtue that sustains our courage toward man and circumstances.
- 8- The reason for selecting this English word “confidence” to translate *chazaq* is enhanced when we examine the etymology of the Greek word for “virtue.”