

Step in to allow God

Main Text

Joshua 3:1-17

Joshua 3:8b "...when you have come to the edge of the Jordan, you shall stand in the Jordan."

...and **Joshua 3:11-4:1-24**

This account here in Joshua is about faith in God, leadership, courage, change, new direction, finding yourself, growing up, and strength of character.

Everything Changes

Here in **Joshua 1-4** we see a phenomenal account, which I believe, is significant for each one of us today.

- Joshua is faced with Moses dying (*change*),
- God tells him that he was now in charge,
- God tasks him with taking the Israelites into the land that was promised to them (*wherever their feet touch awesome!*),
- To get to that land they have to cross the Jordan River which right now is a flowing torrent of water,
- Now all the major decisions will fall to Joshua and will affect everyone.

Think about this Joshua is an unproven leader but proven in his ability to serve. (The best leaders are those who know how to serve.) Joshua says to the people we are going to the Jordan to cross over and possess the land! They arrived at the Jordan River when it was at its seasonal height and it was threatening to burst its banks as was usual at this time of year. There was no bridge over the Jordan only a torrent as the river flowed. They had come to the Jordan not knowing when they were going to cross over, nor how they would get over. Would Joshua be the leader they needed? Would they just camp there for the duration? Would God step in?

At different times we are faced with things, that in the natural, seem so daunting, unpassable and there doesn't seem to be an answer no matter where we look – yet God always has the answer if we will follow His lead.

Have faith because God will do wonders

Joshua 3:1 Joshua and the children of Israel set out early in the morning for the Jordan in preparation for crossing over and they camped around the edge of the Jordan waiting for what was going to happen. I am sure Joshua in particular was playing over in his mind all the great things God had already done. He had learnt to trust God alongside Moses now it was His turn to step up in faith.

Joshua 3:2-4 the officers gave preparation instructions for what the people could and could not do regarding the Ark of the Covenant or the presence of God. Very specific instructions.

Joshua 3:5 Then Joshua said this key statement "...Sanctify yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you."

Sanctify – means they were to wash themselves and their garments, and abstain from every thing that might indispose their minds from a profitable attention to the miracle about to be wrought in their behalf.

1 Thessalonians 4:3-4 “...For this is the will of God, your sanctification:” we are born again and the Holy Spirit continually cleanses us. **Philippians 1:6** God will complete the work in us until the day of Christ.

“...And I am convinced and sure of this very thing, that He Who began a good work in you will continue until the day of Jesus Christ [right up to the time of His return], developing [that good work] and perfecting and bringing it to full completion in you.” Amplified

We are ready for the miraculous of God as the Holy Spirit does His work in us. As we allow the work of the Holy Spirit to have its full work we position ourselves right where God wants us to be. When we position ourselves where God wants us to be we are right where He can do signs and wonder among us. It is in this place of signs and wonders that God is exalted and the world around us recognises that God is at work and is with us. To many times we think we are where we should be but in actual fact we are just going through the motions of church and service to the most high God.

It is time for us to step into the place where we meet with God at every turn, at every moment in every day. Where our hearts are truly looking to see what God will say.

Have a heart that Follows

One of the keys to living a successful life in Christ Jesus is being able to follow the leading of the Lord following after the presence of the Lord.

Joshua 3:3 the people were told that when they saw the Ark of the Covenant they had to *set out and follow it* the NKJV says *set out from your place and go after it*.

Joshua 3:4b the officers made this awesome statement “...that you may know the way by which you must go, for you have not passed this way before.”

They had to keep the presence of God within their sight, not the river, not the leaders and not even Joshua. The people were asked to focus on the Ark of the Covenant the presence of God. The Ark of the Covenant the presence of God is mentioned 17 times in chapters 3 and 4. In chapter 3 alone, it was mentioned 10 times. Everything revolves around the ark or the presence of God.

We have to stay focused on the presence of God to find out where we need to go what we need to do *because God wants to take us where we have not been before in spiritual life*. When you focus on the presence of God you will face life with eagerness, confidence with no fear.

Have the courage to stand in the Water

Joshua 3:10-11 when you and I stand in the authority of God those around us will know that the living God is there with us.

1 John 4:4 remember the greater one is in you and you can stand against the enemy and see miracles.

“...Little children, you are of God [you belong to Him] and have [already] defeated and overcome them [the agents of the antichrist], because He Who lives in you is greater (mightier) than he who is in the world.” Amplified

Revelation 5:10 as kings and priests under God's hand we have a responsibility to stand in the authority and the presence of God and stand in the gap in order for the miraculous of God to take place.

Joshua 3:13-17 look at what the priest had to do.

Joshua 3:13 the priests who were carrying the presence of God had to step into the flowing torrent.

This is so significant for us as we carry the presence of God not on our shoulders but inside of us.

Corinthians 6:19 "...know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?"

When we step into the symbolic Jordan (*sickness, disease, financial, social, business etc.*) we are facing or on behalf of others we take the presence of God with us and we see the miraculous happen. When the priest stepped in the flowing torrent the water stopped and the river stood up like a wall.

Romans 8:28 when we step in the presence of God – that presence of God is at work on our behalf working all things together for our good. "...And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them." *New Living Translation*

Joshua 3:14-17 this is another significant fact; *the priests went before the people*. When we keep ourselves in the presence of God – God goes before us.

Isaiah 43:2 this is significant because God always goes before us if we keep our place in His presence.

"...When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze."

Note the position of the Ark or the presence of God during the entire crossing. It is described as being in 3 places.

- The Ark was ahead of them (**verses 6, 11 and 14**) – the Lord leads the way.
- And then the Ark was moved to the middle of Jordan (**verse 17**) – He was right in the middle of their difficult path. In the midst of the crisis (difficulty), God is there with His people.
- Lastly **Joshua 3:17, Exodus 4:15** tells us the Ark came up from the river after everyone had crossed – He made sure that everyone was safe. It symbolises His protection.

We have to remember what God does when we are faced with trouble, He is there with us at the start, He is there with us during, and He is there with us to see us through to the end when we come out blessed.

It requires us to stay in the presence of God. The people could not see what God was already doing. When the priests stepped into the waters, they did not see anything happening.

Joshua 3:16 at Adam, "a great distance away", God has already caused the waters to stop flowing. What God did, men did not see. God has already done something, but men did not know. We are called to walk by faith and trust that God is doing what He needs to do.

We don't need to worry if God will do His part, we must have faith in Him and His word. The fact is God has prepared everything we need for today. We are victorious in Christ, not maybe, not someday, but today we are already victorious. Believe this fact that even though nothing seems to be happening, God has already acted.

- God has already done something.
- God is already on the move.
- God is already answering prayers.
- God a great distance away, unseen by our eyes, has already begun the miracle!