



DAILY DEVOTIONALS

Part 4

The Shift of Faith and Memorial Stones

"Behold, I will do a new thing, now it shall spring forth; shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert. — Isaiah 43:19"

DAY 1

Suspicious Minds

Part 4 · Embracing Change

SCRIPTURE

Romans 8:6–7 (NKJV)

"For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be."

DEVOTIONAL

I've had conversations with people that never actually happened. You probably have too. Somebody says something, or maybe they don't say anything at all, and before long your mind has written an entire script. You decide what they meant, why they said it, and how you're going to respond. If you're anything like me, by the end of that imaginary conversation you've won the argument... because you were playing both sides. The problem is, none of it was real. It amazes me how much emotional energy we can spend fighting battles that only exist in our imagination. We replay conversations, assign motives, and speculate about things we don't actually know. Before long we've convinced ourselves that something is wrong, and all the while the other person has no idea a war has even started. That's exactly how suspicion works. It rarely begins with a blatant lie. More often it begins with a question. "Did they really mean that?" "Are they telling me everything?" "Can I really trust where this is going?" If we're not careful, those questions become agreements, and agreements become strongholds. As I was preparing for Sunday's message, Kelly shared something the Lord had spoken to her during prayer. She sensed that as we stepped into this new season as a church, the enemy wouldn't primarily attack through persecution or opposition. He would try to pick people off through suspicion. The more I prayed about that, the more I realized that isn't just true for a church transition. It's true in almost every area of our lives. The enemy loves to get us reasoning. Paul says the carnal mind is actually opposed to the things of God. That's a sobering thought. He doesn't say the carnal mind simply struggles to understand God's ways. He says it fights against them. That's why there is a difference between being rational and being carnal. It's okay to ask honest questions. It's not okay to allow our reasoning to become greater than our trust. One of the words the Lord impressed on Kelly was the phrase "square up." At first she thought it simply meant to square up against an enemy—to stand your ground. But when she looked it up, she discovered another meaning: to settle an account. If I owe you something and we square up, I pay what is due. I couldn't get away from that picture. Every lie the enemy whispers needs to be squared up against the truth of God's Word. Not argued with. Not entertained. Not rehearsed for three days. Squared up. When suspicion whispers, "You don't know what's really happening," I square that with the truth that my Father is faithful. When fear says, "What if this doesn't work?" I square that with the truth that He has never failed me. When my imagination starts writing stories that God never authored, I stop long enough to ask the Holy Spirit a simple question: "What's the truth of this matter?" I've learned something over the years. The Holy Spirit rarely answers my imaginary conversations. He answers my real questions. He doesn't fuel speculation; He brings peace. He doesn't magnify confusion; He reveals the Father's heart. As we step into new seasons—whether that's in our families, our marriages, our careers, or our walk with God—the enemy would love for us to spend our energy analyzing everything we don't know. But faith has never been built on knowing everything. Faith has always been built on knowing Him. That's why suspicion and trust cannot occupy the same space for very long. One will eventually give way to the other. Today, choose trust. Not because you have every answer. Not because you can see the entire path. But because you've come to know the One who is leading

you. The same Father who has been faithful in every previous season will be faithful in this one too.

REFLECTION

1. Have you been rehearsing conversations or assigning motives without actually knowing the truth?
2. What situation has tempted you to speculate instead of trust?
3. What truth from God's Word do you need to "square up" against that suspicion today?

PRAYER

Father, thank You that You have never asked me to live by speculation. You have invited me to walk by faith. Forgive me for the times I've allowed suspicion to shape my thinking instead of Your truth. Holy Spirit, expose every agreement I've made with fear, confusion, or imagination, and help me square each one with Your Word. Teach me to trust Your heart even when I don't yet understand Your process. I choose today to fix my mind on You, because You alone are life and peace. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

TODAY'S STEP

The next time you catch yourself replaying an imaginary conversation, stop and ask the Holy Spirit, "What's the truth of this matter?" Write down what He brings to your heart, and refuse to rehearse anything that doesn't agree with His character.

DAY 2

Step Into the Water

Part 4 · Embracing Change

SCRIPTURE

Joshua 3:17 (NKJV)

"Then the priests who bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood firm on dry ground in the midst of the Jordan; and all Israel crossed over on dry ground."

DEVOTIONAL

One of the things I love about Scripture is that it refuses to clean up the story for us.

When we read about Israel crossing the Jordan, it's easy to picture a peaceful river on a beautiful spring morning. But that's not what happened.

Joshua tells us it was flood season.

The river wasn't calm.

It was overflowing its banks.

If I had been standing there that day, I imagine my natural response would have sounded a lot like everyone else's.

"Lord... are You sure this is the right time?"

The interesting thing is that God never answered that question.

Instead, He gave an instruction.

"Follow the priests carrying My presence."

That's it.

He didn't explain how the water would stop.

He didn't show them the riverbed ahead of time.

He didn't hand Joshua a blueprint for the next six months.

He simply said, "Take the next step."

I've discovered that's often how the Lord leads.

I usually want the whole plan.

He usually gives me the next step.

I want Him to explain where He's taking me.

He reminds me to pay attention to where He's standing.

Kelly shared a picture Sunday morning that has stayed with me ever since. She described seeing a field so high you couldn't see the end of it. Jesus wasn't standing at the end of the field calling everyone to hurry up and figure it out. He was standing on the path saying,

"This is the way. Walk in it."

That may be one of the simplest pictures of faith I've ever heard.

Faith isn't pretending you can see farther than you actually can.

Faith is recognizing Jesus in front of you and taking the next step toward Him.

The carnal mind struggles with that.

It wants guarantees before obedience.

It wants certainty before surrender.

It wants the miracle before it steps into the water.

But that's not how the Kingdom works.

The priests had to get their feet wet before the river ever moved.

I've wondered how many times I've stood at my own Jordan waiting for God to do something He was waiting on me to trust Him enough to step into.

Not because my step creates the miracle.

It doesn't.

Only God parts rivers.

But obedience positions me to experience what only He can do.

That's exactly what happened with Israel.

The miracle didn't begin when they understood.

The miracle began when they obeyed.

I think that's an important distinction.

Sometimes we spend so much time trying to understand what God is doing that we never actually do the last thing He told us to do.

Joshua received another instruction only after they had already acted on the first one.

I've found the Lord often works that way in my own life.

He doesn't usually show me step ten while I'm still standing at step one.

He asks me to trust Him enough to take the step He has already made clear.

Then, in His timing, He reveals the next one.

If I'm honest, there have been seasons where I wanted Him to explain Himself.

Instead, He revealed Himself.

Looking back, I'm grateful He did.

Plans change.

Circumstances change.

Methods change.

But His presence has never failed me.

That's what Israel was really following that day.

Not Joshua.

Not a strategy.

Not a church growth model.

They were following the presence of God.

And that's still our assignment.

Whether we're walking through a church transition, a career change, a difficult season in our marriage, or simply trying to become more like Jesus, the invitation remains the same:

Keep your eyes on His presence.

Take the next step.

Trust Him with the one after that.

One day you'll look back and realize what seemed like the most uncertain season of your life became one of the clearest demonstrations of His faithfulness.

Because that's what He does.

He leads His people.

REFLECTION

1. Where have you been waiting for God to show you the whole plan before taking the next step?
2. What has the Holy Spirit already made clear that you've been hesitant to obey?
3. How would your perspective change if you focused more on following His presence than figuring out His process?

PRAYER

Father, thank You that You never ask me to walk somewhere Your presence hasn't already gone. Forgive me for the times I've allowed my need for understanding to become greater than my trust in You. Teach me to recognize Your voice, keep my eyes on Your presence, and faithfully take the next step You place in front of me. I trust You with what I cannot yet see because I know the One who is leading me. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

TODAY'S STEP

Spend a few quiet minutes with the Lord today and ask one question: "What is the next step You've already shown me?" Don't ask Him for the whole journey. Just take the next faithful step.

DAY 3

Wipe the Dust Off the Stones

Part 4 · Embracing Change

SCRIPTURE

Joshua 4:5–6 (NKJV)

"Then Joshua said to them, 'Cross over before the ark of the LORD your God into the midst of the Jordan, and each one of you take up a stone on his shoulder... that this may be a sign among you...'"

DEVOTIONAL

There are moments in Scripture that seem almost unnecessary until you slow down enough to ask why God included them.

This is one of those moments.

Israel has just witnessed one of the greatest miracles in their history. The Jordan River has stopped flowing. They have crossed on dry ground. If I had been writing the story, I probably would have moved straight to the Promised Land.

God didn't.

Instead, He stopped everyone.

"Go back into the river," He told Joshua. "Pick up twelve stones."

I've often wondered why.

Certainly they wouldn't forget a day like that.

Who could?

But the Lord knows something about us.

We remember the miracle much longer than we remember what the miracle revealed about Him.

The stones were never about preserving history.

They were about preserving perspective.

Years later, when a child pointed to that pile of rocks and asked, *"What do these stones mean?"* the answer wasn't supposed to be, "That's where we crossed a river."

The answer was, "Let me tell you about the faithfulness of God."

The stones pointed beyond themselves.

They always pointed back to Him.

I've been thinking about that a lot lately.

As a church, we're stepping into a new season. It's exciting, and if I'm honest, there are moments when it's also uncomfortable. Any time God leads us somewhere we've never been, there's a temptation to focus on everything we don't know yet.

That's exactly why memorial stones matter.

They remind us that today's unanswered questions are not the first ones we've faced.

Before Israel ever stood at the Jordan, they had already heard about another body of water God had parted—the Red Sea. That testimony didn't tell Joshua how God would work this time. The Jordan didn't part the same way the Red Sea did.

That's an important lesson.

A testimony tells us **what** God can do.

It doesn't tell us **how** He's going to do it next time.

If we're not careful, we can become so attached to yesterday's method that we miss today's movement.

God is wonderfully consistent in His character.

He is incredibly creative in His methods.

That's why memorial stones are so valuable.

They teach us to trust His heart without demanding He repeat His process.

As I reflected on Sunday's message, I realized I've been carrying memorial stones for years.

Some of them have names.

Provision.

Healing.

Restoration.

Unexpected doors that only God could have opened.

Conversations that changed the direction of my life.

Moments when I couldn't see a way forward, but somehow the Lord made one anyway.

I've also realized that life has a way of piling things on top of those stones.

You know how there's that chair—or maybe it's a dresser—in your bedroom that somehow collects clothes faster than you can put them away? Before long, you forget what's underneath because all you can see is what has accumulated on top.

We do the same thing spiritually.

Responsibilities pile up.

Disappointments pile up.

Questions pile up.

Before long, the stones are still there—we just can't see them anymore.

Sometimes the Holy Spirit doesn't need to give us a brand-new revelation.

Sometimes He simply invites us to wipe the dust off an old testimony.

To remember.

To look again.

To let yesterday's faithfulness strengthen today's faith.

One of the beautiful things about walking with Jesus is that every testimony becomes an invitation to trust Him again.

Not because He will always do it the same way.

But because He is always the same God.

When I remember what He's already done, I'm reminded of who He has always been.

And that gives me courage for whatever comes next.

REFLECTION

1. What "memorial stone" has God brought to your mind today—an unmistakable reminder of His faithfulness?
2. Have you been expecting God to repeat a previous method instead of trusting His unchanging character?
3. What questions are you facing today that become smaller when viewed through the lens of His past faithfulness?

PRAYER

Father, thank You for every memorial stone You have placed along my journey. Thank You for every prayer You've answered, every door You've opened, every place You've carried me when I didn't have the strength to keep walking. Forgive me for the times I've focused more on what I don't yet understand than on what You've already proven about Yourself. Help me remember—not so I can live in yesterday, but so I can walk confidently into tomorrow. You have never failed me, and You won't begin now. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

TODAY'S STEP

Take a few minutes today and write down three specific moments when God unmistakably showed Himself faithful. Read them slowly, thank Him for each one, and ask the Holy Spirit to strengthen your faith for the season you're walking through right now.

DAY 4

When the Obstacle Becomes the Opportunity

Part 4 · Embracing Change

SCRIPTURE

Joshua 4:23–24 (NKJV)

"For the LORD your God dried up the waters of the Jordan before you until you had crossed over... that all the peoples of the earth may know the hand of the LORD, that it is mighty."

DEVOTIONAL

One of the things I've learned over the years is that God rarely removes every obstacle before He asks us to move forward.

Sometimes He does.

Most of the time, He changes the way we see the obstacle.

When Israel crossed the Jordan, the miracle wasn't the end of the story.

It was the beginning.

On the other side of the river were cities that still had to be conquered, battles that still had to be fought, and promises that still had to be possessed.

Crossing the Jordan didn't eliminate every challenge.

It simply proved that none of those challenges would be greater than the God who had already brought them through the river.

That's what memorial stones are for.

They don't erase tomorrow's obstacles.

They change the way we face them.

I've noticed something in my own life.

When I'm tired, discouraged, or trying to figure everything out, obstacles look enormous. They feel like evidence that something is wrong or that I've somehow missed God.

But when I stop long enough to remember His faithfulness, the obstacle doesn't necessarily get smaller.

God just gets bigger again.

Perspective changes everything.

I've shared before that we've been looking at land as we think about what the Lord has next for our church. There have been moments when the numbers looked overwhelming. If I let myself stay there too long, it's easy to become discouraged.

Then the Holy Spirit reminds me to go back to the stones.

Remember when I provided before.

Remember when I opened a door no one else could open.

Remember when you thought there was no way forward, and I made one anyway.

The obstacle is still there.

But it no longer has the final word.

It has become another opportunity for God to reveal His faithfulness.

I wonder how many times we've mistaken an opportunity for an obstacle simply because we were looking at it through fear instead of faith.

That thought leads me to something else I shared Sunday that can be difficult to receive.

Sometimes betrayal becomes one of those opportunities.

I don't say that lightly.

Betrayal hurts.

If you've ever experienced it, you don't need someone to tell you how painful it can be. Whether it's a friend, a family member, a leader, or someone you trusted deeply, betrayal leaves a wound.

God doesn't celebrate betrayal.

Neither should we.

But God is so redemptive that He refuses to waste even the things the enemy meant for harm.

David never would have chosen Saul's betrayal.

Yet God used it to move David toward the very purpose for which he had been anointed.

Samuel mourned Saul long after God had already spoken.

The Lord finally asked him, "**How long will you mourn?**"

That wasn't a rebuke.

It was an invitation.

An invitation to stop living in yesterday's season and begin walking into today's assignment.

I've had seasons in my own life where, looking back now, I can honestly say I wouldn't choose the pain—but I also wouldn't trade what God produced through it.

Some of the hardest transitions I've ever walked through became the very places where I learned to trust Him most deeply.

They forced me to stop relying on what was familiar and begin relying on Him.

Sometimes that's exactly what the Father is doing.

Not because He's trying to hurt us.

Because He loves us too much to let us stay where we've become comfortable.

Every season has a purpose.

Moses wasn't a better leader than Joshua.

Joshua wasn't better than Moses.

They were simply graced for different assignments.

In the same way, one season ending doesn't mean it was wrong.

It means the Father is still leading.

And if He is still leading, then today's obstacle may be tomorrow's testimony.

Maybe that's the perspective the Holy Spirit is inviting us into today.

Instead of asking, *"Why is this happening?"*

Perhaps we begin asking,

"Father, what are You preparing me for?"

That question changes everything.

REFLECTION

1. What obstacle have you been viewing as evidence that something is wrong instead of an opportunity for God to reveal His faithfulness?
2. Is there a past disappointment or betrayal that the Lord may be inviting you to see through a different lens today?
3. How have previous seasons prepared you for the one you're walking through now?

PRAYER

Father, thank You that Your faithfulness is greater than every obstacle I face. Give me eyes to see what You are doing instead of becoming consumed by what stands in front of me. Redeem every painful place in my life, and help me trust that nothing surrendered to You is ever wasted. Teach me to recognize opportunities where I once saw only obstacles, and continue leading me into everything You have prepared for me. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

TODAY'S STEP

Think about one obstacle you've been carrying this week. Instead of asking God to simply remove it, ask Him to show you what He wants to reveal about Himself through it. Then thank Him in advance for His faithfulness, even before you see the outcome.

DAY 5

A New Season Requires a New Posture

Part 4 · Embracing Change

SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 3:20 (NKJV)

"Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us."

DEVOTIONAL

As I reflected on Sunday's message, I realized something.

The Lord isn't simply moving us into a new location.

He's inviting us into a new posture.

Those aren't always the same thing.

It's entirely possible to change locations without changing hearts. Israel could have crossed the Jordan and still carried the mindset of the wilderness with them. They would have been standing in the Promised Land while thinking like they were still wandering in the desert.

The Father wants more than that for us.

He is after transformation.

One of the passages we often quote is Ephesians 3:20: *"Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think..."* Usually we read that verse and immediately begin thinking about miracles, provision, healing, open doors, and all the ways God can move around us.

And He does.

I believe with all my heart that we're going to continue seeing signs, wonders, miracles, healing, and deliverance. I believe we're stepping into a season where we'll see even more of the supernatural activity of God.

But that's not the only way His power works.

The same Holy Spirit who heals a body is the Holy Spirit who teaches me to guard my tongue.

The same Spirit who sets someone free from oppression is the Spirit producing patience when I'd rather react.

The same Spirit who works miracles through me is forming the character of Jesus within me.

Somewhere along the way, we've sometimes acted as though we have to choose between the gifts of the Spirit and the fruit of the Spirit.

I don't want either one without Him.

I don't want power without love.

I don't want gifts without character.

I don't want a public ministry that outpaces my private surrender.

I simply want Jesus to be fully formed in me.

The beautiful thing is that He never asks us to produce that transformation on our own.

The fruit of the Spirit isn't called the fruit of human effort.

It's the fruit of the Spirit.

As we remain yielded to Him, He produces what only He can produce.

That's why Sunday's invitation wasn't, "Try harder."

It was, "Take a step."

Sometimes that step is as simple—and as humbling—as acknowledging what the Holy Spirit is already showing us.

"Lord, I've become critical."

"Father, I've been led more by my emotions than by Your Spirit."

"I've been carrying offense."

"I've lost some of my awe."

Those moments aren't failures.

They're the beginning of transformation.

The Jordan didn't begin to part after Israel reached the other side.

It began the moment the priests stepped into the water.

In much the same way, transformation often begins the moment we stop defending ourselves and simply agree with the Holy Spirit.

"You're right, Lord."

"I don't want to stay here."

"Change me."

One of the final things I challenged our church with was this simple prayer:

"Lord, make me quick to hear and quick to obey."

I've been thinking about that all week.

Not quick to explain.

Not quick to defend.

Not quick to criticize.

Not quick to argue.

Quick to hear.

Quick to obey.

I wonder what would happen in our marriages if we lived that way.

In our friendships.

At work.

In our worship.

In our homes.

I suspect we'd discover that breakthrough often comes on the other side of simple obedience.
Not because obedience earns God's favor—we already have that through Christ.
But because obedience keeps our hearts aligned with the One who is transforming us.
As I look toward the season ahead, that's honestly my greatest expectation.
Yes, I expect to see miracles.
Yes, I expect to see provision.
Yes, I expect to see God continue opening doors we could never open ourselves.
But more than anything else, I want us to become a people who look more like Jesus than we did yesterday.
Because buildings change.
Methods change.
Seasons change.
Even memorial stones eventually weather.
But a life continually being conformed into the image of Christ is a testimony that never stops speaking.
May that be true of us.

REFLECTION

1. In what area of your life is the Holy Spirit inviting you into a deeper posture of surrender?
2. Have you found yourself desiring God's power while resisting the character He wants to produce?
3. What would it look like today to be quick to hear and quick to obey?

PRAYER

Father, thank You that You are more committed to my transformation than I could ever be. Thank You that You have not only called me into a new season but are preparing me for it by forming the life of Jesus within me. Holy Spirit, continue revealing anything in me that doesn't reflect the Father's heart. Give me grace to respond quickly, humbly, and joyfully. I don't want to settle for outward change while remaining inwardly the same. Produce Your fruit in me. Manifest Your gifts through me. Above all, make me look more like Jesus. I trust You with the process because I trust Your heart. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

TODAY'S STEP

Before you begin your day, pray this simple prayer and sit quietly for a few moments afterward: "Holy Spirit, help me be quick to hear and quick to obey today." Then pay attention to the gentle promptings throughout the day. Respond to them—not to earn God's approval, but because you already belong to Him and want your life to reflect His Son.

EMBRACING CHANGE · PART 4

Study Guide

The Shift of Faith and Memorial Stones

"Faith was never built on knowing everything. It was built on knowing Him. Square up what you don't understand against what you already know is true, take the next step, and let the God who has never failed you lead you into what's next."

SECTION 1

The Foundation

We cannot step into what God is doing next while our minds are still occupied with what we haven't resolved from the last season. Every new season tests whether we are following God's presence or negotiating with our own reasoning. Kingdom transitions are not won by understanding the whole plan — they are won by obedience to the next step.

This solves a real problem: many believers stall in transition, not because God stopped moving, but because unchecked suspicion and comfort quietly convince them to stay where it's safe to understand rather than where it's costly to trust.

KEY INSIGHT

"A testimony tells us what God can do. It doesn't tell us how He's going to do it again."

SECTION 2

Defining the Terms

Rational vs. Carnal

- **What it is:** Rational is asking honest questions while still trusting God's heart. Carnal is reasoning that positions itself against God's plan.
- **What it produces:** Rational thinking invites the Holy Spirit in. Carnal thinking replaces Him with speculation.
- **How it shows up:** Rational — "Lord, help me understand." Carnal — rehearsing arguments, assigning motives, deciding what someone "really" meant.

Testimony vs. Method

- **What it is:** Testimony is the record of what God has already proven about His character. Method is the specific way He chose to do it that one time.
- **What it produces:** Testimony produces confident faith for what's next. Demanding the method produces disappointment when God moves differently.
- **How it shows up:** Expecting God to provide the way He did last time, then feeling abandoned when He doesn't.

Obstacle vs. Opportunity

- **What it is:** An obstacle is something in front of you that looks like it's blocking the promise. An opportunity is the same thing, seen through memorial stones.
- **What it produces:** Obstacle-thinking produces fear and delay. Opportunity-thinking produces expectancy.
- **How it shows up:** The difference between "why is this happening to me" and "Father, what are You preparing me for."

The So What: We don't need every answer to keep moving — we need enough remembered faithfulness to trust the One who's leading, one step at a time.

SECTION 3

The Crossing: Four Movements of Kingdom Transition

1. Suspicion Will Try to Pick You Off

- The enemy rarely attacks transition through open opposition; he attacks through questions that become agreements.
- Left unanswered by truth, “did they really mean that?” becomes a stronghold.
- Romans 8:6–7 — the carnal mind is not neutral; it is enmity against God.

2. Obedience Before Understanding

- Joshua 3:17 — the priests stood in the river before the water ever stopped moving.
- God gave one instruction at a time; the next one only came after the first was obeyed.
- Kingdom advancement doesn’t wait for a model. It moves on presence.

3. Memorial Stones: Remembering Without Repeating

- Joshua 4:5–7 — twelve stones taken from the Jordan, set up so the next generation would ask what they meant.
- Stones aren’t for reliving the past. They’re for building faith for what’s next.

4. Obstacles Become Opportunities

- Joshua 4:23–24 — crossing the Jordan didn’t remove every future battle; it proved God was bigger than whatever came next.
- Even betrayal, painful as it is, can become the thing God uses to move us toward what He’s called us to (1 Samuel 16:1).

The So What: Every season we’ve already walked through with Him is proof for the season we haven’t walked through yet.

SECTION 4

The Mechanism

How obedience actually works in a transition:

1. God gives one instruction — not the whole plan.
2. We obey what’s already clear, even without understanding what’s next.
3. The obedience itself positions us for what only God can do — it doesn’t produce the miracle; it puts us where the miracle happens.
4. Once we’ve acted on what we know, God releases the next instruction.

This is why so many of us feel stuck: we’re waiting for step ten while still standing on step one, waiting to understand instead of waiting to obey. God doesn’t usually explain Himself in advance. He reveals Himself as we move.

SECTION 5

The Declaration

Suspicion is defeated not by out-arguing it, but by squaring it up against truth. *“Casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ”* (2 Corinthians 10:5, NKJV). Every lie gets one response: settle the account with what God has already said.

Declarations for the crossing:

- “Lord, I trust You. I trust where You’re taking me.”
- “I square this suspicion up against the truth that my Father is faithful.”
- “I don’t need the whole plan. I need the next step.”

Philippians 4:8 Checklist — before you rehearse a thought, ask:

- Is it true?
- Is it noble?
- Is it just?
- Is it pure?
- Is it lovely?
- Is it of good report?

If a thought fails this list, it doesn’t get rehearsed. It gets squared up.

SECTION 6

Practices for the Crossing

In your private time: Before you replay a conversation, ask the Holy Spirit one question — “What’s the truth of this matter?” — and refuse to rehearse anything that doesn’t agree with His answer.

With your testimonies: Set aside time this week to name three specific memorial stones — moments God unmistakably came through — and thank Him for each one out loud.

In your relationships: When suspicion rises toward someone, take it to God before you take it to your imagination. Ask Him for the truth before you assign a motive.

In your obedience: Identify the one next step God has already made clear, and take it — not the whole plan, just the step.

SECTION 7

Reflection & Application

1. What is the suspicious thought I keep rehearsing?

Name the specific conversation, motive, or fear you’ve been replaying without evidence.

2. What do I actually want from God in this season — certainty, or Him?

Be honest about whether you’re asking for a plan when He’s offering His presence.

3. What memorial stone have I stopped looking at?

Identify one specific, past faithfulness of God that applies directly to what you’re facing now.

4. What is the next step I already know to take?

Not the whole journey — just the one obedience in front of you today.

SUMMARY

Faith was never built on knowing everything. It was built on knowing Him. Square up what you don't understand against what you already know is true, take the next step, and let the God who has never failed you lead you into what's next.