

## ***"First You STEP... Then You'll SEE!" - Joshua 3:9-17***

As disciples of Christ, our entire relationship with Jesus rises and falls, based upon one primary virtue. Scripture tells us that it is **FAITH** that is absolutely foundational, vitally central, and completely non-negotiable!

- **Heb 10:38**- *"The just shall live by FAITH."*
- **Heb 11:6**- *"Without FAITH it is impossible to please God.."*
- **2 Cor 5:7**- *"We walk by FAITH, and not by sight."*

However, the historical record of Scripture is very clear, and very repetitive... that in order to **GROW** and **INCREASE** and **DEEPEN** our faith, the Lord regularly allows us (*or sends us*) into extreme situations, often times bizarre situations, that will stretch our trust in Him to its ultimate limit... all to **GROW** us in our faith & trust in Him!

- *Abraham & Isaac (Gen 22)*
- *Noah & the ark (Gen 6-9)*
- *Joshua & Jericho (Josh 6)*
- *Jesus & the Cross (John 18-19)*

**NKJV**- *"So Joshua said to the children of Israel, "Come here, and hear the words of the Lord your God." And Joshua said, "By this you shall know that the living God is among you, and that He will without fail drive out from before you the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Hivites and the Perizzites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Jebusites: Behold, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth is crossing over before you into the Jordan.*

*Now therefore, take for yourselves twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one man from every tribe. And it shall come to pass, as soon as the soles of the feet of the priests who bear the ark of the Lord, the Lord of all the earth, shall rest in the waters of the Jordan, that the waters of the Jordan shall be cut off, the waters that come down from upstream, and they shall stand as a heap."*

*So it was, when the people set out from their camp to cross over the Jordan, with the priests bearing the ark of the covenant before the people, and as those who bore the ark came to the Jordan, and the feet of the priests who bore the ark dipped in the edge of the water (for the Jordan overflows all its banks during the whole time of harvest), that the waters which came down from upstream stood still, and rose in a heap very far away at Adam, the city that is beside Zaretan. So the waters that went down into the Sea of the Arabah, the Salt Sea, failed, and were cut off; and the people crossed over opposite Jericho. 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, until all the people had crossed completely over the Jordan."*

- This would be an **EVIDENCE** of power, that the LORD GOD was among them, with them, and fighting for them against their enemies.

- **What would be the evidence of God's power??**-The Levitical priests were to walk in front of the entire Israeli camp (.5 miles), and come to the edge of the **OVERFLOWED** water of the JORDAN RIVER and **STEP INTO** the water with all of their feet...**AFTER THAT**, the Lord promised to FULLY **DISPLAY HIS POWER** by stopping the flow of this mighty river, and making it "stand up in a heap" miraculously!
- This is what I like to call the principle of **"FIRST STEP... THEN YOU'LL SEE!"**
  - **Acts 8- Philip in the desert..**
  - **Mark 4- Disciples in the storm..**
  - **Mark 3- Lame man with the withered arm..**
  - **2 Chron 20- Jehoshaphat when surrounded..**
  - **1 Kings 17- Widow near starvation..**
- Joshua's leaders **FIRST STEPPED**... and **THEN THEY SAW** the Lord work wonders for them! Thru this, the Lord confirmed His will for Joshua's life, and increased His trust in God's Word!

### **APPLICATION:**

- What STEP of faith might God be calling **YOU** to take??
- If you want to grow in your faith, and **the Lord has spoken to you...** (even though you might be scared/nervous about the outcome)**you have to FIRST STEP** out in faith...
- Once you STEP... **then you'll SEE Him fulfill His Word** to you, guide you, and give you the victory He promised you!