

“7 Steps to Victory” - Joshua 3:1-8 pt.1

NKJV- “Then Joshua rose early in the morning; and they set out from Acacia Grove and came to the Jordan, he and all the children of Israel, and lodged there before they crossed over. So it was, after three days, that the officers went through the camp; and they commanded the people, saying, “When you see the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God, and the priests, the Levites, bearing it, then you shall set out from your place and go after it. Yet there shall be a space between you and it, about two thousand cubits by measure. Do not come near it, that you may know the way by which you must go, for you have not passed this way before.” And Joshua said to the people, “ Sanctify yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you.” Then Joshua spoke to the priests, saying, “Take up the ark of the covenant and cross over before the people.” So they took up the ark of the covenant and went before the people. And the Lord said to Joshua, “ This day I will begin to exalt you in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that, as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. You shall command the priests who bear the ark of the covenant, saying, ‘When you have come to the edge of the water of the Jordan, you shall stand in the Jordan.’ ”

Faith is NOT “stepping in spite of evidence”, but rather OBEYING in spite of consequence!!

- Noah **BUILT** in faith (Heb 11:7)
- Abraham **MOVED** in faith. (Heb 11:8)
- Moses **LEFT** in faith (Heb 11:24-29)
- Faith must **always** be accompanied by **ACTION!** - “Faith without works is **DEAD!**”
 - **James 2:17(NLT):** “So you see, faith by itself isn’t enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless.”
- **ACTIVE** faith vs. **passive** faith...
- **FAITH**-filled leader + **FAITH**-filled people = **UNLIMITED** possibilities!!

> Step #1 - Have Godly **PRIORITIES!**

“Then Joshua **rose early** in the morning..”

- Jesus did this very same thing throughout His earthly ministry...
- **How big of a priority is PRAYER? SERVING THE LORD? GIVING? GOD'S WORD?**
 - **Job 23:12NLT** - “I have not departed from his commands, but have **treasured His words more than daily food.**”

- Many times in life, we get easily **confused** as to what's the most important. Often we get **tricked**, into thinking that less important things, are the most important.

> Step #2 - Have Godly **PATIENCE!**

"..and they set out from Acacia Grove and came to the Jordan, he and all the children of Israel, and **lodged there before they crossed over. 2 So it was, **after three days**, that the officers went through the camp.."**

- **Acts 1:6-7 NLT** - "So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, "Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?" He replied, "The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and **they are not for you to know.**"
- **John 2:3-4 NLT** - "The wine supply ran out during the festivities, so Jesus' mother told him, "They have no more wine." "Dear woman, that's not our problem," Jesus replied. "**My time has not yet come.**"
- **Ecc 3:11 NLT** - "God has made everything **beautiful for its own time.**"
 - **Illustration: "Longest serving soldier of WWII - Hiro Onoda"**

> Step #3 - Have God's **PRESENCE!**

"..they commanded the people, saying, "When you see **the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God, and the priests, the Levites, bearing it, then you shall set out from your place and **go after it.**"**

- **Josh 1:5-6 NLT** - "No one will be able to stand against you as long as you live. For I will be with you as I was with Moses. I will not fail you or abandon you."

◦ **Illustration: Wilderness wanderings... fire  by night + cloud**



□ **by day**

> Step #4 - Have a Godly **PERSPECTIVE!**

"Yet there shall be **a space between you and it, about two thousand cubits by measure. **Do not come near it**, that you may **know the way by which you must go**, for you have not passed this way before."**

- **Isaiah 30:21 NLT** - "Your own ears will hear Him. Right behind you a voice will say, "This is the way you should go," whether to the right or to the left."
- "**Fear of the Lord**" means a "holy reverence, worshipful respect"
 - **Illustration: "Optical illusions are tricky...."**


> Step #5 - Have Godly **PURITY!**

“And Joshua said to the people, “ **Sanctify yourselves**, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you.”

- Sanctify = separate + cleanse yourself!
- **1 Pet 1:14-16**NLT - "So you must live as God's obedient children. Don't slip back into your old ways of living to satisfy your own desires. You didn't know any better then. But now you must be holy in everything you do, just as God who chose you is holy. For the Scriptures say, "You must be holy because I am holy."
 - **Illustration: "Bulldog w/ 19 pacifiers in his stomach!!"**
 - **Deer w tumors!!**

> Step #6 - Be Godly **PEOPLE!**

“Then Joshua spoke to **the priests**, saying, “Take up the ark of the covenant and cross over before the people.” So they took up the ark of the covenant and **went before the people**. 7 And the Lord said to Joshua, “ This day I will begin to exalt you in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that, **as I was with Moses, so I will be with you**. 8 You shall command the priests who bear the ark of the covenant, saying, ‘When you have come to the edge of the water of the Jordan, you shall stand in the Jordan.’ ”

- **2 Chron 16:9**NLT - "The eyes of the Lord search the whole earth, in order to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to Him."
 - The Lord wants to see my FAITH in **ACTION!!**(so do your children + family) (James 2)
 - 1st comes **Action**..... 2nd comes **PROVISION!!**
 - 1st you **STEP**.... then you'll **SEE!!**  (Abraham, Noah, David)
 - **Illustration: "1775 volunteers"**

> Step #7 - Have Godly **POWER!**

“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..”

- **Acts 1:8**NLT - "...you will **receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you**. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."
- **Gen 1:1** NLT - "In the beginning, **the LORD created (out of nothing) the heavens** and the earth."

- **Jer 32:17NLT** - "O Sovereign Lord! You made the heavens and earth by your strong hand and powerful arm. **Nothing is too hard for You!**"
 - **Illustration: "Project Manhattan"**