

# Standing at the Brink: When God Calls You to Cross Over

There's a profound moment in every believer's journey when the comfortable becomes uncomfortable, when the familiar must be left behind, and when God draws a line in the sand of your life. On one side lies everything you've known, the wilderness of your past, your fears, your limitations. On the other side stands a promise, untested, unseen, but spoken by the voice of God Himself.

This is the brink.

## The Geography of Transformation

The ancient Israelites found themselves at exactly this crossroads. After forty years of wilderness wandering, they stood at the edge of the Jordan River, staring at the fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham. Between them and their destiny raged a swollen, overflowing river at flood stage, the Jordan during harvest time, when its waters were most treacherous.

This wasn't just a geographical obstacle. It was a spiritual confrontation.

The Jordan River represented everything that stands between who we are and who God has called us to become. It symbolized the death of wilderness thinking, the end of a generation that doubted, and the birth of a new identity. To enter the promised land, they would have to cross through what appeared to be certain destruction.

God's instruction to Joshua was both simple and terrifying: "When ye are come to the brink of the water of Jordan, ye shall stand still in Jordan" (Joshua 3:8 NKJV).

Stand still. Don't retreat. Don't panic. Hold your position until I move.

## The Three Places of Destiny

Every believer stands in one of three critical places on their journey toward God's promises:

**The Brink** is the place of decision. It's where God rearranges the ordinary and makes it sacred. On this particular day, God changed the protocol, the priests who normally performed rituals, not those who typically carried the ark, were commanded to bear it. The ark, which usually traveled behind the tribes, now went first.

Why this change? Because what they were about to experience wasn't ordinary. It was divine. It was historic. It was a move of God unlike anything they had witnessed.

When God brings you to the brink, He often rearranges what once felt normal. What came behind you now comes before you. What felt comfortable now becomes a calling. The brink asks you one fundamental question: Will you trust God, or will you return to the wilderness you know?

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**The Brim** is the place of death, death to self, death to fear, death to the old identity that cannot cross with you into your destiny. The brim is the very edge where the river meets the land, the point of no return.

Ancient Jewish commentary reveals something remarkable about this moment: the priests stepped into the brim of the water before God performed the miracle. Their toes touched the flood waters while the river still raged. There was no parting, no divine intervention; yet. They stepped in believing, trusting that what God said He would do, He would accomplish.

According to the Talmud, when they finally stepped in, the waters didn't politely part, they rose in towering heaps, some traditions saying as high as thirty miles, visible to surrounding kingdoms. This cosmic miracle required a personal surrender first.

Faith wets its feet before God parts the water.

Too many believers stand at the brink praying for the water to part first. But God often requires a brim step, a step into risk, into surrender, into what looks like death. You cannot carry wilderness thinking into the promised land. You cannot carry old fears into your new future.

**The Border** is the place of reflection, not arrival. When Israel finally crossed over, God commanded them to take twelve stones from the Jordan, enormous stones weighing over 500 pounds each, and set them up as a memorial at Gilgal.

These stones weren't decorative. They were testimonial. They were for generations yet unborn, so that when children asked, "What do these stones mean?" their parents could answer: "This is where God held back the waters. This is where He carried us through death. This is where He transformed our identity."

The border reminds us that destiny is not a finish line, it's a beginning. Israel's greatest battles lay ahead: Jericho, Ai, the conquest of the promised land. God didn't bring them to the border to camp. He brought them to conquer.

## The Band-Aid Mentality

We live in a culture of quick fixes and temporary solutions. We put band-aids on problems that require surgery. We want God to make us comfortable when He's calling us to be transformed.

God isn't in the band-aid business. He's in the permanent fix business. He's not about patching up your problem. He's about fixing it completely; and sometimes that means He has to go deep, put in some stitches, perform some spiritual surgery that makes us uncomfortable.

We say we want more; more of His presence, more of His power, more of His blessing. But wanting more requires stepping out of our comfort zone and into the river. It requires showing up when the doors are open. It requires going to the altar when the call is given. It requires prayer, fasting, worship, and sacrifice.

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You cannot sit in the wilderness week after week and expect to possess the promised land.

## Sanctify Yourself

Joshua's instruction to the people was clear: "Sanctify yourself, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you" (Joshua 3:5 NKJV).

Sanctification, making yourself holy, repenting, cleansing yourself before God, is the prerequisite for experiencing His wonders. Anyone can walk into a church building, but when you step into the presence of God, you need to be holy, righteous, and pure.

God is not worried about your past. He's already forgiven it. He's concerned about what you're going to do now that He's made you a new creation. He's focused on your destiny, not your history.

## Where Are You Standing?

Today, you're standing at one of these three places:

Are you at the **brink**, where God is calling you to stand still and trust Him? He may be rearranging the order of your life, signaling a divine turning point.

Are you at the **brim**, where God has called you to step into something that looks risky, overwhelming, or impossible? Remember, the priests stepped into the flood before the miracle came.

Are you at the **border**, where God has brought you out and through, and now He wants to bring you in? Build your memorial, anchor your obedience, and step into your calling.

Wherever you stand today, know this: from the brink to the brim to the border, God is faithful. God is leading. And God finishes what He starts.

The Jordan is waiting. The promise is calling. And God is asking you to take the first step.

Will you cross over?