

Faith Steps Into What God Has Promised!

Joshua 1:1-3 (ESV) *After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, "Moses my servant is dead. Now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the people of Israel. Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon, I have given to you, just as I promised to Moses."*

Hebrews 11:1 (AMP) *NOW FAITH is the assurance (the confirmation, the title deed) of the things [we] hope for, being the proof of things [we] do not see and the conviction of their reality [faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses].*

I. What Happened? They never possessed all that God promised!

God's original promise to Abraham was enormous.

Genesis 15:18 (NASB) *"...from the Wadi of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates River."*

This territory was far larger than what Israel actually occupied during most of its history. After Joshua's campaigns, Scripture tells us that much land remained.

Joshua 13:1 (NASB) *"...You are now very old, but a great deal of the land remains to be possessed."*

The Compromise! Instead of removing the Canaanites, they often allowed them to remain and even put them to forced labor.

Judges 1:28 (NASB) *"...they did not drive them out completely."*

They lacked continued faith and obedience. God rebuked them:

Judges 2:1-3 (NASB) *You have not obeyed Me... Therefore, I will no longer drive out these people before you.*

II. Every Place That The Sole Of Your Foot Will Tread Upon

Joshua 1:3 (ESV) *Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, just as I promised to Moses.*

****Joshua 3:12-13 (ESV)** *Now therefore take twelve men from the tribes of Israel, from each tribe a man. And when the soles of the feet of the priests bearing the ark of the LORD, the Lord of all the earth, shall rest in the waters of the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan shall be cut off from flowing, and the waters coming down from above shall stand in one heap."*

Key Point: The water wouldn't move until they placed their feet in the river!

Jericho: God gave very specific instructions: March once a day for six days. March seven times on the seventh day. Blow the trumpets. Shout! Nothing about those actions had any military power. They were acts of faith and obedience.

The wall would never have fallen if they had never marched around the city! **"Wherever the soles of your feet tread"**

Luke 17:13-14 (ESV) *and lifted up their voices, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." When he saw them he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were cleansed.*

Noha: Hebrews 11:7 He built an ark before rain had ever fallen.

The woman with the issue of blood: Mark 5:25-34. Jesus never sought her. She pressed through the crowd. Touched His garment. Then power flowed.

Feeding of the five thousand: Matthew 14:13-21. Jesus blessed five loaves. The multiplication occurred while they were giving, not before.

*****Bartimaeus: Mark 10:46-52** He called out to Jesus as He was passing by. "Many rebuked him, telling him to be silent," But he cried all the louder! Jesus called to him and said, "Go your way; your faith has made you well."

Peter had to step out of the boat: Matthew 14:28-31. Jesus said, "Come." Peter had to step over the edge of the boat. The water didn't first become solid. His faith stepped first.

*****Hebrews 11:1 (ESV)** *Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.*

God's provision often waits on man's participation. Not because God is unwilling to give, but because He delights in faith. Throughout Scripture, faith is rarely passive. It steps into the Jordan before the water parts, stretches out the withered hand before strength returns, walks toward the priest before the leprosy disappears, and steps out of the boat before discovering the water will hold.

III. The Blessing

The Promise Came First! Before Israel ever marched, God had already declared the outcome. It was already given!

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