

Thankful for The Path

Joshua 3: 1-17, 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. ² So it was, after three days, that the officers went through the camp; ³ 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. ⁴ 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."

⁵ And Joshua said to the people, "Sanctify yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you." ⁶ 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.'"

⁹ So Joshua said to the children of Israel, "Come here, and hear the words of the Lord your God." ¹⁰ 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: ¹¹ Behold, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth is crossing over before you into the Jordan. ¹² Now therefore, take for yourselves twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one man from every tribe. ¹³ 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.”

¹⁴ 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, ¹⁵ 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), ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ 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.

Joshua and the Israelites were at a place where they had to trust God deeper and more completely.

- a. **Trust the promise – Joshua 1: 2-9** “Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them—the children of Israel. ³ Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses. ⁴ From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the River Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your territory. ⁵ No man shall *be able to* stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you. ⁶ Be strong and of

good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. ⁷ Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go. ⁸ This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. ⁹ Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God *is* with you wherever you go.”

Joshua had to stand on a promise that was only given to him.

1. Joshua had a revelation of God as deliverer because he experienced the deliverance from Egypt.
2. Joshua knew that even though it didn't look like a path to safety, it was possible.

b. **Trust the path – Proverbs 16:9** – “Within your heart you can make plans for the future, but the Lord chooses the path to get there.”

Psalm 46:10 “surrender your anxiety. Be silent and stop your striving and you will see that I am God”

Matthew 6:34 - Refuse to worry about tomorrow, each day has enough trouble of its own, Tomorrow will take care of itself.”

i. We must be careful to pursue Him and not the promise

Joshua 3:3 “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.

c. Trust His timing

2. Trust is a byproduct of relationship.

Psalm 42:2; My soul thirsts, pants, and longs for the living God.

When we develop a deeper relationship with God, we will begin to see the *gift of the path* and not just the gift of God’s promise.

3. The Gift of the path.

a. Trusting the promise, trusting God’s path to the promise, and trusting the timing of the manifestation of the promise, does not require my understanding.

Psalm 27 13-14; Yet I totally trust you to rescue me one more time, so that I can see once again how good you are while I’m still alive!¹⁴ Here’s what I’ve learned through it all:

Don’t give up; don’t be impatient;
be entwined as one with the Lord.

