



Message 4 | By Faith They Moved Forward

Text | Hebrews 11:29-30

Spotlight: Faith moves forward into God's promises, even when the path ahead seems impossible, the walls around seem impassable and the enemy appears immovable.

Summary: Our passage highlights two defining moments in Israel's history: the crossing of the Red Sea and the fall of Jericho. In both events, the people of God were brought face to face with impossible barriers. Yet, by faith, they moved forward—and God miraculously and definitively made a way. This sermon is a call to bold obedience when the next step looks risky, intimidating or even unclear. Just as Israel stepped into the sea and marched around fortified walls, we are called to move forward by faith, trusting that God who delivers is also God who conquers.

“What do you do when you're stuck between an army and an ocean?”

1. Faith Moves Forward, Fear Shouts Retreat (v. 29 – Crossing the Red Sea)

- Sometimes God doesn't part the waters until you take the first step in.
- Israel passed through on dry ground—but Egypt, without faith, drowned.
- Faith walks where others drown—it obeys when it doesn't feel safe.
- Exodus 14:13-14 — “Stand still and see the salvation of the Lord” becomes “Go forward!”
- Jesus' final command was to GO! Move Forward with Faith. (Matthew 28:19-20, John 20:21, Acts 1:8, Acts 9, Acts 18:9-10_

2. Faith Obeys | Marching Forward (v. 30 – Walls of Jericho)

- Marching silently around Jericho was not a military strategy—it was an act of trust and faithful obedience.
- Faith requires obedience without full understanding (cf. Isaiah 55:8–9). Noah, Abraham, Joseph, Moses, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, Daniel and Job and the list goes on . . .
- Sometimes the key to breakthrough is faithful repetition not human reinvention.

3. Faith Brings Down What Sight Says is Impossible

- The walls of Jericho were thick, fortified and ancient.
- But they were no match for faith in God's power.
- What walls need to come down in your life through faith-filled, forward-moving obedience?
- Luke 1:37; 2 Corinthians 5:7

Next Steps

- **Take inventory:** Where in your life are you stalled out in fear or doubt? Do you need to move forward in faith to salvation, baptism, church membership or service?
- **Prayerfully** name one "wall" you need to walk around in obedience this week.
- **Ask God** to make a way where there seems to be none, trusting His response.

Life Application Discussion Questions

1. In what areas of your life are you tempted to retreat instead of move forward in faith?
2. What is one area in your life where God is calling you to trust Him without full understanding?
3. Name someone you can share what God is calling you to do. (Go door to door with Team Andrew. Join the choir. Teach a class. Go on a mission trip.) Ask them to join you, to pray with you and to help you live accountable and move forward by faith.
4. What "walls" are you praying will come down and how are you marching around them in obedience? Walls in personal relationships? Walls in our community? Walls at your school or work? Walls in the culture?
5. When has God proven Himself faithful after you took a step forward in faith?