



Bill Irwin and his seeing-eye dog, Orient, on the Appalachian Trail



Courageous Faith:
Trusting God will
do what He says
He will do and
banking on it.



JOSHUA

COURAGEOUS FAITH IN THE GOD OF PROMISE

Then Joshua rose early in the morning and they set out from Shittim. And they came to the Jordan, he and all the people of Israel, and lodged there before they passed over. ² At the end of three days the officers went through the camp ³ and commanded the people, “As soon as you see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God being carried by the Levitical priests, then you shall set out from your place and follow it. ⁴ Yet there shall be a distance between you and it, about 2,000 cubits in length. Do not come near it, in order that you may know the way you shall go, for you have not passed this way before.” ⁵ Then Joshua said to the people, “Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you.” ⁶ And Joshua said to the priests, “Take up the ark of the covenant and pass on before the people.” So they took up the ark of the covenant and went before the people.

Joshua 3:1-17

JOSHUA \\ *COURAGEOUS FAITH IN
THE GOD OF PROMISE*

⁷ The LORD said to Joshua, “Today 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 And as for you, command the priests who bear the ark of the covenant, ‘When you come to the brink of the waters of the Jordan, you shall stand still in the Jordan.’” ⁹ And Joshua said to the people of Israel, “Come here and listen to the words of the LORD your God.” ¹⁰ And Joshua said, “Here is how you shall know that the living God is among you and that he will without fail drive out from before you the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Hivites, the Perizzites, the Girgashites, the Amorites, and the Jebusites. ¹¹ Behold, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth is passing over before you into the Jordan. ¹² Now therefore take twelve men from the tribes of Israel, from each tribe a man.

¹³ 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.” ¹⁴ So when the people set out from their tents to pass over the Jordan with the priests bearing the ark of the covenant before the people, ¹⁵ and as soon as those bearing the ark had come as far as the Jordan, and the feet of the priests bearing the ark were dipped in the brink of the water (now the Jordan overflows all its banks throughout the time of harvest),

¹⁶ the waters coming down from above stood and rose up in a heap very far away, at Adam, the city that is beside Zarethan, and those flowing down toward the Sea of the Arabah, the Salt Sea, were completely cut off. And the people passed over opposite Jericho. ¹⁷ Now the priests bearing the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood firmly on dry ground in the midst of the Jordan, and all Israel was passing over on dry ground until all the nation finished passing over the Jordan.

Why Can We Have Courageous Faith in God's Promises?

1. Consider the Jordan—What step of faith are you being called to take?

1. Consider Our God—Our foundation for courageous faith

1. Look Behind
2. Look Ahead
3. Look Beside

Consider the Jordan—What step of faith are you being called to take?

⁸ And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God.”

(Genesis 17:8)



² At the end of three days the officers went through the camp ³ and commanded the people, “As soon as you see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God being carried by the Levitical priests, then you shall set out from your place and follow it.

(Joshua 3:2-3)

Consider the Jordan—What step of faith are you being called to take?



What is the Jordan River you need to cross?

- Whatever stands between you and living fully in the abundance and provision of God's promises in Christ.
- Is it:
 - Fear of a first-time commitment to Jesus?
 - A struggle or doubt that keeps God at arm's length?
 - A new opportunity to grow in your faith that you're worried you'll fail in?

Consider the Jordan—How we often approach steps of faith



Kansas River crossing
March 9, 1848

Weather: cold
River width: 628 feet
River depth: 4.8 feet

You may:

1. attempt to ford the river
2. caulk wagon and float it across
3. take a ferry across
4. wait to see if conditions improve
5. get more information

What is your choice? ☒

A river crossing in “The Oregon Trail” computer game

Consider the Jordan—How we should approach steps of faith

“**Consecrate** yourselves, for tomorrow *the LORD* will do wonders among you” (v. 5)

Consecrate: to set yourself apart/prepare yourself for whole-hearted worship and service to God

When we daily turn from our sin and self-reliance to trust God by faith, we get to see more of *God’s power* at work in and through our lives.



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THE GOD OF PROMISE

Consider Our God—Our foundation for courageous faith

1. Look back at His past provision

For Israel: Look back to God's character and power shown in the Exodus

For Us: Look back to God's love and power displayed in Christ's finished work on the cross, as recorded in God's Word for us



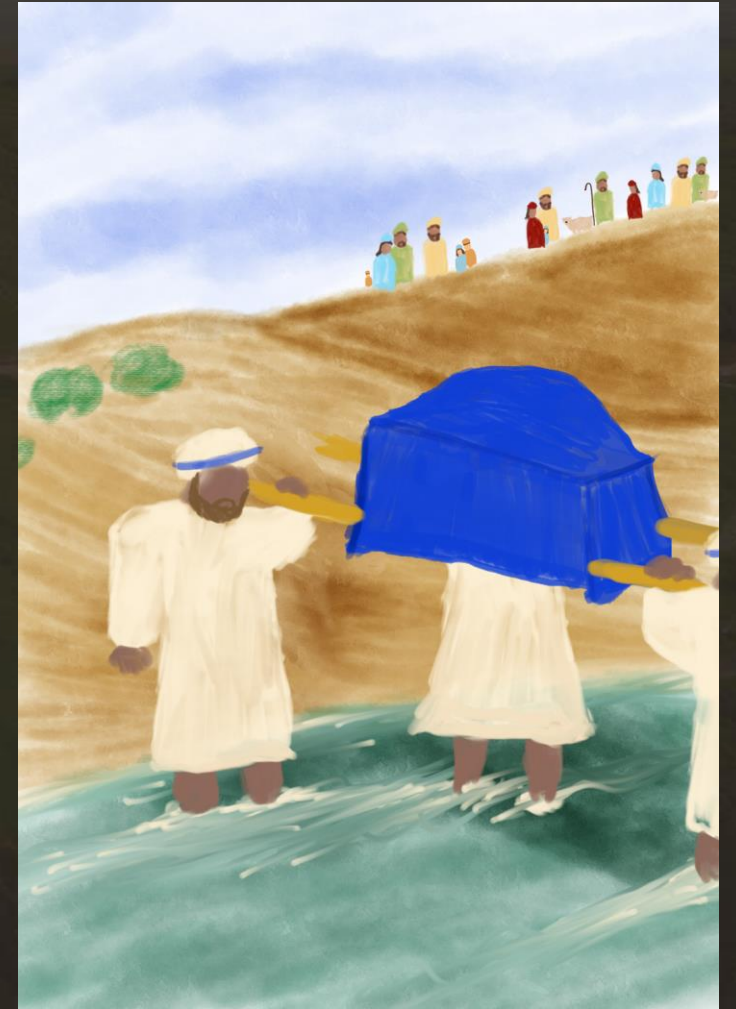
“For all the promises of God find their Yes in him [Jesus]” (2 Cor. 1:20)

Consider Our God—Our foundation for courageous faith

2. Look ahead at His faithful leading

For Israel: “Behold, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth is passing over before you into the Jordan.” (Joshua 3:11)

For Us: “...let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, **looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith**, who for the joy that was set before him *endured the cross*, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the *throne* of God.” (Hebrews 12:1b-2)



Consider Our God—Our foundation for courageous faith

3. Look beside at His present power

For Israel: “Now the priests bearing the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood firmly on dry ground in the midst of the Jordan, and all Israel was passing over on dry ground until all the nation finished passing over the Jordan.” (Joshua 3:17)

For Us: “In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, were sealed with the promised **Holy Spirit**, who is the **guarantee (down payment) of our inheritance** until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of His glory.” (Ephesians 1:13-14)

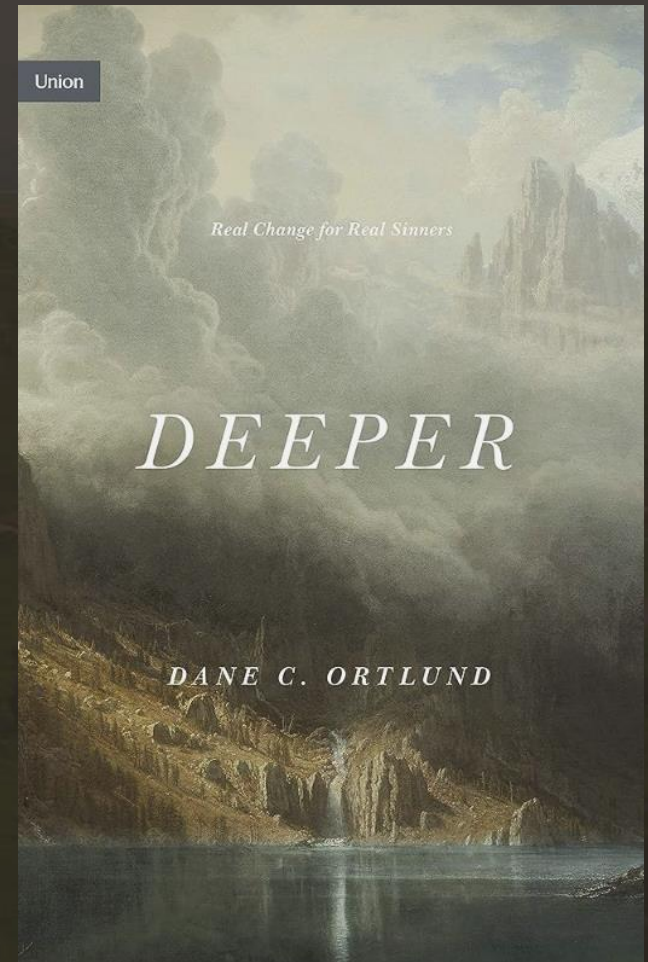


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THE GOD OF PROMISE**

Why Can We Have Courageous Faith in God's Promises?

We can believe God will do what He says He will do and bank on *it* because we can bank on Him.

“Through no activity of your own, but by the sheer and mighty grace of God, you have been enveloped in the triumphant and tender ruler of the cosmos...The might of heaven, the power that flung galaxies into existence, has swept you into himself. And you’re there to stay. Amid the storms of your little existence—the sins and sufferings, the failure and faltering, the waywardness and wandering—he is going to walk you right into heaven. He is not just with you. He is in you, and you in him. His destiny now falls on you. His union with you...guarantees your eventual glory and rest and calm.

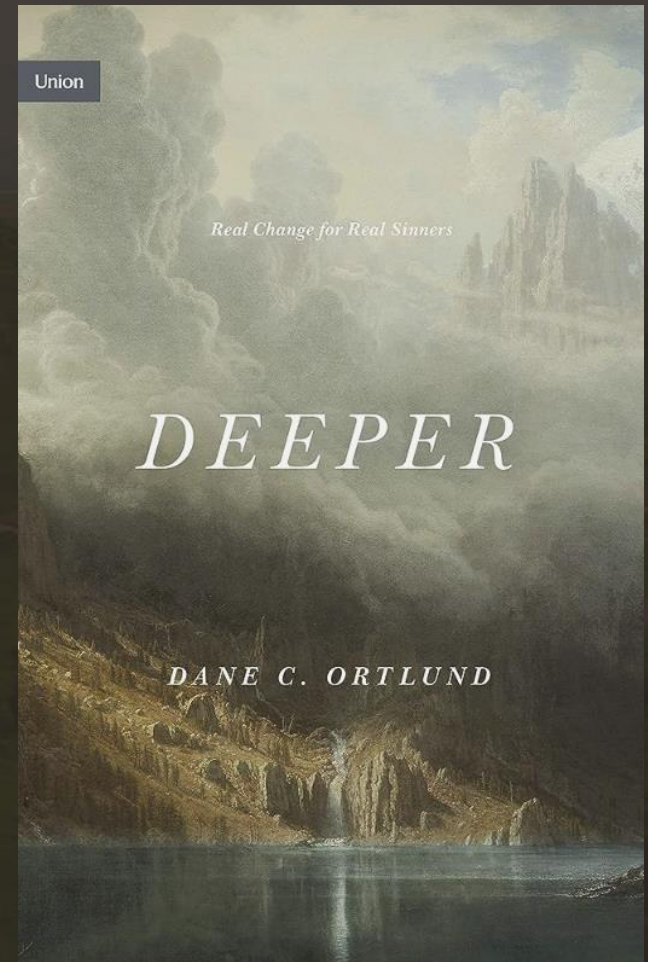


Deeper: Real Change for Real Sinners by Dane C. Ortlund

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THE GOD OF PROMISE**

You may as well question gravity as question the certainty of what your union with him means for your final future.

So consider the darkness that remains in your life. The spiritual lethargy. The habitual sin. The deep-seated resentment. That place in your life where you feel most defeated. Our sins loom large. They seem so insurmountable. But Christ and your union with him loom larger still.” (p. 65-66)



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