

Cross Over and Conquer!

The Israelites had many promises from the Lord, but hadn't received their fruit because of a lack of faith. Are we still "wandering in the wilderness" because of obstacles in our path?

The rushing Jordan River was at flood stage, and was between the Israelites and the Promised Land. God gave them a formula to "cross over and conquer".

Place God's Word Before You — (Joshua 3:1-4)

A. Follow the Ark.

*"The officers went throughout the camp, ³ giving orders to the people: "When you see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, and the Levitical priests carrying it, you are to move out from your positions and **follow it**." - Joshua 3:2,3*

B. Keep your distance.

*"But **keep a distance** of about 900 meters between you and the ark; do not go near it." - Joshua 3:4*

1. Follow God's Word. Find out what God says and follow it.
2. Respect God's Word. Don't treat it lightly or flippantly.

Consecrate Yourself to the Lord — (Joshua 3:5)

*"Joshua told the people, "**Consecrate yourselves**, for tomorrow the LORD will do amazing things among you." - Joshua 3:5*

*"And the LORD said to Moses, "Go to the people and **consecrate** them today and tomorrow. Have them **wash their clothes** ¹¹and **be ready** by the third day, because on that day the LORD will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people. ¹² Put limits for the people around the mountain and tell them, 'Be careful that you do not approach the mountain or touch the foot of it. Whoever touches the mountain is to be put to death.'" ²⁰ "The LORD descended to the top of Mount Sinai and called Moses to the top of the mountain." - Exodus 19:10-12,20*

*"Get rid of the foreign gods you have with you, and **purify yourselves** and change your clothes. ³ Then come, let us go up to Bethel, where I will build an altar to God." - Jacob, Genesis 35:2,3*

*"To the church of God in Corinth, to those **sanctified in Christ Jesus** and called to be **His holy people**, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." - 1 Corinthians 1:2*

*"Do you not know that **your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit**, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; ²⁰ you were bought at a price. Therefore honour God with your bodies." - 1 Corinthians 6:19,20*

*"Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at His coming. ¹⁴ As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. ¹⁵ But just as He who called you is holy, so **be holy in all you do**; ¹⁶ for it is written: "**Be holy**, because I am holy." - 1 Peter 1:13-16*

Step Across Your Obstacle in Faith — (Joshua 3:13-17)

*"Joshua told the people, "Consecrate yourselves, for **tomorrow the LORD will do amazing things among you**." - Joshua 3:5*

"And as soon as the priests who carry the ark of the LORD—the Lord of all the earth—set foot in the Jordan, its waters flowing downstream will be cut off and stand up in a heap."

¹⁴ So when the people broke camp to cross the Jordan, the priests carrying the ark of the covenant went ahead of them. ¹⁵ Now the Jordan is at flood stage all during harvest. Yet as soon as the priests who carried the ark reached the Jordan and their feet touched the water's edge, ¹⁶ the water from upstream stopped flowing. It piled up in a heap a great distance away, at a town called Adam in the vicinity of Zarethan, while the water flowing down to (the Dead Sea) was completely cut off. So the people crossed over opposite Jericho. ¹⁷ The priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD stopped in the middle of the Jordan and stood on dry ground, while all Israel passed by until the whole nation had completed the crossing on dry ground." - Joshua 3:13-17

Application Project:

1. What is my "Jordan River"?
2. What is my primary obstacle that keeps me from giving myself totally to God?

Prayer: *"Lord, I give myself totally to you today,
In faith I give this obstacle to you,
I choose to live in the promises
of Your Word and in victory!"*

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