

JOSHUA 3 —————

CROSSING YOUR JORDAN

FROM PROMISE TO POSSESSION



“Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, “I will give this land to your descendants.” And Abram built an altar there and dedicated it to the LORD, who had appeared to him.” Genesis 12:7

“...the time has come for you to lead these people, the Israelites, across the Jordan River into the land I am giving them.” Joshua 1:2

God gave Abraham a promise that would not be fulfilled until generations later. Between the promise and its fulfilment, God transformed Abraham from the father of Isaac into the patriarch of millions. He brought the children of Israel out of captivity in Egypt, led them through the wilderness and prepared them to possess what He had promised.

But before they could enter the Promised Land, they had to cross the Jordan River—and at the time, it was overflowing its banks.

There are things God has promised us that we may expect to happen immediately. Yet sometimes, between promise and possession, there is a Jordan—something that must be confronted, navigated or overcome before we can step into what God has prepared for us.

The Jordan is not necessarily evidence that we have missed God. Sometimes it is part of the journey into His promise.

Over the next six days, we will take a deep dive into Joshua 3 and trust the Holy Spirit to teach us how to navigate the things that represent a Jordan River on our journey towards becoming all God created us to be.



DAY 1 — LED BY THE SPIRIT

“Look, the Ark of the Covenant, which belongs to the Lord of the whole earth, will lead you across the Jordan River!” Joshua 3:11

The Israelites had never crossed the Jordan before. They were entering unfamiliar territory and facing an obstacle they could not overcome in their own strength. God did not give them a detailed map of how everything would unfold. Instead, He gave them His presence to follow. The Ark represented the presence of God, and importantly, the Ark went ahead of them.

When we face our own Jordan, our natural instinct is to work out how we are going to cross it. We jump into strategy, calculate possibilities and try to anticipate every outcome. But no matter how good our strategy is, planning outside of the guidance of the Holy Spirit can lead us away from, rather than into the promise. There will also be seasons when God will deliberately take us somewhere our experience cannot navigate. In those moments, His presence must become our compass.

“Show me the right path, O LORD; point out the road for me to follow.” Psalms 25:4

Being led by the Spirit means resisting the temptation to run ahead of God. It means learning to recognise His direction and having the discipline to follow—even when we cannot yet see the pathway. So the first question we should always ask before jumping into activity is, “Where is God leading me?” and trust that He will guide us according to His plan. The safest place when facing the unfamiliar isn’t where everything makes sense but in the presence of God.

Prayer: Father, teach me to recognise and follow Your leading. When I cannot see the way ahead, help me resist the temptation to run ahead of You. Holy Spirit, lead me across every Jordan standing between me and Your purpose for my life



DAY 2 — TOUCH THE WATER

“The priests will carry the Ark of the LORD, the Lord of all the earth. As soon as their feet touch the water, the flow of water will be cut off upstream, and the river will stand up like a wall.” Joshua 3:13

God had promised to stop the Jordan, but notice the sequence: their feet had to touch the water first. They could have stood safely on the riverbank waiting for evidence of the miracle before moving. Instead, God required an act of faith before there was any visible change in their circumstances.

“Then the LORD said to Moses, “Why are you crying out to me? Tell the people to get moving!” Exodus 14:15

We like certainty and we prefer God to part the water before we move. We pray, Lord, show me that it will work, and then I will step out. But God may respond, Step out, and then you will see what I will do. Touching the water represents the moment when faith becomes action. It may mean submitting the application, having the conversation, starting the assignment, making the investment, accepting the responsibility or obeying an instruction that stretches you beyond what feels comfortable.

“Then Peter called to him, “Lord, if it’s really you, tell me to come to you, walking on the water.” “Yes, come,” Jesus said. So Peter went over the side of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus.” Matthew 14:28-29

Faith is not pretending the water is not there. The Jordan was real, deep and overflowing. Faith is moving because the One who gave the instruction is greater than the obstacle in front of you. What instruction has God already given you that you are waiting for Him to complete on your behalf? Perhaps the miracle is waiting for your feet to touch the water.

Prayer: Father, give me the courage to act on what You have told me. Deliver me from waiting for perfect conditions when You have already given me an instruction. Help me take the step of faith that activates the next stage of Your purpose for my life.



DAY 3 — TAKE ACTION

“So the people left their camp to cross the Jordan, and the priests who were carrying the Ark of the Covenant went ahead of them.” Joshua 3:14

In stepping into a new season, we must remember this: there comes a time when preparation must become movement. Israel had spent enough time in the camp. They could pray about the promise, talk about it and prepare for it, but they could not possess what God had promised while remaining where they were.

You may find yourself at a similar point. You have prayed, prepared, learned and sought God’s direction. Now the next step may simply be to move.

Don’t allow the comfort of what is familiar to keep you from what God is calling you into. Sometimes we keep asking for confirmation when God has already spoken because another round of preparation feels safer than stepping into uncertainty. But notice that Israel didn’t move recklessly—the Ark went ahead of them. Taking action doesn’t mean running ahead of God; it means moving with God.

“So you see, faith by itself isn’t enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless.” James 2:17

So as you enter this new season, ask yourself: “What does obedience require of me now?” Perhaps it is making the call, submitting the application, accepting the responsibility, starting the assignment or finally releasing what belongs to the previous season. You won’t possess the next season by remaining in the old one. Sometimes crossing your Jordan begins with one courageous decision: leave the camp.

Prayer: Father, give me discernment to know when to wait and courage to know when to move. Keep me from procrastination disguised as preparation. Help me move with You into everything You have prepared for me.



DAY 4 — DON'T BE MOVED BY WHAT YOU SEE

“It was the harvest season, and the Jordan was overflowing its banks...” Joshua 3:15

God chose an interesting time to tell Israel to cross the Jordan. It was at a time when the river wasn't low or calm, rather it was overflowing. From a human perspective, this was probably one of the worst times to attempt a crossing. Yet God did not wait for favourable conditions before giving the instruction. It was as though He chose the most inconvenient and seemingly impossible circumstances to demonstrate Himself.

Sometimes the circumstances surrounding God's promise can appear to contradict what He has said. You may have received a word from God, yet everything around you seems to be moving in the opposite direction. The opportunity appears impossible. The resources seem insufficient. The environment becomes more difficult rather than easier. The overflowing Jordan reminds us that circumstances do not determine God's capacity.

“I will stand my watch And set myself on the rampart, And watch to see what He will say to me, And what I will answer when I am corrected.” Habakkuk 2:1

“Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.” Colossians 3:2

We must learn to distinguish between what we see and what God has said. This definitely does not mean ignoring reality. Israel could clearly see that the Jordan was overflowing. Faith does not deny facts; it simply refuses to make facts greater than God.

“I am the LORD, that is My name; And My glory I will not give to another...” Isaiah 42:8

Perhaps your Jordan looks bigger today than when God first spoke to you. Don't automatically interpret increased difficulty as a closed door. Sometimes God allows the river to overflow so that when it opens, there can be no confusion about who made the way.

Prayer: Father, help me not to be intimidated by what I see. When circumstances appear contrary to Your Word, anchor my heart in what You have said. Give me faith to trust Your ability above every obstacle standing before me.



DAY 5 — EXPECT THE MIRACULOUS

“... But as soon as the feet of the priests who were carrying the Ark touched the water at the river’s edge, the water above that point began backing up a great distance away at a town called Adam... And the water below that point flowed on to the Dead Sea until the riverbed was dry. Then all the people crossed over near the town of Jericho.” Joshua 3:15-16

The priests stepped into the Jordan at one location, but God began dealing with the obstacle a great distance away. They could not see what was happening upstream. This is an important reminder when we obey God but do not immediately see results. We may assume nothing is happening because nothing appears to have changed in front of us. Yet God may already be working somewhere beyond our field of vision.

“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.” Romans 8:28

While you are praying here, God can be arranging something there. While you are obeying today, He may already be positioning people, resources, opportunities and circumstances that you cannot yet see. God is always working, whether we see it or not.

The priests were responsible for obedience. God was responsible for the miracle. This distinction matters. We exhaust ourselves when we try to perform God’s part instead of faithfully doing ours. And notice the extent of the miracle: Israel did not struggle through muddy water. The riverbed became dry.

“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,” Ephesians 3:20

Never reduce your expectation of God to what you can personally engineer. When He gives an instruction, leave room for Him to demonstrate His power in ways you could never manufacture yourself. Your responsibility is obedience. His responsibility is the outcome.

Prayer: Father, enlarge my expectation of what You can do. When I cannot see what You are doing, help me trust that You are still working. Give me grace to obey faithfully and leave the results in Your hands.



DAY 6 — GIVE GOD TIME

“Meanwhile, the priests who were carrying the Ark of the LORD’s Covenant stood on dry ground in the middle of the riverbed as the people passed by. They waited there until the whole nation of Israel had crossed the Jordan on dry ground.” Joshua 3:17

When we read about the Israel crossing the Jordan we may think everything happened quickly. But let’s pause and imagine what millions of people crossing a riverbed looks like. That would take time. And while the Jordan had opened, the priests still had to stand in the middle carrying the Ark until the whole nation had crossed.

Imagine people moving, some quickly, some slowly around the priests as they walked across. Some may have bumped into the priests, maybe even jostled them a bit, but through it all the priests had to stand firm until everyone crossed. Sometimes we celebrate the opening of the door without recognising that walking fully into what God has promised may still require patience. We may want everything to happen immediately—the breakthrough, establishment and fruitfulness. But God may open the Jordan today and still require us to remain faithful in the process of crossing.

There is also something powerful about the priests standing in the middle. They remained in position until everyone had crossed. Their assignment was not complete simply because the miracle had begun.

“being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ” Philippians 1:6

In the same way, do not abandon your position prematurely because you have seen the first evidence of breakthrough. Stay where God has placed you until the assignment is complete. Some promises unfold in moments. Others unfold through seasons. Give God time. The same God who brought you to the Jordan, instructed you to step into it and opened it before you is fully capable of bringing you safely to the other side.

Prayer: Father, give me patience for the process between breakthrough and possession. Help me remain faithful in the position You have assigned to me and not move prematurely. Teach me to trust Your timing until everything You have purposed for me is complete.



DAY 7 — TAKE POSSESSION

“Then Joshua said to the Israelites, “Come and listen to what the LORD your God says. Today you will know that the living God is among you...” Joshua 3:9-10

Crossing the Jordan was a significant miracle, but it was never the destination. God did not bring Israel through the wilderness simply so they could stand safely on the other side of the river. The crossing was preparation for possession. Sometimes we become so focused on overcoming our Jordan that breakthrough itself becomes the goal. We pray to get through the difficult season, overcome the obstacle or see the impossible situation change. But what if the Jordan was only the doorway?

“See, I have set the land before you; go in and possess the land which the LORD swore to your fathers—to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—to give to them and their descendants after them.” Deuteronomy 1:8

On the other side was an inheritance that required Israel to move from simply trusting God for a miracle to partnering with Him to possess what He had promised. The same is true for us. When God opens the door, we must walk through it. When He creates the opportunity, we must develop the capacity to steward it. When He gives the instruction, we must respond. Promise does not eliminate participation.

Perhaps you have spent this season asking God to move your Jordan. Now ask Him: “What does possession require of me?” There may be new responsibilities to embrace, skills to develop, relationships to build, habits to change or courageous decisions to make. Cross the Jordan—but don’t stop at the riverbank. Take possession.

Prayer: Father, thank You for every Jordan You have brought me through. Give me wisdom, courage and capacity to possess and faithfully steward everything You have prepared for me. Help me not to stop at breakthrough, but to move forward into the fullness of Your purpose. Amen.



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