

Proclaiming the Gospel

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness;
But unto us which are saved it is the power of God" (*1 Cor. 1.18*).

Edifying the Body of Christ (*Eph. 4.10-16*)

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The Wise Still Seek Him

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Go After It!

And they commanded the people, saying, When ye see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, and the priests the Levites bearing it, then ye shall remove from your place, and go after it (Jos 3.3).

There was a time in the lives of the Children of Israel when they were on the threshold of entering into a new dimension in their relationship with Almighty God. They were ready to enter Canaan, the "promised land" – their inheritance from the Lord.

The Israelites had known nothing but bondage in Egypt until God sent Moses, their deliverer. It had been a glorious experience as the Red Sea opened for them – and then, as it closed again upon their enemies, the Egyptians (Ex 14). They saw the mighty power of the Lord God fighting on their behalf – as they would see many times in the years to follow; however, they did not anticipate the hardships of walking many years through the wilderness – because of their disobedience.

Had the Israelites been able to love and trust God with their whole heart, they would have entered the Promised Land sooner and would have enjoyed the provision, protection, and blessings of God throughout their lives – at rest in God's care and His plan for their lives. But, giving in to their sinful nature, they failed to obey, failed to love and trust God; they doubted, grumbled, and rebelled against God – no different than our human nature today.

God had brought the Israelites through the rigors of this wilderness proving ground; and now they were camped at the Jordan River, their inheritance within sight. But, what an obstacle! The Jordan River at flood stage (Jos 3.15)! Impossible!

Crossing the flooded River surely would mean death for the Israelites; they could see what was available to them, was given to them, but could not reach it. But God! . . . When God offers us something, He makes possible the way to receive it.

How many of you have seen with your spiritual eye that God has an inheritance for you – a new dimension in your relationship with the Lord – not only in Heaven, but, also in this life on earth. Do you stand at the "Jordan River" longing for that inheritance of a stronger faith and trust in Him, desiring to be totally surrendered to Jesus Christ and His will? You have accepted Jesus Christ into your heart and He dwells within you; but, do not stop there.

hands when crossing the Jordan River into their inheritance; so must we surrender our sinful human nature to God as we cross our "Jordan Rivers" to **abide** in Christ.

Are you walking with the Lord daily? Have you yielded your whole life to Him for His service, walking in obedience to Him? Are you abiding in Jesus Christ daily? Are you seeking "Canaan" only to be discouraged as were the Children of Israel in their disobedience? God's presence is with you in the "Jordan River."

Today is the day of "salvation;" today is the day of receiving from the Lord that which He has promised His people. Today is the day!

Go After It!

Cross the Jordan River in your life - today.

Walk in newness of life and service to the Lord Jesus Christ.

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Co-laborers together for Jesus Christ

Come apart and rest (Mark 6.31).

Our inheritance, our “promised land,” our dwelling place is Jesus Christ, **abiding** in Him as set forth in John 15.1-10. Jesus tells us, “Abide in me, and I in you . . . I am the vine, ye are the branches . . . **If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you”** (Jn 15.4, 5, 7).

It is life beyond the initial acceptance of Christ Jesus as Savior, a rich and full life of walking and living in Christ Jesus, being led by the Holy Spirit (Rom 8.14). It is a journey from the bondage and control of sin into the grace and righteousness of Christ Jesus. God’s presence must go with us through each difficulty that we face and each battle we fight, just as He was in the midst of the Jordan River with the Israelites; our lives depend upon the Lord’s presence with us.

The Israelites had a land – a dwelling place – given to them; they were promised the presence of God dwelling with them, all their needs provided, and total victory over their enemies – **if** they would love, honor, and obey God. As long as they lived for God, they received what God promised them.

Notice God’s instruction through Joshua to the Israelites in preparation for entering the “Promised Land” (Jos 1.10, 11).

Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people, saying,

Pass through the host, and command the people, saying, Prepare you victuals; for within three days ye shall pass over this Jordan, to go in to possess the land, which the LORD your God giveth you to possess it.

What were they doing during the three days of waiting in the camp? They were preparing food, sustenance, for the journey which lay ahead. They would be going to battle against the enemy. Not only would they need to eat well during this preparation time, but they would need sufficient food prepared, and in hand, to sustain and strengthen them during the battle.

Are not our battles with Satan increasing in frequency and with more ferocity as his time gets shorter? Do we not at times feel that we do not have strength to go on? Could it be that we have not prepared sufficient food to take with us to strengthen us day to day? The food upon which we, God’s people, must feast is God’s Holy Word, the Bible.

Lose not an opportunity to spend time in the presence of Jesus, saturating yourself with the written Word, as it becomes a storehouse of food – nourishment to draw upon when the battle is rough. And, the battles ahead will be rough, as we are living in the last days. The Word of God must be alive in our hearts for the Holy Spirit to bring the Word to our minds at the specific time needed.

The three days passed; the time had come:

And Joshua said unto the people, Sanctify yourselves: for to morrow the LORD will do wonders among you (Jos 3.5).

The Israelites were faced with crossing the Jordan River, which would bring certain death, if attempted on their own; their succeeding to cross the Jordan River depended on God’s presence (the Ark of the Covenant) with them.

Joshua said to the people, “Sanctify yourselves . . .” They were to separate themselves from all that was unclean, to set themselves apart unto God, to remain holy, consecrated unto God, “. . . for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you.” God would be in the midst of the Jordan River with them, but they could not be in His presence if they were not clean, sanctified unto Him. Neither can we approach God, or abide in Christ Jesus, with sin in our lives. We must remain holy, sanctified – set apart and consecrated unto God.

The priests were instructed to bear the Ark of the Covenant before the people and into the Jordan River. The priests were then to stand still in the Jordan River as the people passed over (Jos 3.8, 15).

Notice the instructions given to the people concerning the Ark of the Covenant.

And it came to pass after three days, that the officers went through the host; And they commanded the people, saying, When ye see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, and the priests the Levites bearing it, then ye shall remove from your place, and go after it (Jos 3.2, 3).

We have mentioned already that the Ark of the Covenant was God’s presence among them. It was His guidance and His power. To know God’s direction for them, they had to keep their eyes upon the Ark, remove from their place, and **Go After It**. They would be walking new territory with the Lord. Only God knew the way; the enemy would be conquered only **if** they saw the Lord and followed Him.

The Israelites obediently followed the Ark of the Covenant, followed it into the midst of the problem, the Jordan River, and saw the power of God; they watched the waters part as the priests’ feet stepped into the brim of the water (Jos 3.15, 16).

How important it is 1) that we keep our eyes upon the Lord, 2) that we remove from our place – our comfort zone where we yield to our carnal, sinful nature – and 3) that we follow God as He leads us! We have not passed this way before (Jos 3.4); it is new territory that we will walk – as we abide in Christ.

Only in keeping our eyes upon Christ Jesus and in following His guidance are we able to see and experience the mighty power of God in the midst of our problems.

Note: It is interesting that God’s people, after experiencing the supernatural power of God and after walking across the Jordan River on dry ground, stepped onto the other bank “. . . right against Jericho” – the next city they were to conquer. There would be battles to fight and territory to take from the enemy in order to receive the inheritance that God had chosen and set aside for them.

Yes, we have a “Jordan River” to cross and battles to fight as we journey toward receiving our inheritance, that is, **abiding** in Christ Jesus. We cannot cross that River without the Lord’s presence. Our works bring only death, spiritual death – just as the Israelites’ efforts to cross without the Ark of the Covenant would have meant death. We experience victory in our journey as we surrender our will and become obedient to the Lord Jesus Christ. The Israelites put their lives in God’s