

# **MOVE FORWARD!**

## **Joshua 3:1-17 (NLT)**

- **Experiencing God’s great plans and purposes for life requires us to constantly move forward and onward with the Lord.**
  - “There is one thing I want you to remember. I don’t want to get any messages saying we are holding our position. We are advancing constantly. We are not interested in holding anything except the enemy. Always take the offensive. Never dig in!”  
(General George Patton, U.S. World War II Leader)
- **Moving forward with the Lord requires Jesus (our *Ark of the Covenant*) being first and foremost in our lives (Joshua 3:3).**
  - **The difference between victory and defeat is the “position” of Jesus in our lives.**
  - **When the Lord is our Leader as well as our Savior we are on our way to victory.**
- **Victory is experienced when we see which way the Lord is moving, we follow Him wholeheartedly, and we experience His mighty power in our lives (Joshua 3:1-17).**
- Joshua – *“Tomorrow the LORD will do great wonders among you.”*  
(Joshua 3:5 NLT)
- **Question – “What ‘wonders’ do I need and want to experience in my life?”**

### ***EXPERIENCING GOD’S “WONDERS” INVOLVES:***

#### **VENTURING DOWN SOME NEW PATHWAYS**

- *“You have never traveled this way before.”* (Joshua 3:4 NLT)
- **When we are following the Lord we don’t have to know:**
  - 1. Where we are going**
    - *“By faith Abraham obeyed when God called him to leave home and go to another land . . . He went without knowing where he was going.”* (Hebrews 11:8 NLT)
    - **Sometimes the Lord will keep our destination hidden so that our goal will be relating to Him rather than reaching our destination.**
  - 2. When we are going**
    - **With God, timing is more important than time – and God’s timing is always perfect.**
    - *“When the right time came, God sent His Son . . .”* (Galatians 4:4)
    - **When we get ahead of the Lord it costs us (i.e. Moses and Abraham).**
  - 3. Why we are going**
    - **Much of the time the Lord will not tell us the “why” of our destination because He wants us to trust Him wholeheartedly.**

- *“My thoughts are completely different than yours,’ says the Lord. ‘And My ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts higher than your thoughts.’”* (Isaiah 55:8-9 NLT)

### **Some People Need To Take The:**

- **PATHWAY OF SALVATION**

- *“The LORD your God.”* (Joshua 3:3 NLT)
- **Experiencing God’s salvation in our lives is different than being religious, believing in God or even praying to God.**
- **We experience God’s salvation when we enthrone Jesus as the LORD of our lives.**

#### ***Experiencing God’s salvation:***

- 1. Requires repenting of our sins and entrusting our lives to Jesus Christ**

- *“Repent and turn to God so that He will forgive your sins . . .”* (Acts 3:19 TEV)
- *“If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”* (Romans 10:9-10 NLT)

- 2. Brings us forgiveness for our sins and the future of heaven**

- *“Turn from your sins and turn to God, so you can be cleansed of your sins.”* (Acts 3:19 NLT)
- *“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”* (John 3:16 NIV)
- **Experiencing God’s salvation also brings a significant transformation to our attitudes, ambitions and actions because God Himself comes into our lives.**
- *“Those who become Christians become new persons. They are not the same anymore, for the old life is gone. A new life has begun!”* (2 Corinthians 5:17 NLT)
- *“Each of you must turn from your sins and turn to God. . . . Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”* (Acts 2:38)

- **PATHWAY OF SUBMISSION**

- *“When you see the Levitical priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD your God, follow them.”* (Joshua 3:3)
- **Most of us want to do what we want, when we want to.**

#### ***Being submitted to the Lord:***

- 1. Requires prioritizing Him in our life**

- JESUS – *“Put the Lord God and His kingdom first in your life . . .”* (Matthew 6:33 Watson translation)

- **We must be committed to following the Lord and the spiritual leaders He places in our lives (Joshua 3:3).**

## 2. Brings focus and fulfillment to our lives

- JESUS – *“Put the Lord God and His kingdom first in your life, and then He will give you everything you need.”* (Mt 6:33 Watson)
- JESUS - *I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of.”* (John 10:10 Msg)

- **PATHWAY OF SANCTIFICATION**

- *“Purify yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do great wonders among you.”* (Joshua 3:5 NLT)
- **Experiencing God’s best requires being “sold out the whole route” to Him.**
- *“I myself no longer live, but Christ lives in me. So I live my life in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”* (Galatians 2:20 NLT)
- Paul –*“This letter is from Paul, Jesus Christ’s slave.”* (Rom 1:1)

### **Consecrating ourselves to the Lord:**

#### 1. Requires surrendering our will and desires to the Lord

- *We should stay away from everything that keeps our bodies and spirits from being clean. We should honor God and try to be completely like Him.”* (2 Corinthians 7:1 CEV)

#### 2. Brings freedom and fruitfulness to our lives

- JESUS – *“If the Son sets you free, you will be absolutely free.”* (John 8:36 GW)
- JESUS – *“Those who remain in Me, and I in them, will produce much fruit.”* (John 15:3-5 NLT)

- **Question – “How would my decisions and direction in life change if I was totally devoted to living for and following Jesus?”**

### **EXPERIENCING GOD’S “WONDERS” INVOLVES:**

#### **RISING TO A NEW POSITION**

- *“The LORD told Joshua, ‘Today I will begin to make you great in the eyes of all the Israelites. Now they will know that I am with you, just as I was with Moses.’”* (Joshua 3:7 NLT)
- **The LORD is always with His people.**
  - JESUS – *“I will be with you always, even till the end of the world.”* (Matthew 28:20 CEV)
  - The LORD – *“I will never leave you nor forsake you.”* (Heb 13:5)
- **The Lord wants to manifest His presence in our lives in powerful ways on a daily basis.**

#### **When God Is With Us (Like He Was With Moses):**

- **WE HAVE GODLY PURPOSE FOR OUR LIFE**

- **Moses received direction from the Lord at the burning bush (Exodus 3:1-11).**
- The Lord to Moses – *“I am sending you to Pharaoh. You will lead my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.”* (Exodus 3:10)
- **Question – *“What’s my God-given purpose in life, and what do I need to do to begin fulfilling it?”***
- *“For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the LORD, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”* (Jeremiah 29:11 NIV)
- **WE HAVE GODLY PERCEPTION IN OUR LIFE**
  - **Moses wasn’t deceived by the manipulations of Pharaoh (Exodus 8-10).**
  - **We will encounter deceivers and manipulators throughout our lives, and we need God’s discernment to overcome their deception and live out God’s purposes.**
  - JESUS – *“You shall know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”* (John 8:32 NKJV)
  - *“Let no one deceive you.”* (Ephesians 5:6 NASB)
- **WE HAVE GODLY POWER IN OUR LIFE**
  - **Moses was able to perform many miracles by God’s power (Exodus 8-17).**
  - **We are to live daily in the power of the Holy Spirit.**
  - JESUS – *“When the Holy Spirit has come upon you, you will receive power and will tell people about Me everywhere.”* (Acts 1:8 NLT)

***We will have supernatural power in our life when we:***

  1. **Pray for God’s Spirit to fill us (Luke 11:13)**
  2. **Obey the Lord’s will and way for our lives (Acts 5:32)**
  3. **Want to live holy and mighty lives (Matthew 5:6)**
  4. **Expel sin from our lives (1 John 1:9)**
  5. **Receive all that God has for us (Acts 8:14-17)**
- **Question – *“What ‘benefits’ do I need to receive from the Lord that result from rising to a new level in my relationship with Him?”***
- **When we consecrate and commit ourselves to following the Lord wholeheartedly, we will experience God’s power and provision, He will work miraculously in and through our lives, and we will “move forward” into the land and life of victory (Joshua 3:9-17).**
- **Question – *“What types of miracles do I or others I know need to experience?”***
- **Question – *“What new ‘Pathway’ (Salvation, Submission or Sanctification) do I need to take today in order to experience God’s ‘wonders’ in my life?”***

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