

Prepared & Empowered to Live the Spirit Filled Life - Joshua Chapter 3

(Additional Lesson to Workbook 3 Lesson on Joshua.)

Background

Moses led Israel out of Egypt, through the Red Sea. God parted the Red Sea before the Israelites stepped into it. They crossed on dry land. The Red Sea then separated the Israelites from Egypt.

Joshua led Israel out of the wilderness, through the Jordan river into the Land God had promised them. They had to step into the Jordan river before it parted.

We receive eternal salvation from sin and death when we put our faith in Jesus who has already made the way for our deliverance when He died on the cross. We receive by faith, the work He has already done.

We enter the Promised land - the Spirit filled life, the abundant life of freedom which Jesus promised, when we step out in faith and submit in obedience to God and to His word. As believers in Jesus, we have been freed from sin and death, but while we are on earth, we will face personal giants, enemies, and spiritual battles. Jesus has left us His Holy Spirit to live in victory. We will overcome as we live each moment by faith and submit daily to the Holy Spirit, being filled by Him and following His leading. Ephesians 5:18 tells us to be filled "continuously" with the Holy Spirit.

Notes on Joshua 3 (from Jon Courson's Application Bible Commentary.)

Joshua 3:1 – Joshua rose early – Jesus rose early to pray. We must rise early to pray, to spend time with God and to prepare our spirit with Him, to be ready to follow where He is leading.

3:2 They needed 3 days to prepare to cross Jordan. It is not a waste of time to wait 3 days, 3 months, or 3 years on the banks of the Jordan to be prepared by the Holy Spirit, to receive His power and move according to His word. Acts 1:4 "wait in Jerusalem until the power comes upon you".

3:3 God is always on the move. When God is on the move go after Him. Follow Him. When His word moves you – follow Him in obedience. If you do not hear Him do not move.

3:4 Don't rely on what you think you know of His past movements or what He's doing in someone else's life or another ministry – He is leading in new ways. "You have not been here before".

There are new battles, new levels of transformation, authority, power, wisdom, obedience, and faith required for the next level. Follow His strategy not yours. God is saying – don't push – follow.

John 12:26 "where I am there is My servant also". We go to where He is working. We follow Him, we do not ask Him to follow us.

God wants to take us where we have never been before – we need Him!

Do we have a correct view of God? His Holiness, His power? His Word - to submit to Him, to trust Him and follow His leading? Or am I sufficient in myself – that I know what I'm doing and how I'm going to cross this river and claim this land?

3:5 Sanctify yourself – Quodosh – means “to set apart” – “to prepare”.

If you fill a jug with water which is already full of stones, it will hold limited water. To completely fill it with water you need to get rid of the stones. We want to be filled with the Spirit but we just need to get rid of the sin stones in our lives so we can be filled with the Spirit. Empty our-self of pride, idols, fear of man, unbelief, distractions, leaving our first love. We can ask the Holy Spirit “search my heart oh God and show me the things restricting the flow of Your Spirit”.

1 Peter 5:6 Humble yourself under the “mighty hand of God” that He may exalt you in due time.

3:7 Joshua was magnified in the sight of Israel as he passed through the Jordon. Jesus public ministry began when He was baptized in the Jordon: this is My Beloved Son in whom I am well pleased” Matt 3:17.

3:8 In Joshua’s time the Jordon was usually 100ft wide except during the fall when it was 1 mile wide. The Joshua was crossing in the fall when the river was at its fullest and most formidable to cross.

3:9 Hear God’s promises – His vision

3:10 You will know the Lord is with you – He will without fail drive out the enemies.

3:11 When the priests and representatives put their feet in the river the water would part.

40 years earlier at the Red Sea, they waited for God to part the water before they stepped in, Exodus 14. Jesus made a way of deliverance for us out of Egypt when He died on the cross and gave His blood to pay for our sin. But once we are born again into God’s kingdom, living the Spirit filled life requires us to step out in faith and obedience, facing our fears and trusting in God and His promises to make a way.

We can stay on the dry dusty bank in safety or step out in faith and watch Him work. This is the Spirit led life; “*Step out – Step in – Step up*”

Joshua took 12 men – 1 from each tribe. Jesus called 12 men.

They we not called to step into a trickling stream but into a roaring river - a symbol of the power and presence of the Holy Spirit. John 7:37-39.

The leaders/priests had to step into the river first by faith, to make a way for the people.

3:16 God was working out of sight – 19 miles up-river. That’s why we need to trust Him. We do not walk by sight but walk by faith. God is doing things beyond what we can see.

3:17 The priests stood firm in position until 3 million people passed over. How long did that take? They stood there until the work was done!

DL Moody evangelist locked himself in Astoria hotel New York for 31/2 days and said I’m not coming out until the power of God is upon me. Day 1, 2, 3 nothing happened – then on day 4 God overwhelmed Him and empowered Him to such a degree that He knew without doubt He had been empowered to do the work God had called Him to do – with power, in the baptism of the Holy Spirit.