

IT'S TIME TO CROSS THE RIVER

"... that time is today"



- (Hebrews 4:6-7 NLT) So God's rest is there for people to enter, but those who first heard this good news failed to enter because they disobeyed God. 7 So God set another time for entering his rest, **and that time is today**. God announced this through David much later in the words already quoted: "**Today when you hear his voice, don't harden your hearts.**"

OUTLINE ... (Joshua 1:1-11 ESV)

1. "Now" is the time and "today" is the day to believe God and to receive what God has given us, 1:1-2.

- (Joshua 1:1–2 ESV) After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, 2 "Moses my servant is dead. **Now therefore arise, go over this Jordan**, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the people of Israel."

A. When God says "go," those who walk by faith go.

- (2 Corinthians 5:6–10 ESV) **So we are always of good courage**. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, 7 **for we walk by faith, not by sight**. 8 Yes, **we are of good courage**, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. 9 **So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him**. 10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

B. Those who live by faith and not by sight are more concerned with pleasing the Lord than what may be waiting on the other side of the river .

C. Living or dying is of little consequence for the person who makes it his aim to please the Lord.

D. Living **by** the will of God (*pleasing the Lord*) fills us with confidence and assurance **in** the will of God.

E. The temptation of the unbelieving, hardened heart is to delay in obeying the voice of God.

- (Hebrews 3:12–15 ESV) Take care, brothers, **lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart**, leading you to fall away from the living God. 13 But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "**today**," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. 14 For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end. 15 As it is said, "**Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion**."

2. True faith is living daily believing the word and the promises of God, 1:3-4.

- (Joshua 1:3–4 ESV) **Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you**, just as I promised to Moses. 4 From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun shall be your territory.

A. When we live believing the promises of God, we consciously live in the kingdom of God.

B. To live daily believing the promises of God we must deny ourselves.

- (Luke 9:23 ESV) And he said to all, "**If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself** and take up his cross daily and follow me."

C. Denying ourselves frees us to do something very wonderful—follow Jesus Christ.

3. No one can stop us because God provides the victory through his continual presence, 1:5.

- (Joshua 1:5 ESV) No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I was with Moses, **so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you**.
- (Hebrews 13:5–6 ESV) For he [God] has said, "**I will never leave you nor forsake you**." 6 **So we can confidently say, "The Lord is my helper**; I will not fear; what can man do to me?"
- (1 Corinthians 15:57–58 ESV) But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 58 Therefore, my beloved brothers, **be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord**, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.
- (Job 42:2 ESV) **I know that you can do all things**, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.
- (Philippians 4:12–13 ESV) I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I

have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. 13 I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

4. We are commanded to be strong and courageous in view of the promised blessings of our inheritance, 1:6.

- (Joshua 1:6 ESV) **Be strong and courageous**, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them.
- (Ephesians 1:3–4a ESV) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places**, 4 even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.
- (Philippians 1:18–21 ESV) What then? **Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth**, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice. Yes, and I will rejoice, 19 for **I know** that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ **this will turn out for my deliverance**, 20 as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, **but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body**, whether by life or by death. 21 **For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.**

5. We will be strong and very courageous *only* when we are *fully submissive to* and *fully obedient to* the word of God, 1:7-9.

- (Joshua 1:7–9 ESV) **Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you.** **Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left**, that you may have good success wherever you go. 8 **This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it.** For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. 9 **Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.**

A. There is an unmistakable, undeniable relationship between submission and obedience to the word of God and spiritual strength and courage.

- (Deuteronomy 11:8 ESV) **You shall therefore keep the whole commandment that I command you today, that you may be strong**, and go in and take possession of the land that you are going over to possess.
- (Joshua 23:6–8 ESV) Therefore, **be very strong to keep and to do all that is written in the Book of the Law of Moses**, turning aside from it neither to the right hand nor to the left, 7 that you may not mix with these nations remaining among you or make mention of the names of their gods or swear by them or serve them or bow down to them, 8 **but you shall cling to the LORD your God just as you have done to this day.**
- (1 Kings 2:1–3 ESV) When David's time to die drew near, he commanded Solomon his son, saying, 2 "I am about to go the way of all the earth. **Be strong, and show yourself a man**, 3 and keep the charge of the LORD your God, walking in his ways and keeping his statutes, his commandments, his rules, and his testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn.
- (1 Corinthians 16:13–14 ESV) **Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.** 14 Let all that you do be done in love.

B. Delighting in God's word is evidence of strong, courageous faith in God and his word.

- (Psalm 112:1 ESV) Praise the LORD! Blessed is the man **who fears the LORD, who greatly delights in his commandments!**
- (Deuteronomy 13:3b–4 NLT) The LORD your God is testing you to see if you truly love him with all your heart and soul. 4 **Serve only the LORD your God and fear him alone. Obey his commands, listen to his voice**, and **cling to him.**
- (Psalm 119:35–36 ESV) **Lead me in the path of your commandments**, for I delight in it. 36 **Incline my heart to your testimonies, and not to selfish gain!**

C. Confusion and darkness dominate the person who is not passionate about the word of God.

- (Ephesians 4:17–18 NLT) With the Lord's authority I say this: Live no longer as the Gentiles do, **for they are hopelessly confused**. 18 **Their minds are full of darkness**; they wander far from the life God gives because they have closed their minds and hardened their hearts against him.

D. There is no place in the kingdom of God for the cowardly and the faithless .

- (Revelation 21:8 ESV) **But as for the cowardly, the faithless**, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, **their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur**, which is the second death.”

6. We are commanded to prepare our provisions to cross the river to take possession of our possessions, 1:10-11.

- (Joshua 1:10–11 ESV) And Joshua commanded the officers of the people, 11 “Pass through the midst of the camp and command the people, **‘Prepare your provisions, for within three days you are to pass over this Jordan to go in to take possession of**

the land that the LORD your God is giving you to possess.’ ”

- (1 Peter 1:13–15 NLT) **So prepare your minds for action** and exercise self-control. Put all your hope in the gracious salvation that will come to you when Jesus Christ is revealed to the world. 14 **So you must live as God's obedient children. Don't slip back into your old ways of living to satisfy your own desires**. You didn't know any better then. 15 But now you must be holy in everything you do, just as God who chose you is holy.
- (1 Peter 5:8–9 ESV) **Be sober-minded**; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 9 **Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world**.
- (Deuteronomy 32:46–47 NLT) He added: **“Take to heart all the words of warning I have given you today**. Pass them on as a command to your children so they will obey every word of these instructions. 47 **These instructions are not empty words—they are your life!** By obeying them you will enjoy a long life in the land you will occupy when you cross the Jordan River.”

