

# “God’s **PRINCIPLES** for Success in the Unknown Ahead”

Lessons from **JOSHUA**

chapter 3



## STEPS OF FAITH



Sunday, January 10, 2021

### MAKE A QUIET COMMITMENT:

- QUIET your mind and soul before the LORD — *“Be still, and know that I am God”* (Psalm 46:10)
- COMMIT to obedience: *Commit* to doing whatever God will say to you in this message — *“to obey is better than sacrifice”* (1 Samuel 15:22)



We must keep in mind that God gives us the **privilege** of being taken outside of our comfort zone in order to grow us in a way that, if God has **His** way, will draw us closer to **Him** and move us to give **Him** more honor and praise. In doing this, **He** will use us to be the means to **His** end instead of us using Him as a means to our end. **He** will use us to accomplish **His** purpose.

**2 Timothy 2:21** If a man therefore purge [*cleanse*] himself from these [*iniquity* (v. 19)], he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified [*set apart*], and meet [*useful*] for the **Master’s** use, *and* prepared unto every good work.



How will we be successful? How will we be able to faithfully follow after Him and be a useful vessel that is fit for His use?

In Joshua chapter 1 we saw a command to be faithful to the Word. The end result of being obedient to this principle was GODly success. Here in Joshua 2, we see a shift of focus from being FAITHFUL TO THE WORD to having FAITH THAT WORKS. Rahab’s faith in action is the focus here in Joshua 2.

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## Taking a **Step of Faith** (Joshua 3)

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### ? How much will I depend upon God in the new year?

The challenge for us is walking by faith which takes daily steps of faith.

**God's faithfulness is a vital part of the foundation of our faith.** Without the reality of His faithfulness, we have nothing to trust in (**1 Thessalonians 5:24**).

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### I. A Step of Faith **Requires**...(*"ye shall [do]"*)

#### A. Being **ruled** by God—*"Go after it"* (Joshua 3:3)

- This speaks of an attitude of **submission**, seeing God as **sovereign**.
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#### B. Being **reverent** toward God—*"a space between you and it"* (Joshua 3:4a)

- This speaks of an attitude of seeing God as **sacred**.
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Keep in mind Isaiah's response being in the presence of God (Isaiah 6:5).

#### C. Being **reliant** upon God—*"ye have not passed this way"* (Jos. 3:4b)

- This speaks of an attitude of dependency, trusting that God is **sufficient**.

A step of faith requires faith in God's wisdom and understanding. Faith that He knows what is best and that His way is best so therefore I need to trust Him.

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#### D. Being **repentant** from sin—*"sanctify yourselves"* (Joshua 3:5)

- This speaks of an attitude of **sorrowing** over one's sin.
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**Hebrews 10:22** Let us draw near [*for worship*] with a true heart in full assurance

of faith, having our hearts sprinkled [*cleansed*] from an evil [*guilty*] conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

Their obedience in “*sanctifying themselves*” was an act of dynamic faith looking forward to what God would do.

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II. A Step of faith **Reveals**... (“*ye shall know*” & “*ye shall [see]*”)

A. God’s **presence**—“*the living God is among you*” (Joshua 3:10a)

**God’s Presence:** Joshua speaks with certainty—“*ye shall know!*” This obedient step of faith will bring confidence in God’s presence as He rewards their faith with action.

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B. God’s **promises**—“*He will drive out*” (Joshua 3:10b)

**God’s Promise:** Joshua assures the people that their step of faith will stabilize their faith in what God will do.


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C. God’s **power**—“*the waters shall be cut off*” (Joshua 3:13)

**God’s Promise:** Notice that seeing God’s mighty hand often comes after we taken an obedient step of faith.

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**Ephesians 3:20-21** Now unto **Him** that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think [*far beyond comprehension*], according to the **Power** that worketh in us, **21** Unto **Him** be glory in the church by **Christ Jesus** throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

 God’s **PRINCIPLE FOR SUCCESS** in the unknown ahead is also realized through **STEPS FAITH**. We must be **RULED** by God; being **REVERENT** to God; **RELIANT** upon God; and **REPENTANT** before God. As you step forward in faith, look forward with great anticipation to see the faithfulness of God.

**What is my next step?** Please consider doing the questions on the back of this page.



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**What Is My Next Step?**

**Hearing** — Giving *attention* to God's Word with the intent to obey it — James 1:21-25

**Doing** — Making *application* of God's Word to be more like Christ — Eph. 4:22-24

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Text: \_\_\_\_\_ Speaker: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What did God show **me** that **I** must confess and forsake because it does not reflect Christ and hurts **my** relationship with Him and others? (**Put OFF SIN**)
2. What did God show **me** about Himself in this text? (**Renew your mind**)
  - a. What is He like?
  - b. What does He like?
  - c. What does He dislike?
3. What does God say to me in this text? (**Renew your mind**)
  - a. What command to obey?
  - b. What promise to claim?
  - c. What principle to apply (*If I do \_\_\_\_\_, then God will do \_\_\_\_\_*)?
  - d. What example to follow?
4. What verse(s) should **I** memorize and meditate upon through-out this week to help make **my** change lasting? (**Renew your mind**)
5. In light of what **I** have heard from God, ... (**Put ON CHRIST**)
  - a. What character quality of Jesus must I demonstrate *with God's help* this week?
  - b. In what situations will I most likely be tempted not to respond in a Christ-like way?
  - c. How can **I** get ready for those situations? (*If I don't have a plan for change, it probably won't happen.*)



OUR MISSION: Supremely love GOD,  
Sacrificially love others  
—ALL to the GLORY of GOD!