

# FORWARD

## INTRO:

As we have been in this awesome series forward, God has unveiled great things for us. How many of you believe that God has made a deposit in your life and unveiled the next level for you, and you're looking forward to it?

When we speak of FORWARD, we are not merely talking about moving on. Moving on is just a way of dealing with burdens of the past, but Moving forward is dealing with clear sight for your future.

Consider the usage of the English prefix **pro-** which means "forward (PRO). When someone has made good **progress** on completing something, they have stepped forward on it or into it. When you make a **promise**, you send "forward" your good intentions to do something and follow through with it.

When a new product is developed, it is put into production for it to advance FORWARD, arriving at a place of being packaged for completion. Once that same product is ready, it now has to be promoted (visibility moved) "FORWARD," thus creating sustainable interest for those who would potentially purchasing it.

Likewise, we look Forward so as to make progress; toward a successful conclusion. **I want to aid the understanding that when we look forward, we are investing in a future outcome that has not yet manifested.**

And although it has not yet manifested, we are looking forward to advance in position to take possession.

I want to utilize the story of Joshua and the Israelites to unpack this vision and action of FORWARD today. **(There are three important factors to our one point of going FORWARD.)**  
**Understand Your Position, Cross Your Jordan, and You Must Conquer Jericho**

## Joshua 1:1-6

**1** After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' aide: **2** "Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites. **3** I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. **4**

Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates—all the Hittite country—to the Mediterranean Sea in the west.<sup>5</sup> No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. <sup>6</sup> Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them.

I am deeply moved by several things in this passage. One being that even in the midst of a loss God called Joshua to a crossover. Not to a place of stopping, pausing, or giving up. Within the text, God himself is sharing a reminder of His good intentions to do something. This same promise being sent out before Joshua and the Israelites is a continuation of the promise made to the previous generation of people who came before them.

I want us to consider something for ourselves, because if you are going to move FORWARD in your life there are a few things I'd like for you to embrace.

## Understand Your Position

Notice that I said **position and not condition**. As believers our position in Christ is eternal and never changes. But when we operate from our condition we can easily fall to the spirit of defeat due to circumstances and our own inadequacies. So understand that your position as a believer is in Christ, and your condition is how you're walking with Christ.

### Colossians 2:6-7

<sup>6</sup> And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him. <sup>7</sup> Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness.

The Israelites were enslaved in Egypt. That was their condition at the time, but it didn't change their position. For their position in Christ was being a chosen people by God.

The Israelites had been redeemed/ rescued out of Egypt by the blood of the Passover, but now had to claim the blessing and victory of that same redemption by possessing the land that was already promised by God.

Notice that like ourselves their position in Christ had already been shared. What was to come had been communicated. You can clearly see, they are Invested in a future outcome that has not yet been manifested, but they are speaking into it.

But in order for them to have the experience of the outcome they must have faith. As a people we pray for a desired outcome and we even believe for a miracle, but we must understand that a miracle has a relationship with obedience. I believe that obedience is the sustainment of our position in Christ, while being an antidote for our condition.

God has called His people to move FORWARD. And although you come into an understanding of your position in Christ, you must move FORWARD and Cross Your Jordan.

## Cross Your Jordan

### Joshua 1:6

**6** Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them.

### Joshua 1:9-11

**9** Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

**10** So Joshua ordered the officers of the people: **11** "Go through the camp and tell the people, '**Get your provisions ready**. Three days from now you will cross the Jordan here to go in and take possession of the land the Lord your God is giving you for your own."

Often in life even when we are trying to move FORWARD, we have moments when we are confronted with obstacles. Faith moves forward, it does not stand still. Faith continues to progress forward driven by our trust and belief that God is with us.

**Your Faith has to move from what you think will happen to analyzing the evidence of what God is doing.**

### Joshua 3:1-2 (Reference)

**2** After three days the officers went throughout the camp, **3** giving orders to the people: "When you see the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God, and the Levitical priests carrying it, you are to move out from your positions and follow it.

When God affirms something in your life embrace the move. It's going to take you to move from your position to aligning with Him, because He's exposing you to the very thing, the destination, the authority He wants to give you.

#### Joshua 3:4

4 Then you will know which way to go, since you have never been this way before.

To cross your Jordan, you must become a disciplined disciple (follower). It requires you to heed to the divine instruction of God and change your established thoughts and ideas to take on His. Think about this situation in the text. You have a people who are moving forward and investing in an outcome that has not manifested. They are following someone who was an aide to the original leader. They have come to a place where they are having to trust a vision of direction that hasn't proven itself, and even though there's a miracle about to happen they are unaware of it.

#### Psalms 119:18

Open my eyes to see the wonderful truths in your instructions.

This is highly important because if you pause in disbelief you slow down the process, if you stop you will not cross. Growth, the ability to cross over, and breakthrough only come by moving FORWARD.

#### Proverbs 4:25

Let your eyes look directly forward, and your gaze be straight before you.

#### Joshua 3:5-6 (Reference)

5 Then Joshua told the people, "Purify yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do great wonders among you."

6 In the morning Joshua said to the priests, "Lift up the Ark of the Covenant and lead the people across the river." And so they started out and went ahead of the people.

Here's something important to catch. **From the time God spoke to Joshua following Moses death to lead the Israelites across the Jordan. He was already setting up/ planning the victory at Jericho. He began by establishing confidence in Joshua, in the people, and their attitude toward the leader He called. With Joshua God would say "as I promised Moses", "As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you."**

### Joshua 3:7-8

**7** The Lord told Joshua, "Today I will begin to make you a great leader in the eyes of all the Israelites. They will know that I am with you, just as I was with Moses.

**8** Give this command to the priests who carry the Ark of the Covenant: "When you reach the banks of the Jordan River, take a few steps into the river and stop there."

There is great significance in this because something is about to happen. The water from the Jordan was cut off as the Ark stretched out over the water. Just as the miracle of the parting of the Red Sea, God dried up the ground of the Jordan so they could safely pass over. Although a miracle, it was only part of the plan because there was a fight and war awaiting on the other side.

So even though I've submitted to His direction, became a disciplined follower, kept the faith and I still have to fight? With that question I can hear God saying: "as I promised Moses", "As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you."

## You Must Conquer Jericho

Jericho was the last thing standing between the Israelites and their promise. God knew there would be a fight/ war awaiting them on the other side and He wanted to lead them to victory, just as He does for you.

### Joshua 5:1

**5** When all the Amorite kings west of the Jordan and all the Canaanite kings who lived along the Mediterranean coast heard how the Lord had dried up the Jordan River so the people of Israel could cross, they lost heart and were paralyzed with fear because of them. (Another version states, "their hearts melted in fear and they no longer had the courage to face the Israelites.")

The promise land is not simply handed over, but you have to move FORWARD and fight for it. Had it not been for what happened in the Jordan there would probably be no victory in Jericho. Because of the miracle that God performed at the Jordan, it placed fear in the hearts of all the leaders and kings they'd have to fight. The miraculous crossing of the Jordan showed God's great power and cleared the path for victory.

**FORWARD**