

Following God into the River

The Israelites physically stood in front of the Jordan and did four things: they followed him, they listened to what he said, they did what God told them, and they saw the victory.

You stand in front of a spiritual river, but do the same four things when God is bringing you into the Promised Land.

1 They followed Him.

God guided the Israelites throughout the wilderness. Even when he thrust them back into the desert after they first rejected the Promised Land, he did not abandon them. He led them.

He is leading you too. You stand at the river of change. You don't have any guarantee beyond the fact that God is giving you this land. You don't know all the details. But he is guiding you into freedom, and you have believed him and you are following.

2 They listened to what He said.

The Israelites listened to God through Moses, Aaron, Miriam, and now Joshua.

Today as Christians, we listen to God through the power of the Holy Spirit. We listen to the Bible, against which we check all other words. God talks about spiritual strongholds there, and so you are here. Because you listened.

3 They did what God told them to do.

When Joshua told them to strike camp, they did. When he told them to follow the Ark of the Covenant but keep a half-mile behind, they did. When he told them to march up behind the priests and go around them on the dry riverbed, they did. The Israelites did not obey God by hanging out in the park and having picnics. There's nothing wrong with the park and picnics, I love them. But "easy" did not define their lives. They were soldiers on a campaign.

So are you. Develop the habit of obedience. When God tells you what to do to take down your spiritual stronghold -- reading the Bible, praying, fasting, journaling-- then do it.

4 They saw the victory.

The Israelites followed him. They heard him. They obeyed him. And they walked across the dry riverbed into Canaan.

You too will tear down your spiritual strongholds in the power of the Holy Spirit. You will not be perfect. Don't put that on yourself. But you will be well.

“When the Israelites were on the verge of entering the promised land, God commanded the priests to step into the river... I don't know about you, but I don't particularly like getting my feet wet. I'd much rather have God part the river, and then I'll step into the miracle. That way I don't get my feet wet, but if we aren't willing to get our feet wet, will never walk through parted rivers on dry ground.” (Mark Batterson, Draw *the Circle: the 40 Day Prayer Challenge*)

