

## NOT a spirit of fear

- Fear is often the greatcrippler in the life of the Christian, and so today, we just want to call that out. We want to expose that for what it is, and I want to see people delivered from crippling fear.
- The children of Israel have been wondering in the wilderness for 40 years at this point. Moses has just died, and God is about to bring His people into the promised land.
- And they are there on the east side of the Jordan before they cross over the Jordan where Jericho is. This is a few days BEFORE they will begin marching around the walls of Jericho.
- We're really looking at verse 9 of Joshua 1 today, but let's start reading in verse 1 just to get some context. (reading/preaching mostly from the CSB today)

"After the death of Moses the Lord's servant, the Lord spoke to Joshua son of Nun, Moses's assistant: "Moses my servant is dead. Now you and all the people prepare to cross over the Jordan to the land I am giving the Israelites. I have given you every place where the sole of your foot treads, just as I promised Moses. Your territory will be from the wilderness and Lebanon to the great river, the Euphrates River—all the land of the Hittites—and west to the Mediterranean Sea. No one will be able to stand against you as long as you live. I will be with you, just as I was with Moses. I will not leave you or abandon you. "Be strong and courageous, for you will distribute the land I swore to their fathers to give them as an inheritance. Above all, be strong and very courageous to observe carefully the whole instruction my servant Moses commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right or the left, so that you will have success wherever you go. This book of instruction must not depart from your mouth; you are to meditate on it day and night so that you may carefully observe everything written in it. For then you will prosper and succeed in whatever you do. Haven't I commanded you: be strong and courageous? **Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.**" (Joshua 1:1-9 CSB)

- So here they are. They have been set free from slavery in Egypt, and now the promises of God are standing before them. What God had promised them for generations is standing before them, and God will say later, "IT IS YOURS. The land is yours. This is what I have for you."
- Some of us are in that same place. I really do believe that God has so much more for so many of us that we are actually taking hold of. God has so much. As He did for Israel.
- But they were afraid. And how do we know they were afraid? Because God told them to NOT be afraid, and the all-knowing God of the universe doesn't tell people to not be afraid, unless they are afraid.

- **Fear is the adversary of faith and trust in God.**, and faith and trust in God is the ONLY way they could inhabit the land. They didn't have skills to be able to take the land without God fighting for them. They needed God. And fear is the great adversary of faith in God.
- Fear can literally prevent you from stepping into the promises of God and from taking the land (whatever that is), so God is saying to His people, "Do not be afraid" because God knows what happens when His people start walking in fear instead of faith.
- **"You did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." Romans 8:15 NKJV)**
- God has not given us a spirit of bondage to fear." Why does he say that? And why does he say "again"? Because before Christ we were in bondage to fear.
- When you are a slave (in bondage), you only get to do what your slave master wants you to do. And the slave master "fear" wants to keep you on the banks of the Jordan the Jordan, so to speak. The slave master "fear" wants to keep you from stepping into and through the river Jordan to step onto the west banks of the promised land.
- Stepping out in faith is scary man. The next day or two, they're going to step into the Jordan River that is **overflowing it's banks**. That's scary!
- But God's point is, "I'm with you. You don't HAVE TO BE afraid.
- Because as we see if you keep reading, once they started walking, God, as He always does, provided a way through.
- And there In Joshua 3 we see them step INTO the Jordan BEFORE it was parted (sometimes our prayer is "God just part the sea and I'll step through. Just open the door lord. Lord just give me a job and quit my other one. Provide me the money and I'll step out. **God part the river and I'll walk through**. But sometimes God is like, "You start walking, and I'll part the river."
- But is there something to be afraid of when? Of course there was.
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- They were ill equipped and unprepared. So of course they were scared, but that is not from God. God has not given us a Spirit of Fear, but of love, power, and sound mind. BUT God says FEAR NOT.
- Stepping out in faith can create fear.
- And stepping INTO what God has for you can also be scary.
- But when you're standing at the crossroads you have two choices. You can EITHER operate in fear or in faith. It's one or the other. They are contrary to one another.

But today, I don't want to talk about what fear can do. I want talk about...

What do we do then with fear? And that's where I want to spend the rest of our time today. 4 things.

## 1. WE WALK IN TRUTH

- **Truth #1: Fear is not of God.**

- **Truth #2: Fear is a liar.**
- **Truth #3: Everything that brings us fear, cowers in the presence of God.**

## 2. WE USE OUR TOOLS

- **Tool #1: The Word of God**
- **Tool #2: Prayer**
- **Tool #3: Musical Worship**

## 3. WE GIVE UP CONTROL AND ABIDE

## 4. WE WALK IN THE LOVE AND APPROVAL OF GOD

- God chose the land of Canaan as the promised land for his people. He chose a (as it says in Exodus 3) **“a good and spacious land”** for them. He chose a land **flowing with milk and honey.**
- Likewise he has chosen a good and spacious land for you. But you only get to live in it if you take possession of it. And I’m calling out fear today and saying, “Fear! You don’t get to rob God’s people from walking in what He has for them. NO more!”
- I don’t want us to be like the half tribe of Manasseh who settled for less than God had for them when they asked to stay on the east side of the Jordan and never enter the promised land.
- That is what fear wants for us. That is not what God wants for us.
- **Every scary movie...**
- All of Israel was scared. That’s why God said don’t be afraid. But those who got to experience the glory of the promised land where those chose to combat the fear with faith in God — those who operated from a place of faith instead of fear.
- Is it gonna be hard? Yes. They had to go to war when they got in. But God said I’ve given this to you already. It’s already yours. But yea, we’re gonna have to fight for it a bit. That’s alright. Yea it might be crazy. But you’ve got everything you need.
- Isn’t this what we’ve been seeing in this Holy Spirit series? People are confronted with situations where they are being called into or faced with, something bigger than themselves, and they need power and provision that is bigger themselves, and as they are filled with or anointed by the Spirit of God, they have everything they need to face the situation.
- This is what is available to us in the Holy Spirit of God.
- **Brothers and sisters, consider your calling: Not many were wise from a human perspective, not many powerful, not many of noble birth. Instead, God has chosen what is foolish in the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen what is weak in the world to shame the strong. God has chosen what is insignificant and despised in the world — what is viewed**

as nothing — to bring to nothing what is viewed as something, so that no one may boast in his presence. (1 Cor. 1:26-29)

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- Not by power or by might, but by my Spirit,' says the Lord of Armies. 'What are you, great mountain? Before Zerubbabel, you will become a plain.' **Zechariah 4:6-7**
  - **Might** there is talking about collective strength, the resources of a group or army. **Power** has to do with individual strength. God says, "not by the resources of many or by one, but by My Spirit. It will not be by your cleverness, your ability, or your physical strength that the land will be taken, but by my spirit.
  - **The necessary resource for God's work and calling, is the Holy Spirit.**