

New Season – New Steps

by Sherry Jones

Joshua was a faithful man who served Moses without complaint. Then one day, the Lord told Joshua, “Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel. Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses” (Joshua 1:2-3). The Lord was calling him to a new place of commitment. It was time for Joshua to rise up to the challenge and move forward. The Lord told him to go over the Jordan River, but at this particular time, the river was at flood stage. It was not the time to hesitate, waver or draw back. It was not the time to be fearful or to procrastinate. It was a time to act on God’s Word. It was a new season and they were going to possess the land that God had given them. To be successful in this season, the children of Israel had to take action in several different areas.

- 1) They had to create an atmosphere of faith. Mark 9:23 says, “If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.” Faith is not sad; it is joyful. Faith is not negative; it is positive. Faith is not full of doubt. It will produce positive results in your life.
- 2) They had to make a decision to never give up. Galatians 6:9 says, “And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.” The devil will try to get you to give up. The devil uses time and people to distract us. The devil will say, “It’s been a long time. What you are believing for should have happened by now, so you may as well give up!” But that is when you just keep pressing toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Jesus Christ (Phil. 3:14). Don’t look back, cave in, or quit because of adverse circumstances.
- 3) They had to call for God’s plan. Romans 4:17 says, “As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations, before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.” This word *calleth* means “to summons.” When someone receives a summons to testify in a court of law, they are required by law to show up. Whatever God has put in your heart, call for it. When the summons has been issued, whatever you are calling for must appear.
- 4) They had to pursue their dreams with all their heart. In Acts 26:19, Paul says, “Whereupon, O King Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision.” Paul announced that he was sticking with his vision no matter what the cost. He was saying that he was going to give himself fully to whatever he was doing. He never considered doing things half way. By his example to us, he was saying, “Give yourself fully to whatever you are doing. Don’t do things half way, but do them with all of your might.” Whatever we do, we are to give it our all.
- 5) Regardless of the circumstances, they had to give praise to God. Jehoshapat, appointed singers and praisers to go out before the army of Israel. When Judah began to sing praises to God, their armies were defeated. The Lord sent ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and Mt. Seir. The enemies were utterly destroyed and it took three days for the Israelites to gather the spoil. Praise brings God on the scene. Praise is faith at work and is proper behavior for the believer.

It took courage to take over as the leader of the nation of Israel after Moses died. But Joshua was entering into a new season that he had been preparing for throughout his lifetime. God always calls us to do something bigger than ourselves. Joshua was faithful and he was fervent in pursuing the will of God. So when the door opened, Joshua walked through and was ready for the next season in his life. We can learn from his example how to be successful when we walk into new seasons in our lives.