

Purpose: Getting ready for a new initiative is more than just having a hope. It is an intentional movement towards a given objective. Joshua gives three commands to his leaders that we can learn from today.

Introduction:

- New Year's Fitness Resolutions:
 - 2013: I will get my weight down below 180 pounds.
 - 2014: I will follow my new diet religiously until I get below 200 pounds.
 - 2015: I will develop a realistic attitude about my weight.
 - 2016: I will work out 3 days a week.
 - 2017: I will drive past a gym at least once a week.
- Every December 31st comes with at least some thought by most people about where they want to be in life next year at this time.
- Every December 31st also comes with the thoughts of the things we did not do last year and the question of, "Is this worth trying again this year?"
- *"Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people, saying, "Pass through the camp and command the people, saying, 'Prepare provisions for yourselves, for within three days you will cross over this Jordan, to go in to possess the land which the Lord your God is giving you to possess.'""* (Joshua 1:10-11, NKJV) Prepare, Move, Possess...this was Joshua's command to his leaders.
- Israel is about to convert ownership by promise into actual possession.

I. Prepare

- A. Prepare - Hebrew, *Kun* - "The root meaning is to bring something into being with the consequence that its existence is a certainty." Oswalt, J. N. (1999). *Kun*. R. L. Harris, G. L. Archer Jr., & B. K. Waltke (Eds.), *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament* (electronic ed., p. 433). Chicago: Moody Press.
- To make ready beforehand for some purpose. To equip. To be willing.
1. The command was to prepare provision. That could be anything that one would need in to get into and to take the land. IE. Mission trips. Prepare - Toilet paper, snacks, mosquito spray, water bottle, leather man tool, sweatshirt, sermons, bible, etc.
 - a) To get ready - food, water, clothes
 - b) To equip - knife, sword, camel, baby wipes
 - c) To be willing - how big is your 'want to?' For forty years Joshua had been dreaming about this day when he would see his people, his family, his nation enter the land that God had given them.
 - d) Joshua was calling the children of Israel to bring these things into existence with certainty.
 2. They were to prepare provision for the purpose of entering. They were to prepare provision for the obtaining of the promise. What they were about to do was to convert ownership by promise (from God) into actual possession!
 3. Let me ask you, "What provisions do you need to enter where you want to be next year at this time?" You will not get to where you want to be without some sort of preparation.
 - a) What do you need to get ready?

- b) What equipment/equipping do you need?
 - c) What do you need to be willing? Most people are stopped here by the unholy trinity: fear, doubt and guilt.
- B. Vision - where do you want to go in 2018?
1. Joshua had a vision. In fact he was one of the 12 spies that actually entered and for forty days saw the promised land! That had been 40 years earlier.
 2. *"This was their report to Moses: "We entered the land you sent us to explore, and it is indeed a bountiful country—a land flowing with milk and honey. Here is the kind of fruit it produces."* (Numbers 13:27, NLT)
 3. Joshua lived with the promise of God of a land that would be given to them. He knew the Word of God to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. He heard those promises declared again through Moses.
 - a) With that he began to dream...what can a free man do? become? live?
 - b) His dream grew when he crossed over and for 40 days explored the land.
 - c) What has God promised you? Do you dream about it? Have you actually touched it, seen it, experienced it?
- C. If you have a vision of where you want to be you can begin to make provision for it.
1. There has to be a connection to the dream or it will always remain 'wishful thinking.'
 2. You might do well to answer the question, "Why do I want this?" Because when the dream becomes work your 'why?' will empower you to finish. IE. Jesus had a 'why?' *"Then Jesus explained: "My nourishment comes from doing the will of God, who sent me, and from finishing his work."* (John 4:34, NLT)

II. Cross Over In three days you will cross over

- A. Cross over - Hebrew word, "lbri, - to cross over, pass by, to go beyond, to go further. The main idea of the verb is that of movement; movement between two specific places;" Theological Word Book OT. The Hebrew actually refers to 'one who crosses over.' Abraham is first to be called Hebrew in Gen 14:6. In Gen 12 he leaves his family in Haran and crosses over the promised land. God is taking his people somewhere.
1. Joshua was telling his leaders, to let the people know we are moving. Moving from this side to that side! We are going to cross over the Jordan.
 - a) To Joshua and children of Israel, the Jordan was a barrier to the promise. They had to cross the barrier to get to the promise. And the barrier was at flood stage Joshua 3:15.
 - b) Dt 26 they 'cross over' into covenant with God.
 - c) Dt 27 in 4 verses Moses uses the words 'cross over' four times.
 - d) Walking with God is about movement!
 2. The unholy trinity is what most people face at this point...flood stage.
 - a) Fear - there are giants in the land.
 - b) Doubt - I am not sure. Doubt and unbelief are two different things. IE. Pharisees were filled with unbelief. Man with withers had had doubt issue. Peter had a doubt issue while walking on water.
 - c) Guilt - we tried this before. Cost is too high.

- d) All of these were familiar enemies to Joshua. He watched them stop an entire nation backed by God 40 years ago. These enemies will also try to stop you too.
- (1) Fear of giants. They are to big we are to small.
 - (2) Doubt - will God be faithful to His Word? Can I trust Him?
 - (3) Guilt - I tried this before. This may cost me a friend.
 - (4) Maybe this is why God had to have this talk with Joshua to not be afraid or discouraged, but be strong and courageous.
3. You have to take action. Action is movement. If you are ever going to see change, improvement, increase you have to be willing to take action. IE. *"Blessed is he who aims at nothing for he shall surely hit it."* Herman Cowger.
- B. Start time... In three days!
1. Joshua let the people know that we will stop the 40 circle and enter the promised land in three day.
 2. All movement begins with a start point. The starting point becomes a place/point of commitment.
 3. It is now on the schedule. You have to schedule change. Time to pray. Time for word. Time for your family. IE. Calling my parents once a week. I had to put it on my calendar to start with. Now it just happens!
- C. Are you willing to leave the old to move into the new? It is part of the preparation! Abraham had to leave his family. Abraham had to shift from a promise into a place of covenant. He had to cross over in his thinking.

III. Possess

- A. New Years is more than making a resolution. It is about securing the resolve to possess your desired dream. Get in there and fight for it Joshua.
1. The Word/the promises shaped Joshua's faith
 2. Read Joshua 1:7-9. Here is God's desire for Joshua. God does not intend for Joshua to fail. God intends no man to fail. His first words were 'take dominion' that has not changed! That is why the 'game changer' the Word of God is so important to us.
 3. That you may prosper- Heb sakal-to be wise and understanding. The ability to think through a complex arrangement of thoughts which leads to success. To think wisely with understanding.
 4. Make your way prosperous- Heb saleah - "The root means to accomplish satisfactorily what is intended. Real prosperity results from the work of God in the life of one who seeks God with all his heart" ie. Ps 1:3 like a tree planted by water. 2 Chron 31:21 Hezekiah sought God will all his heart and prospered. It means to accomplish what is intended. Then you will have good success-it is the same as above (sakal) We often read these verses without the backdrop of 1:1-7
- B. Possess - Hebrew - *yaras* - in civil matters it means to become an heir. In military matters it means to take control of a territory by conquering and driving out an enemy.
1. Israel became a people in Egypt. But to become a nation they had to have a land.
 2. *Yaras* is used the most in Deuteronomy. Israel entered (crossed over into covenant with God.) In return they would be given land with the help of God.
 3. *Yaras* is both inheritance and conquest!

- C. Israel had spent 40 compromised years in the wilderness. Two and a half of the tribes were so compromised they would not enter the promised land.
1. Have we compromised that we have let contentment set it?
 2. God blesses us with promises so we can move into our purpose.
 3. If he calls us to something, He swears by the honor of His name He will be there for you.
- D. My encouragement to you today is to Prepare, Cross Over, Possess your promise land.

Conclusion:

- What is God calling you to in 2018?
 - Abraham, Ro. 4:17-ff *We call Abraham "father" not because he got God's attention by living like a saint, but because God made something out of Abraham when he was a nobody. Isn't that what we've always read in Scripture, God saying to Abraham, "I set you up as father of many peoples"? Abraham was first named "father" and then became a father because he dared to trust God to do what only God could do: raise the dead to life, with a word make something out of nothing.* Message
- January 2nd we will begin our annual 21 day fast.
 - Derek Prince describes fasting as "a tremendous lesson in establishing who is the master and who is the servant. Remember, your body is a wonderful servant, but a terrible master." As fasting and prayer bring surrender of body, soul, and spirit to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, they also generate a heightened sense of the presence of the Holy Spirit; they create a fresh, clean joy and a restored determination to serve God. In short, they bring personal revival. Our spiritual power does not lie in money, genius, plans, or dedicated work. Rather, power for spiritual conquest comes from the Holy Spirit as people seek God's face in consecrated diligent prayer with fasting.
 - Andrew Womack - "Prayer and fasting do not drive certain demons out. If the name of Jesus and faith in His name won't do the job, then fasting and prayer won't either. Jesus is saying that fasting and prayer are the only ways of casting out this type of unbelief. An unbelief that comes as a result of ignorance can be done away with by receiving the truth of God's Word (Rom. 10:17; 2 Pet. 1:4). However, the unbelief that hindered the disciples in this case was a "natural" type of unbelief. They had been taught all of their lives to believe what their five senses told them. They were simply dominated by this natural input more than by God's supernatural input (God's Word). The only way to overcome this unbelief that comes through our senses is to deny our senses through prayer and fasting. Fasting accomplishes many things. One of the greatest benefits of fasting is that through denying the lusts of the flesh, the spirit man gains ascendancy. Fasting was always used as a means of seeking God to the exclusion of all else. Fasting does not cast out demons but rather, it casts out unbelief. Fasting is beneficial in every aspect of the Christian life - not only in the casting out of devils." The real virtue of a fast is in humbling ourselves through self denial (Ps. 35:13; 69:10), and that can be accomplished through ways other than total abstinence. Partial fasts can be beneficial, as well as fasts of our time or pleasures. However, because appetite for food is one of man's strongest drives, fasting from food seems to get the job done the quickest. Fasting should be a much more important part of our seeking God.