

The Journey

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The Journey is a phrase that we will hopefully all get more and more comfortable with. We are all on varying points of a journey. Some people may seemingly finish before us, some after, but the goal is that we finish! The hope is not that we will be the first to “arrive,” but rather that we walk on this journey together as a family with full assurance that we *are not alone!*

On this journey there are many adventures and challenges that we will face. We have a lot to learn, and we can look forward to rejoicing in our victories together. **Hebrews 10:12-14** effectively says that we have *all* overcome, and we *all* have the victory! He has made us perfect! Now, if that is true, then why do we struggle with difficulties, and why do we know that we are not perfect? The answer is that although it is something that has already *been* done; it is also *being* done. Verse 14 of Hebrews 10 says, “*by one sacrifice He has made perfect forever those who are being sanctified.*”

How Can We be Perfect but Still Need to be Sanctified?

It seems to be a conundrum. But it is a truth that is very important to our Christian lives. Let's look at a few examples of how this works:

We are Sons and Daughters of God, but only you know if you are assured of this truth in your heart.

John 1:12 says, “*He has given us the right to be children of God*”. The original translation of “*right*” in this passage means, the “*power of choice*”. God has declared that we are His kids! Whether or not we walk in that truth is up to us! Think of how I shared that I was brought to England as a spiritual son. I was told that I was a Son, but in my heart I had to “grow” into that truth. It is the same for all of us. We are Sons and Daughters of God, but only you know if you are assured of this truth in your heart.

Joshua 1:2-3 says, that the Israelites were given the land of Canaan and everywhere their feet trod would be theirs. Even though they were given the title deed to Canaan, they still had to possess the land. They could have stayed on the wrong side of the Jordan River and talked about how wonderful the land was that God had given them. What if they just sat back and waited for this promise of God to be given to them? It was already theirs wasn't it? But they still had to cross the Jordan and take Jericho. The truth is sometimes we need a little more backbone! It is easy for us to sit back and wait for things to fall in our laps. We can say, "God said it is mine! I believe!" But, in reality, if we really *believe* what God has said, we will *act* on what he has said and *trust* him enough to obey! Thankfully our "crossing of the Jordan" was done on the cross of Christ, but we still have to obey to walk in what He has for us. There are times along our journey that things seem to be a miracle just like they were for the Israelites at Jericho. But after Jericho there were many battles that weren't so easy, which required great perseverance. Just like the Israelites, there are times that we have to fight, or persevere, and in that persevering we not only learn a lot about ourselves, but we also develop the "muscle" to carry the promise that God has for us.

The truth is sometimes we need a little more backbone!

Over 8000 Promises. How do we Walk Into Them?

There are over 8000 promises in the Bible. **Hebrews 11:8** says, "*By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.*" That **faith requires obedience**. The truth is that most of God's promises come with an IF before the realization of the actual promise. We are often eager to look at the promises, but we don't like to look at the conditions that require obedience!

The Keys to Obtaining His Promises

Obedience! (Hebrews 11:8) Many believers are quick to claim the promises but often slow to fulfill the requirements to actually see them materialize in their lives. The truth is that the provision will be released

when we obey. So we have to ask ourselves, *What has He told me to do that I am not doing?* When you realize what that is, *simply repent and go do it!* There is no need for long drawn out mourning sessions. God wants us to walk into what he has! He does *not* want us to spend years feeling guilty for things that are in the past.

Hanging out with other heirs of the promise (Hebrews 11:9)

Abraham spent time with other people who were heirs to the promises of God. There are times when we need the encouragement of other people who understand our hearts—people who know us and can help us through challenging times.

Waiting (Hebrews 6:12) Through faith and patience we obtain our inheritance. Patience and faith go hand in hand. *True faith will naturally result in the ability and discipline to wait.* If you believed someone was going to give you a million pounds and you had to wait a week to receive it, would you wait? Of course you would! When we know the promises of God are on the way we can wait patiently even if it isn't easy!

True faith will naturally result in the ability and discipline to wait

Our Sword (Eph 6:17) Don't forget that you have a two edged sword at your disposal! If the Word of God is just sitting on your bookshelf how powerful is it? If you simply read it, is it powerful? *No, it is only powerful when put to use by your mouth!* Revelations says multiple times (Rev 1:16, 2:16, 19:15, 21) that the sword comes from the mouth! Take the Word and speak it out! When Jesus was tempted in the wilderness by Satan he simply spoke the word of God. We are deceived if we think we can fight any differently.

Finally we need to remember that *all of our promises will be contended.* We have what we need to continue on and be successful on the journey. We will have many breakthroughs on this journey, some will be miraculous, but more often than not we will need to fight for them. We all have been issued our passport for the land of promise that God has for us—when we determine to walk in obedience, keep company with our fellow heirs, wait on God and speak His Word—we will be ushered across the border victoriously!