

## Crossing Over #2 - RECOGNIZE YOUR POTENTIAL

**Joshua 1:1–2 (NIV84)** — 1 After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' aide: 2 "Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, **get ready to cross** the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites.

**Isaiah 43:16–19 (NIV84)** — 16 This is what the LORD says— he who made a way through the sea, a path through the mighty waters, 17 who drew out the chariots and horses, the army and reinforcements together, and they lay there, never to rise again, extinguished, snuffed out like a wick: 18 **"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. 19 See, I am doing a new thing!** Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland.

### I. **One of the constants in this world and in life is change.**

#### A. **Change is often difficult because it places demands on us.**

1. **It takes us out of our comfort zone.**
2. **Sights, sounds, patterns of living are all out of skew because of change.**
3. **It causes many to get out of sync in life until they can find a way to adjust and accept the change.**

#### B. **Some people look forward to change.**

4. **Some absolutely dread it and fight it tooth and nail**
5. **Whatever category you find yourself in you must realize that no matter how hard you fight, change is a constant.**

#### C. **The children of Israel were facing tremendous change.**

6. **They had come out of captivity that lasted 400 years.**
7. **They had finished a 40 year trek through the desert**
8. **They had gotten use to a way of life in the desert.**
9. **The adult generation that came out were now all dead, except for Joshua and Caleb.**
10. **And now they stood on the banks of the Jordan River and God was getting them ready for change.**
11. **Moses, their leader, was dead, and now his protégé Joshua was given the call to lead God's people over in the Promised Land.**

#### D. **Things were going to be different**

12. **God was going to do things differently**
13. **There was a different leader**

14. **Everything was changing.**

**E. God now prepares Joshua to lead his people.**

15. **He begins to speak into his life some things that are important for all of us to glean.**

16. **Because of the constancy of change in life you ought to make note of these things so you can remember them and do them when change comes knocking on your door.**

**A. Like the children of Israel, God is calling all of us to cross over**

1. **And like the children of Israel, He is calling us to a new level of obedience**

2. **He is challenging us to greatness for His name's sake**

3. **He desires to use us and make us vessels of honor that He can pour His life through**

**B. The first things God says to prepare His people is...**

**I. RELEASE THE PAST**

**Joshua 1:2 (NIV84) — 2 “Moses my servant is dead.** Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites.

**A. If you and I are going to realize our full potential and move into the new things God wants to do in us and through us... we must release our past**

1. **Moses is dead**

2. **Joshua had to stop holding onto Moses**

3. **Joshua would have to rise to the occasion and bury the past**

4. **The people could not move forward if they held onto Moses**

5. **Changes had to take place if they were to move into the Promised Land**

6. **The people would have to let go of the wilderness, and the way God did things in the wilderness, if they were going to move ahead**

7. **To move forward; for change to come... you must let go of the past... release the past**

**B. What do I have to release... what do WE have to release?**

**C. Release past FAILURES and SINS committed**

17. **if you are ever going to move forward in the Lord you are going to have to release your past failures and sins committed**

18. How? How do I release my past failures when I am so filled with guilt and shame?

**D. you release your past by ACCEPTING GOD'S FORGIVENESS**

**1 John 1:9 (NIV84) — 9** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

**E. You release your past by FORGIVING YOURSELF**

1. if God can forgive me, then I must forgive me
2. Look in a mirror and say to yourself... I forgive you, and bury those sins and failures under the blood of Christ

**F. You release your past by FORGIVING OTHERS who have wounded or offended you**

3. Bitterness will poison the well of your heart and affect all your relationships.
4. You got to get the hate out...
5. Get it out with forgiveness
6. This is the single most important issue for your spiritual health after receiving the Lord as your Savior
7. Because we have been forgiven by the Lord for all of our sins and transgressions, He expects us to do the same with any and everyone no matter how big or how small the grievance
8. We are to forgive

**Matthew 6:14–15 (NIV84) — 14** For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. **15** But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

9. You break the chains of the past when you forgive...
10. You can't move forward while you hold onto your past

**G. Here's another thing you must release...**

**H. if you are going to cross over... YOU MUST RELEASE MISSED OPPORTUNITIES**

1. you have to stop rehearsing the "if only's"
2. If only I had gone to college
3. If only I had taken that job
19. If only I had married so and so
4. If only I had moved back north

5. You waste precious moments every time you think back and dwell on lost opportunities
6. This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it... Ps 118

I. Here is another thing you have to **RELEASE PAST LIFESTYLES**

1. you cannot move into your promised land if you keep looking back to Egypt
2. you can't live for the Lord on Sunday and for the devil on Monday
3. the most miserable person in the room today is the one who is trying to walk the line between two kingdoms, the kingdom of light and the kingdom of darkness
4. you have got to turn away from your old lifestyle
5. You can't date the way you use to date
6. You can't do business the way you use to do business
20. You can't go out to the same bars
21. You can't go to the same websites...
22. if you want to move forward, you have to change direction...

F. The bible calls a change of direction "**REPENTANCE**"

23. Sometimes you have to make a complete break from your former life in order to move on in the new life

**Proverbs 28:13 (NIV84) — 13** He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.

I be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord,

J. If you and I are going to cross over we must release our past

II. Secondly, we must **RECOGNIZE YOUR POTENTIAL**

**Joshua 1:3–5 (NIV84) — 3** I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. **4** Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates—all the Hittite country—to the Great Sea on the west. **5** No one will be able to stand up against you all the days of your life. **As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you.**

A. One of the things which keep people from fulfilling their destiny or crossing over into that new thing God has for them is they fail to recognize their potential

1. You and I were created to **SUCCEED**
24. We were created to have dominion in this lifetime

25. Notice what God tells Joshua... Every place where you set your foot I will give you

26. In every arena of your life God has created you with the capacity to overcome and succeed

27. This is your God given potential...

B. Unfortunately, many of us were stigmatized and we don't agree with what God says... we have bought into the deception that the devil put on us

C. **STIGMA** =

1. a mark of disgrace or infamy

2. a stain or reproach as on one's reputation

28. a characteristic mark or sign of defect

D. to stigmatize

1. to mark with a brand

29. to set some mark of disgrace or infamy upon

E. words of death spoken to you by parents, teachers, friends, family

1. you will never amount to anything

30. you are just like your father/mother

31. I wish you were more like your brother/sister

32. you're slow

33. too fat... too skinny

34. uneducated

35. not spiritual

36. divorced, broken goods

37. she can't do that she's too shy

38. He's too direct

39. He's failed at everything, he will never succeed

F. I came to this very crossroad several years ago at a leadership conference in Washington DC... LEADERSHIP 88

1. all the people around me had doctorates in varying fields of education and ministry

2. I would be asked where did I get my training...

40. I was mentored by my pastor at my home church

41. **my lack of formal training and education brought on an intense sense of insecurity**
42. **It came to a height at the last sessions of workshops... there were three I qualified to attend...**
  - a) **Mission educators**
  - b) **Mission pastors**
  - c) **People who work with single people of college age**
43. **I couldn't get myself to go to the room where I really wanted to be... I was intimidated and filled with insecurity**
44. **Finally I prayed... heard nothing**
45. **I ended up in the workshop for college age kids and who was the 1<sup>st</sup> person I met... Dr. Bill Bright, founder of Campus Crusade**
46. **I went to my room that night... feeling miserable**
47. **a missionary friend called me and came up to my room**
48. **he could see my distress, and he asked me what was wrong**
49. **I rehearsed with him my whole story...**
50. **He responded... well, you know that that is don't you?**
51. **I said, "no"**
52. **He said, "you are worshipping at the altar of your insecurities"**
53. **As long as you hold onto the stigma that you are limited by your lack of formal education, then you will never do or even attempt to do what God is calling you to do,**
54. **you need to tear down your**
55. **altar of insecurities...**
56. **that night I wrestled with God**

### **G. It reminds me of the story of Jacob**

1. **you remember Jacob... son of Isaac, twin brother of Esau**

**Genesis 25:21–26 (NIV84)** — **21** Isaac prayed to the LORD on behalf of his wife, because she was barren. The LORD answered his prayer, and his wife Rebekah became pregnant. **22** The babies jostled each other within her, and she said, "Why is this happening to me?" So she went to inquire of the LORD. **23** The LORD said to her, "Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you will be separated; one people will be stronger than the other, and the older will serve the younger." **24** When the time came for her to give birth, there were twin boys in her womb. **25** The first to come out was red, and his whole body was like a hairy garment; so they named him Esau. **26** After this, his brother came out, **with his hand grasping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob**. Isaac was sixty years old when Rebekah gave birth to them.

**B. Jacob = supplanter, deceitful, cheater**

2. all his life he grew up being called cheater, liar
57. and you know what happened, he began to believe it about himself, and act it out
58. He bought into the lie and the stigma
59. until one night when he was all alone

**Genesis 32:22–24 (NIV84) — 22** That night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two maidservants and his eleven sons and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. **23** After he had sent them across the stream, he sent over all his possessions. **24** **So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak.**

**G. All Jacob's life, he cheated to get ahead**

1. He lied and stole and lived out the stigma that was placed on him from the day of his birth
60. But God had a different destiny for Jacob to fulfill
61. God saw something different in Him, and He wanted to help Jacob find his real destiny...
62. So God confronts Jacob and they wrestle
63. He confronts who he is without any of his support around him
64. none of his things... no people to blame...
65. Just Jacob and God wrestling

**Genesis 32:25–28 (NIV84) — 25** When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob's hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man. **26** Then the man said, "Let me go, for it is daybreak." But Jacob replied, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." **27** The man asked him, "**What is your name?**" "**Jacob**," he answered. **28** Then the man said, "**Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel**, because you have struggled with God and with men and have overcome."

**H. What is your name... when God asks a question it's never because of a lack of knowledge on His part**

1. He is trying to get you to see and know something
2. What is your name... I am Jacob
3. a sad answer... he was saying, "I am who they say I am"
4. But God says, you are Israel, prince with God
5. God saw in him something completely different
6. God needed Jacob to see what He saw
7. If Jacob were ever to break the stigma, he needed to agree with what God said

**H. If you are ever going to move forward, you are going to have to**

**AGREE WITH WHAT GOD SAYS ABOUT YOU!**

1. I am more than a conqueror – Romans 8:39
2. I am the head and not the tail – Deu 28:13
3. I was created to have dominion over all the earth – Gen 1:26
4. I am accepted in the beloved – Eph 1:6
5. I am seated with Christ in heavenly places – Eph 2:6
6. He will never leave me or forsake me – Deu 31:8
7. I am the apple of his eye – Ps 17:8
8. I am called, appointed and anointed – Ex 3:1-12
9. I am loved by God – Rom 8:38-39

**I. If you and I are going to move forward we must break the stigma's of our past**

**J. I am not who you say I am, I am who God says I am!**

**K. God says I am more than a conqueror, so that means I can conquer sin, the flesh and the devil**

1. There is no arena in my life where God calls me to failure... I was created to overcome
2. If I have been losing ground in any area, it's not because of a lack of support... it's because I have believed a lie of the enemy

**Joshua 1:5 (NIV84) — 5 No one will be able to stand up against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you;** I will never leave you nor forsake you.

**II. God told Joshua that just as He was with Moses so he would be with him.**

**A. Let me declare this over your life right now**

**B. Just as God was with Moses, so he is with you**

1. Just as God was with Joshua, so He is with you
2. Just as God was with Peter, James and John, so He is with you.
3. I know He's with you because you are here!
4. I know He's with you cause there's no place you can go where He is not already there
5. I know He is with you because He is your Father and you belong to Him

6. I know He is with you because He promised that He would never leave you or forsake you

**C. Can I remind you that the devil is a liar**

1. He will do all he can to plant lies in your head about who you are and God's love and plan for your life.
2. He will try to trap you in sin; deceive you into a dark place
3. He will try to get you to focus on the pain of your past, particularly over the lies spoken over you in your life.
4. You will hear those voices from the past; words spoken over your life that are not true; and even if they were true back then, that's not who you are right now.
5. You have got to remember what the apostle Paul taught the Corinthians

**2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV84)** — 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

1. You are the blood bought, redeemed of the Lord
2. What you were you are not now that Jesus has transformed you into a new creation.
3. The old is gone, the new has come
4. Stop repeating the lies of the enemy over your life...
5. Declare the truth.

**Psalm 107:1–2 (NKJV)** — 1 Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever. 2 **Let the redeemed of the LORD say so**, Whom He has redeemed from the hand of the enemy,

**L. You are the redeemed of the Lord... you have to say so**

6. The confession of your mouth has great power

**Romans 10:9–10 (NKJV)** — 9 that **if you confess with your mouth** the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For **with the heart one believes** unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

1. **CONFESS/ SPEAK AND BELIEVE**
2. Speak it over your life... who God is... who you are in Him.
3. If you are going to cross over into God's great plan and purpose for this season of your life you must begin to recognize who you are in Him

**M. If you are going to cross over you must release the past, and recognize Your potential**

### **III. Summary**

**A. If you are to cross over into God's purposes**

**B. If you want more in your walk with the Lord**

**C. If you want to fulfill your destiny...**

1. You must, release the past
2. recognize your potential

**D. Some of us need to do some business with God**

**E. Some are holding onto the past**

1. unforgiveness
3. past failures – living in shame and regret
4. former lifestyles

**F. some of you need to get things right with the Lord**

1. He wants to break the power of that old sin that harasses you daily
2. He wants you free from all bondages of the flesh and the devil

**G. Some of you have a false picture of who you really are**

1. God wants to break the stigma and impart a vision of who you really are

**H. Let's seek Him together... come to the altar now**