

“Reverence the Word”

Crossing Over Pt#4

Joshua 1:1–9 (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. **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. **6** “Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their forefathers to give them. **7** Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. **8 Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.** **9** Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.”

A. God wanted to take Joshua and His people into the Promised Land

1. They would have to cross the Jordan River in order to cross over into God’s purposes and the Promised Land

B. Would Joshua rise to the challenge?

1. Would he be willing to walk in the destiny that God had created for him?

2. Would he be willing to make the necessary adjustments and allow God to bring changes in his life in order to fulfill his call?

C. Joshua stood at a crossroads

1. It was a place of decision for him personally

2. Whatever decisions he would make would not only effect his life but also the lives of millions of people

3. God was calling Joshua to a new level of obedience

4. God was placing new demands on his life that he never faced before

5. **God was challenging him to strive for greatness and to be a vessel of honor.**

D. God is calling all of us to cross over into His promises

1. **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**

E. For the past three weeks our focus is on what God said to Joshua to help him move into God's purpose for his life and the Promised Land

1. **If we are going to maximize our potential as individuals and as a church, we need to hear the voice of the Lord and obey Him**
2. **Here's what we have learned so far in our study... if we are to move into God's place of promise... we must**

II. RELEASE THE PAST

(Josh 1:2 NIV) ""Moses my servant is dead..."

A. If you are going to take it to the next level personally you have got to let go of the past... release the past

B. Release past failures and sins committed

C. Release missed opportunities

D. Release past lifestyles

E. If you and I are going to move forward to the next level, we must release our past

III. RECOGNIZE OUR POTENTIAL

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.

A. One of the things which keeps people from fulfilling their destiny or moving forward to the next level is they fail to recognize their potential

1. **You and I were created to succeed**
 2. **We were created to have dominion in this lifetime**
- B. Hear me church... If you are ever going to move forward, you have to agree with what God says about you**
1. **You have to start rehearsing who you are in Him.**
- C. If you and I are going to move forward we must break the stigma's of our past**
- D. I am not who you say I am, I am who God says I am!**
1. **You have to step into agreement with the truth of God's word about who you are in Him.**
- E. If you are going to cross over into God's purposes you must release the past, and recognize our potential**

IV. RELENTLESS OBEDIENCE

(Josh 1:7 NIV) "Be strong and very courageous. **Be careful to obey all the law** my servant Moses gave you; **do not turn from it to the right or to the left**, that you may be successful wherever you go."

- A. As God was preparing Joshua to lead His people into the land of promise God gave Joshua some secrets to success.**
1. **Here in verse 7 God tells Joshua to "be careful to obey ALL THE LAW... do not turn from it to the right or to the left. If you do this you will be successful wherever you go."**
- B. The real issue is that of Lordship**
1. **Who rules in the matters of my life?**
 2. **On what basis do I make my daily life choices?**
 3. **What is the foundation for my core belief system?**
 4. **Is Jesus Lord or do I retain certain rights and privileges that I am not willing to surrender?**
- C. We must deal with all of the compromise in our lives if we are going to cross over into God's purposes**

1. **Obedience to His word is essential if you are going to succeed in what God has called you to do**
2. **God is looking for people who will relentlessly pursue personal holiness regardless of what others will say**

D. If we are going to take it to the next level and move forward into God's promises we must pursue relentless obedience.

V. REVERENCE THE WORD OF GOD

(Josh 1:8 NIV) "Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful."

1. **Here is a another key to success which God tells Joshua**
2. **It is very much related to the first... and it has to do with the foundation stone of truth**
3. **When God talks about "this book of the Law" He was basically talking about the Scriptures**
4. **The Law was the first five books of the Bible found in the Old Testament.**
5. **God told Joshua that he was to build his life upon the foundation stone of the truth... which is God's word.**

B. He was to read the scriptures...

1. **Now some of you bible scholars here might say... wait a minute Pastor Nick, where does it say in verse 8 that he was to read the word?**
2. **Well, I don't know how you could talk about it, meditate upon it, and do all of what it says without reading it? So, reading the word is a given.**

C. Reading the Word of God is vital for success in life. Here are a few other convincing reasons why...

Hebrews 4:12 (NIV84) — 12 For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

D. God's Word is alive according to Hebrews 4:12

1. **The more you expose yourself to it, the more it will expose itself to you.**

E. God's word is the revelation of God to mankind.

1. **The only way to really know the nature, character, and will of God is to read the word.**
2. **Far too many people, including Christians, have a false understanding about who God is.**
3. **That's why they blame Him for the bad things that happen to them in life.**
4. **You cannot come to a right understanding of God simply by observing the circumstances of your life or what you feel.**
5. **To know God better you must spend time hearing what He has to say. The Bible is His message to you.**

F. Reading the word of God is the only way to guard yourself against self deception.

1. **Although God can also speak directly to your heart, you need to know His written Word so you can judge whether God is speaking to you, or the enemy is trying to deceive you of your own fleshly desires.**

G. God's word is a key to growing in relationship with God.

1. **You cannot grow in intimacy or depth of relationship with God unless you read God's word.**
2. **God will *not* love you more because you read the Bible.**
3. **It's for your benefit -- not required to make God love you.**
4. **However, without reading the Bible, you will not grow spiritually, and you will be more easily deceived.**

H. Prayerfully reading the Scriptures yourself is the only real defense against being misled.

1. **God's Word is truth**

John 17:17 (NIV84) — 17 Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.

2. **Don't you want to know the truth? Why waste your time on lesser, unreliable things?**

John 8:31–32 (NIV84) — 31 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “**if you hold to my teaching**, you are really my disciples. **32** Then you will know the truth, and **the truth will set you free.**”

I. Reading the word of God is a primary source for building faith.

1. Only those who continue in God's Word come to the place of knowing called faith. Faith comes by hearing the Word of God

Romans 10:17 (NKJV) — 17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

J. So, as you can see reading the word is critical to growing in faith and relationship with God

1. It is also brings you into truth so that you can life in freedom
2. It is the key to protecting yourself against deception.

K. Reading the word is the starting place

1. How much and how often are always the questions asked.
2. My answer to that question is simply this:
 - a) read daily
 - b) read till you have received from the Lord... Devotional reading
 - c) read through the bible so that you get the whole counsel of God... disciplined reading (each year read the whole word)
 - d) daily, devotional, disciplined

L. God instructs Joshua to ...Talk about the word

1. Don't let it depart from your mouth God says.
2. Simply put you are to speak God's word over your life

Psalms 19:14 (NIV84) — 14 May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.

M. I believe what God was communicating to Joshua is simply this: Joshua was to learn to view all of life through the truth of God's word

1. God wanted Joshua and all of us to have a biblical world view
2. We are to process life through the truth of God's word.

3. We are to interpret the signs of the times and the circumstances we face in life through the teachings of God's word

4. If faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word then we must speak God's word over the circumstance of life in order to build faith in His truth and to see His outcome.

5. We reverence the word of God by reading it and speaking it.

N. To reverence the word does not mean to put your bible on display in your home...

1. It means to honor it in your life, like the psalmist David did

(Psa 119:2 NIV) "Blessed are they who keep his statutes and seek him with all their heart."

(Psa 119:9 NIV) "How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word."

(Psa 119:11 NIV) "I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you."

(Psa 119:24-25 NIV) "Your statutes are my delight; they are my counselors. {25} I am laid low in the dust; preserve my life according to your word."

(Psa 119:28 NIV) "My soul is weary with sorrow; strengthen me according to your word."

(Psa 119:45 NIV) "I will walk about in freedom, for I have sought out your precepts."

(Psa 119:50 NIV) "My comfort in my suffering is this: Your promise preserves my life."

(Psa 119:104-105 NIV) "I gain understanding from your precepts; therefore I hate every wrong path. {105} Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path."

(Psa 119:165 NIV) "Great peace have they who love your law, and nothing can make them stumble."

O. Lets renew our commitment to reverence the word of God in our lives

P. Here are some current trends among American's related to frequency of bible reading

1. • Pew Research Center (2025) found ~22% read scripture at least weekly.

2. • **Barna Group (2025 data) showed weekly Bible reading has risen to around 42% of U.S. adults, with higher rates among Christians.**
3. • **Roughly 41% of adults are classified as “Bible Users”, meaning they read the Bible at least three times a year or more (a broader definition of engagement).**
4. • **About 50% of adults read the Bible less than twice a year (including never) in earlier surveys.**
5. • **61% of U.S. adults seldom or never read scripture outside of religious services.**

Q. Let’s begin by reading it daily

R. Let’s begin to speak it over our lives

VI. Let’s meditate on it daily

A. The Hebrew word translated “meditate” is “hagah”

1. 1897. הָגָה *hâgâh*, *haw-gaw´*; a prim. root [comp. 1901]; to *murmur* (in pleasure or anger); by impl. to *ponder*:—*imagine, meditate, mourn, mutter, roar*, × *sore, speak, study, talk, utter*.¹
2. 1899. הֶגֶה *hegeh*, *heh´-geh*; from 1897; a *muttering* (in sighing, thought, or as *thunder*):—*mourning, sound, tale*.²
3. **It was the practice of the Jews to read Scripture aloud (Acts 8:26–40) and talk about it to themselves and to one another³**
4. **When one continually mutters God’s Word to himself, he is constantly thinking about it.**

Deuteronomy 6:6–10 (NLT) — **6** And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. **7** Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up. **8** Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. **9** Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. **10** “The LORD your God will soon bring you into the land he swore to give you when he made a vow to your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. It is a land with large, prosperous cities that you did not build.

B. Let’s meditate and study it

1. **Let's pray over it, honor it daily, it's your life line, your plum line to measure the truth**

C. Let's APPLY IT TO OUR LIVES DAILY

1. **It's not enough to read, study, and meditate on the word of God**
2. **You must do it!**

Joshua 1:7 (NLT) — 7 Be strong and very courageous. Be careful **to obey all the instructions** Moses gave you. Do not deviate from them, turning either to the right or to the left. Then you will be successful in everything you do.

D. God gave Joshua the following instructions about what a future King was to do in order to be successful in His eyes

Deuteronomy 17:18–19 (NLT) — 18 “When he sits on the throne as king, he must copy for himself this body of instruction on a scroll in the presence of the Levitical priests. **19** He must always keep that copy with him and read it daily as long as he lives. **That way he will learn to fear the LORD his God by obeying all the terms of these instructions and decrees.**

A. The successful life you want to live has everything to do with knowing and obeying the Word of God.

B. Start here.

1. **Read** daily;
2. **Meditate** daily – pause to reflect on what God is saying to you as you read. Ask the Lord how do I apply to my life what I just read.
3. **Study**: get in a study group; come to church, Wednesday bible study, small group bible study;
4. **OBEY**: Apply what you have read to your daily life. Align your thinking, and your doing to what God's word says.

C. If we are going to “cross over” into God's best for our lives this year we must

1. **release the past**
2. **recognize our potential**
3. **relentless obedience**
4. **reverence the word of God**

