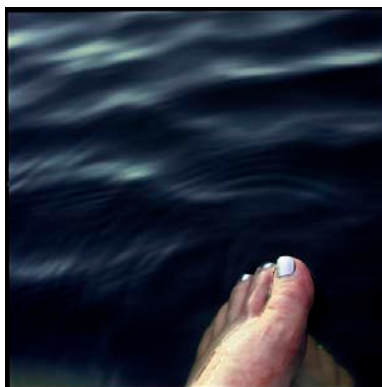


## Mid-Week Devotional



**Read Joshua 3:1-17** So when those that bore the Ark had come to the Jordon, and the feet of the priests bearing the Ark were dipped into the edge of the water, the waters flowing from above stood still.

The Hebrews had a second chance at entering the Promised Land. God often does that, gives us a second chance, especially when it is important to Him, like getting us to the Promised Land. The first time the Hebrews lacked the necessary faith in God, which not only prevented them from entering, but also caused them to spend some forty years in the desert. However, spending time in the desert was exactly what they needed, and often it is what you and I need as well. Our time spent in the desert is always hard, never wasted, and in reality, extremely sacred. It is during our desert times when we are forced to ask ourselves the hard questions...”How much longer?...How will I go on?...Does God really care?” It is during our desert times in life that we learn faith. It was this way for the Hebrews and it is the same for us.

The first time God brought the Hebrews to the Promised Land it was their fear of the giants on the other side of the Jordon that prevented them from entering. Now with Joshua as their new leader, God had brought them back to the Jordan, only this time it would not be the giants that would test their faith, but rather the Jordon River itself. How would they get across? How could they go on? Would God show up, they asked themselves. It wasn't until they put their toes in the water that they would get their answer. The moment they exercised their faith, by first putting their toes in the water, God indeed showed up, parting the Jordon River in spectacular fashion.

They had learned a valuable lesson during their time in the desert; that with the vision of God's faithfulness in the past before them, they could enter the Promised Land without having all the answers; the same applies to you and me. You too, because of God's faithfulness that you learned during your desert times in the past, can now enter whatever promised future God holds for you, without having all the answers. That does not mean you will not be afraid, it only means you will not be alone, for God will be with you and that is always enough. The secret to living a life of faith, that is taking that first step into the unknown, is to keep your eyes on God who you do know, rather than on the dark, scary, and often unimaginable tribulations you do not.

***Holy and mighty God, teach me to have faith that I too may enter into Your promised future for me. Help me to focus on Your promise in Jesus Christ, that not knowing all the answers, I may still place my little toe into Your infinite hand of grace and mercy. In Jesus name, amen.***

***Pastor Ed***