



**Thursday: October 29, 2015**

*“Now it came about after the death of Moses, the servant of the LORD, that the LORD spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses’ servant, saying, ‘Moses, My servant is dead; now therefore arise, cross this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them, to the sons of Israel. Every place on which the sole of your foot treads, I have given it to you, just as I spoke to Moses.’”*

**Joshua 1:1–3**

This generation of Israelites had never known a leader other than Moses. Now as they faced the formidable challenge of crossing into the Promised Land and beginning the work of taking it, which would mean countless battles with peoples that were their superiors in every perceivable physical way, that stability was gone. Joshua was their new leader — the new guy. New guys typically do not enjoy instant credibility in the face of a daunting challenge. God quickly affirmed with Joshua that His promise was still very much intact. Moses was not the source of power for the taking of the Promised Land, God was. Moses perished, God never will. As a sign of the continuation of God’s leadership through Joshua as it was with Moses, God has Joshua lead the people across the Jordan River — a sizeable body of water that would require divine intervention to cross. This was just like Moses guiding their fathers through the belly of the Red Sea on dry land.

Change affects people differently. Some people are absolutely frail in the face of change due to the upsetting of their perceived sense of stability. When that happens their resolve and clarity are devastated. The greater the change, the greater the sense of paralysis in their determined course of action. Still, other groups of people absolutely thrive on change as a catalyst for new activity with the purpose of recreating identity, processes and ways of life. Regardless of our reaction to change, though, the one thing that is not affected by change is the power of God. It is consistent. So as we exist in those moments of deliberation over whether or not to believe that God will sustain what He is calling us to do, we must remember that God’s power in our lives does not waiver, regardless of the changing circumstances that swirl around us.

In this **Built to Last** faith journey, we are all being challenged to take a step of faith and TRUST God in THE area of our life that is the hardest to do so; money!

We learned from Mark on Sunday there are three things that make this tough for us...Fear, Hurt & Pride.

- Fear: What if the economy fails and I cannot retire when I want or need to? What if our security and identity are tied to our money?
- Hurt: Some of us have had bad experiences in the past with church and money, or maybe we feel like they've taken advantage of us, so there are major TRUST issues in our past when it comes to money.
- Pride: You think it's *your* money and you will do with what you want.

The faith side of things:

- God says: I'll provide. I bless you. I meet all your needs.
- Faith despite Fear: I'm afraid, but I'm going to trust You.
- Faith despite past Hurt: Yes I have been hurt, I'm going to trust You.
- Humility: God, all I have is from You. I'm going to trust you.

Mark reminded us: God's going to show up, and our faith will grow!

### Reflect:

- Which of these three do you struggle with the most: fear, hurt or pride?
- Pray for the courage to move beyond these struggles and take a step toward trusting God.