

# Staying in Step

## Joshua 3

The people of Israel had just come out of 40 years of discipline in the desert

They arrived at the border of the Promised Land, and an obstacle stood in their way

The Jordan River was at flood stage, there was no bridge, and two million people or more needed to cross

This passage speaks to us about **handling obstacles that stand in the way of following the Lord's leading**

This passage speaks to two personality traits—**fearing to move ahead with God, or wanting to run ahead of God**

### What?

**Faith and purity are the spiritual prep that help us follow by staying in step**

Shrinking back fearfully or running ahead arrogantly

The people had three days to contemplate the fact that there was no bridge

Verse 3 is for those who shrink back—**keep up**

Verse 4 is for those who run ahead—**slow down**

God wanted to show the way and do something miraculous so they would **“know that the living God is among you”** (10)

God's directions were important, since **He would do it all**

They were to fix their eyes on the ark, which represented **their covenant relationship with God**

Consecration involved purifying themselves, especially **putting out of their lives any idols and centring instead on God**

**Faith in God's promise was required**; His promise to the Israelites was to do miraculous deeds among them

The river was at its peak, so crossing involved **believing God for something miraculous** (15)

The other option was to stay behind in the desert, because of fear, or running ahead to find a different way, getting lost and still staying in the desert

### So What?

We tend to idolize the past or the future

God also wants us to stop avoiding our need to go deeper with Him

We often sedate ourselves in the desert, or run ahead and get lost

God wants you to know that **He is with you and will lead you all the way**

We come to know God's leading **when we move forward with Him in faith, and resist the desire to stay** where we are

We come to know God's leading **as we stay behind Him in faith, and resist running ahead or going a different way**

The Jordan River water didn't pull back until the last minute—**God keeps us trusting in Him**

What did the Lord do? An amazing thing—the people walked over on dry ground

The final say—the Preacher of Hebrews

*Hebrews 12:1-2, NET—... since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, we must get rid of every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and run with endurance the race set out for us, keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith...*

### Now What?

Ask, “What do I need to put out of my life, that I'm idolizing?”

Ask, “What promise of God's do I need to believe to surmount this obstacle?”