

Going to the Promised Land . . . but God, where are You?

By Kelly T. Dixon

Scripture: Deuteronomy 34:7-9; Joshua 1:1-2

Are you at a point in your spiritual walk with Christ that you feel like God is no where in sight? Do you feel like the prayers go up, but there is no use in praying because the answers just don't come down? Are your prayers turning into "God, where are you?" instead of "God, help me to be your servant?" Then the question is not "God, where are you?" the question is "Christian, where are you?"

God is the same, yesterday, today, and tomorrow. He has not stepped away from you. You have stepped away from Him. God has given us the answer to overcoming our sins and separation from Him in the story of Moses' death. But before I go to Scripture, let me just refresh your memory about Joshua. Joshua was Moses "understudy." Moses had laid hands on Joshua to let the people know that Joshua was God's chosen one after Moses. Also remember that as the representative of the tribe of Ephraim, Joshua scouted the land of Canaan with the other eleven spies and along with Caleb, came back and reported that they could conquer the land, but due to the reports of the others, Moses did not go into the promised land.

Joshua later led the people to conquer Canaan after they went into the promised land. Joshua's outstanding qualities were faith, courage, obedience, and devotion to the law of God. So we pick up the Scriptures at Deuteronomy 34:7-9; Joshua 1:1-2:

"Although Moses was one hundred and twenty years old when he died, his eyes were not dim, nor his vigor abated. So the sons of Israel wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days; then the days of weeping and mourning for Moses came to an end. Now Joshua the son of Nun was filled with the Spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid hands on him; and the sons of Israel listened to him and did as the Lord had commanded Moses. . . 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.'"

If you feel like God has left you then tell me, "What is your Moses?" What are you lingering about trying to hang on to that has drawn you away from God and His promises for you? God has said, "Your sin is dead, I have conquered it through My Son, it doesn't have a hold on you any more, arise and go, cross over the river to the promised land."

God doesn't want you to be distant from Him. He wants you to come back to Him and stand by His side. He wants you to realize that He has conquered the sin that is separating you from Him. He wants you to be obedient to Him and rise up above the sin and walk right pass it just as if it was dead in your life - because as a child of God it is dead!!

God knows that to do this it is not an easy road. That is why He said ". . . arise, cross this Jordan . . .". The river Jordan was 200 yards to 1 mile wide and was at flood stage and would be difficult to cross. Just like the sin you have to rise above is difficult to cross over - but He is saying "I know it is a tough road, but with Me by your side you can conquer."

God is waiting for you to come back to Him. Patiently He awaits. He loves you and wants you to constantly be by His side, but with the sins that separate us from Him we cannot do this. So I beg you today, no matter what is happening in your life, if you feel separated from God, evaluate your life; realize that if you are His child, Jesus has conquered all your sins. Rise up, cross that Jordan and claim your promised land. †