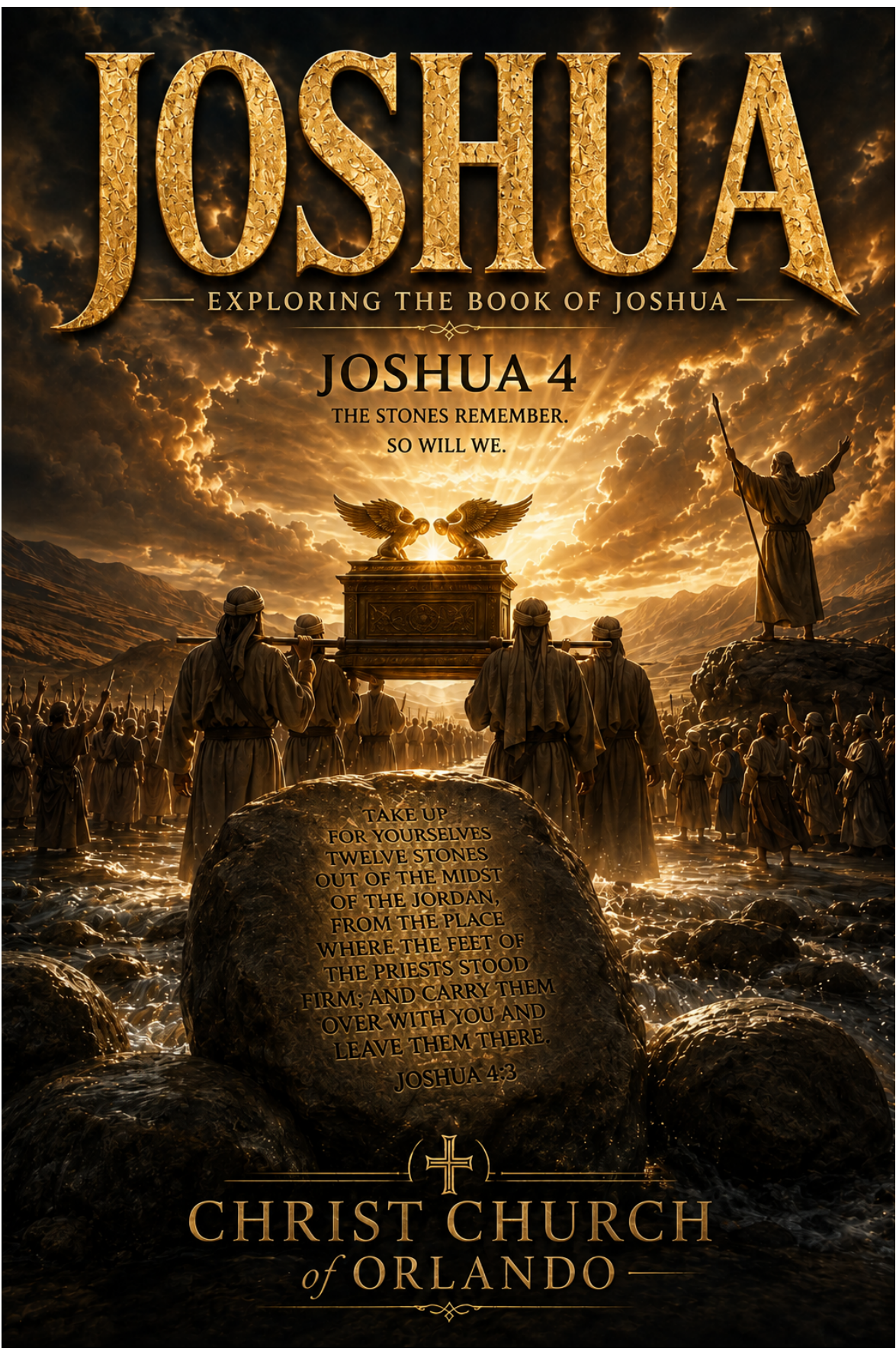


JOSHUA

— EXPLORING THE BOOK OF JOSHUA —

JOSHUA 4

THE STONES REMEMBER.
SO WILL WE.



TAKE UP
FOR YOURSELVES
TWELVE STONES
OUT OF THE MIDST
OF THE JORDAN,
FROM THE PLACE
WHERE THE FEET OF
THE PRIESTS STOOD
FIRM; AND CARRY THEM
OVER WITH YOU AND
LEAVE THEM THERE.
JOSHUA 4:3

(✝)
CHRIST CHURCH
of ORLANDO

MOVING FORWARD TO VICTORY

IN A NUTSHELL, UNDERSCORING TODAY'S SERMON THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE 12 STONES

Joshua 4 records **one of the great moments of remembrance in the Old Testament**. After forty years in the wilderness, Israel finally crossed the Jordan River into the land God had promised. At God's command, **the priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant stepped into the river, the waters stopped**, and the people crossed on *dry* ground. Before the priests left the riverbed, however, God commanded Joshua to choose twelve men—one from each tribe of Israel—to take twelve stones from the Jordan and carry them to Gilgal. There they were arranged as a memorial.

The twelve stones were first a **call to remember God's faithfulness**. Israel had seen God perform mighty works before, yet the people often forgot. These stones gave them something visible and tangible that would remind them of the day God brought them safely through the Jordan. Whenever they saw the stones, they could remember that an obstacle they could not overcome in their own strength had been overcome by the power of God. The stones proclaimed, in effect, **God was faithful then, God is faithful now, and God will be faithful again**.

The number twelve was also significant. There was **one stone for each of the twelve tribes**, showing that the miracle belonged to the entire people of God. The crossing was not merely Joshua's victory or the priests' victory. Every tribe had passed through the Jordan, and every tribe shared in God's promise. The memorial therefore represented the unity of God's people. Though the tribes were different, they shared one Lord, one covenant, one deliverance, and one future.

The **stones were taken specifically from the middle of the Jordan, near the place where the priests carrying the Ark had stood**. This connected the memorial directly with **the presence of God**. Israel did not cross because the people were powerful enough to conquer the river. They crossed because God went before them. The stones came from the very place where God had made a way when there appeared to be no way. They reminded Israel that their future depended not merely upon their courage or ability, but upon the presence and faithfulness of the Lord.

Perhaps the most beautiful purpose of the stones concerned the generations yet to come. God told Israel that someday their children would ask, **"What do these stones mean?"** (Joshua 4:6). That question would give parents and grandparents an opportunity to tell the story of God's faithfulness. The stones were therefore not simply a memorial; they were a teaching tool. **One generation was responsible for telling the next generation what God had done**.

This remains an important lesson for God's people today. **Faith is strengthened when the stories of God's goodness are told**. Children and grandchildren need to hear how God has answered prayer, provided in difficult circumstances, brought comfort in sorrow, opened unexpected doors, and sustained His people through seasons of

uncertainty. Our experiences of God's grace can become “stones of remembrance” for those who follow us. A testimony remembered by one generation can become a source of courage for the next.

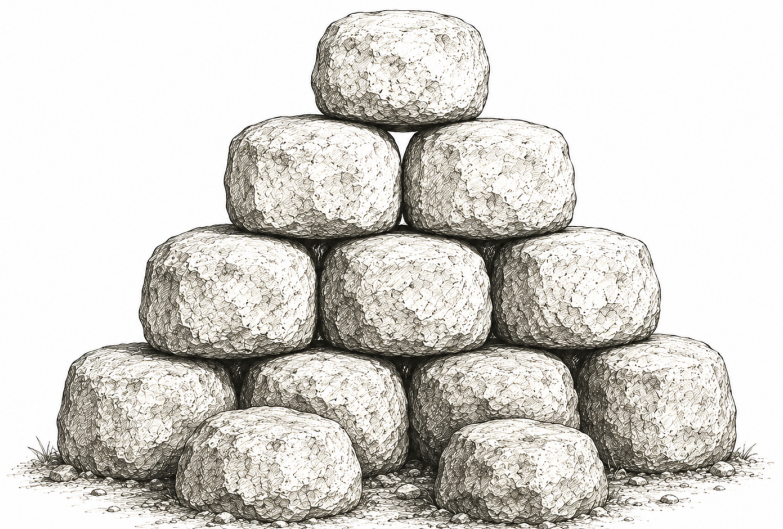
The twelve stones also marked an important **transition** in Israel's life. Behind them was the wilderness; ahead of them was the Promised Land. **The stones stood between what God had already done and what God was about to do.** Israel was commanded to remember the past, but they were not called to remain there. Jericho and many other challenges still lay ahead. The memory of God's faithfulness at the Jordan was intended to give them courage for the battles yet to come. Biblical remembrance is never merely nostalgia. We remember yesterday's faithfulness so that we can trust God with tomorrow.

The stones also made clear who the true hero of the story was. Joshua led, the priests obeyed, the twelve representatives carried the stones, and the people crossed in faith—but **God stopped the Jordan. The memorial prevented Israel from looking back and saying, “Look what we accomplished.”** Instead, it declared, “Look what the Lord has done.” Every stone pointed beyond itself to the God who had delivered His people.

Joshua gives the ultimate purpose of the memorial near the end of the chapter: **“He did this so that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the LORD is powerful and so that you might always fear the LORD your God”**(Joshua 4:24). **The stones therefore spoke both to Israel and to the world.** To Israel they said, *Remember your God.* To the nations they said, *See what Israel's God has done.* God's faithfulness was intended to become Israel's testimony.

The message of the twelve stones remains powerful for us. Every believer can look back upon places where God has provided, protected, forgiven, strengthened, redirected, or carried us through something we could not have faced alone. Those experiences should not be forgotten. They should **deepen our faith and become part of the testimony we pass to others.**

And so the question of Joshua 4 still speaks: **“What do these stones mean?”** They mean: Remember what God has done. Tell those who come after you. Trust Him with what lies ahead. **The stones themselves were never the miracle; they pointed to the God who performed the miracle.** They stood as enduring witnesses that when God's people came to an impossible river, **the Lord was faithful and brought them through.**



SERMON NOTES

MOVING FORWARD THROUGH THE BOOK OF JOSHUA

Paul Valo

08/16/26

THERE WAS SOMETHING IN THE AIR. Nothing one could easily name. Nothing one could point to and say, *There it is*. And yet there was a quiet expectancy about this morning, as though something unseen was already stirring beneath the familiar rhythms of another Sunday.

Central Florida was doing what Central Florida so often does. The day was warming. The humidity was rising. CCO folks were making their way toward the sanctuary. Some arrived early, lingering to greet friends. Others hurried across the parking lot, coffee in hand, hoping to make it through the doors before worship began. Ordinary people. An ordinary Sunday. A familiar sanctuary. And yet, beneath the ordinary, something extraordinary was waiting.

There are moments when God calls His people to pay attention. Not always with thunder from heaven. Not always with some unmistakable sign. Sometimes it begins with nothing more than a stirring deep within the heart: ***Look up. Listen. Be ready. God is here.***

Throughout Scripture, *wind* becomes one of the great and mysterious images of the movement of God. We cannot see the wind itself, but we know when it has passed among us. Branches bend. Leaves tremble. Waters stir. What moments before had been perfectly still suddenly begins to move.

The invisible makes itself known. Jesus Himself spoke of the Spirit in this way: ***“The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going.”***

The Holy Spirit cannot be contained. He cannot be managed. He cannot be summoned according to our schedules or confined within our expectations. He moves according to the sovereign heart and purposes of God. Perhaps this morning all of us needed to remember that.

We had not come merely to attend another service. We had not gathered simply because another Sunday had appeared on the calendar. We had come because God was calling us toward something infinitely greater: to turn our eyes upon Jesus and awaken once again to the magnificence of His holy presence. There are sacred moments when God reaches into the ordinary and awakens His people. He interrupts our routines. He breaks through our familiarity. And sometimes He does so not with thunder or fire, but with the breathtaking realization: He is already here. Before the first

note sounds, **He is here**. Before the first prayer rises, **He is here**. Before the Scriptures are opened, **He is here**. Before we ever thought to seek Him, **He was already seeking us**. Before we knew it, the fourth chapter of Joshua was coming alive:

God is present.

God is moving.

God is calling His people toward Himself.

And that changes everything.

What if we entered worship truly believing that? What if we crossed the threshold of the sanctuary not merely wondering what songs we would sing or what message we would hear, but with a far greater question burning within us: ***Lord, what do You desire to do among us today?***

Could the Holy Spirit be ready to pour out blessings beyond anything we have imagined? Could a wounded heart be healed? Could a burden carried silently through those doors finally be laid down? Could someone rediscover hope? Could a prayer whispered for months—or perhaps for years—suddenly find its answer? Could someone who has known *about* Jesus for a lifetime encounter Him this morning, afresh and anew, as the risen and living Christ?

Yes. A thousand times, yes.

For when the people of God gather expectantly in the name of Jesus, we should never underestimate what heaven may choose to do in our midst.

And so the invitation of God comes to us: ***Come closer. Pay attention. Open your heart.***

We are being called to far more than fellowship. Far more than singing a few songs, offering our prayers, hearing a message, and then returning unchanged to the lives we left outside those doors. We are being invited to encounter the living God. To worship the Father. To fix our eyes upon Jesus. To open every hidden chamber of the heart. And to make room for the radiant, indwelling, transforming power of the Holy Spirit.

CCO's doors stand open. People arrive. Friends embrace. Conversations fill the room. Musicians prepare. The familiar sounds of Sunday morning surrounded us. But beneath all of this, another movement was taking place. Quiet. Holy. Expectant.

We may not hear leaves rustling outside. We may not feel a breath of wind upon our faces. But somewhere deeper—beyond what the eye can see or the ear can hear—the Holy Spirit is moving among His people, pouring out His presence, awakening hungry hearts, lifting burdens, restoring hope, and drawing us ever nearer to Jesus.

For the *wind* of God has never depended upon the weather. It does not wait for branches to bend. It does not require leaves to tremble. It does not need a storm. ***It needs only the breath of God.***

As worship began this morning, we discovered what our hearts had already begun to sense: the sanctuary is no longer merely a room filled with people. ***It has become a place of encounter.*** And the wind of the Spirit—is already blowing.

A question shot from the stage: ***Good Morning! Good Morning! Are you glad you are in the House of the Lord today?*** With this we began to sing.

This is the day You made So
I'll rejoice and be glad
Rejoice and be glad in it
This is where I believe
You are more than enough
More than enough for me

You are faithful to Your
promise, You are strong
when I am weak
When I'm standing in Your
presence, I have everything I
need

The joy of the Lord, the joy of
the Lord is my strength
The joy of the Lord, the joy of
the Lord is my strength
O my soul, bless His Name
All that is within me say
The joy of the Lord, the joy of
the Lord is my strength

Jesus, come what may
You are worthy of all
Worthy of all my praise

You are faithful to Your
promise, You are strong
when I am weak
When I'm standing in Your
presence, I have everything I
need

The joy of the Lord, the joy of
the Lord is my strength
The joy of the Lord, the joy of
the Lord is my strength
O my soul, bless His Name
All that is within me say

The joy of the Lord, the
joy of the Lord is my
strength

Let it rise up like a river,
overflowing, Holy Spirit
Let it pour out with no
limit, overflowing, Holy
Spirit
Let it rise up like a river,
overflowing, Holy Spirit
Let it pour out with no
limit, overflowing, Holy
Spirit

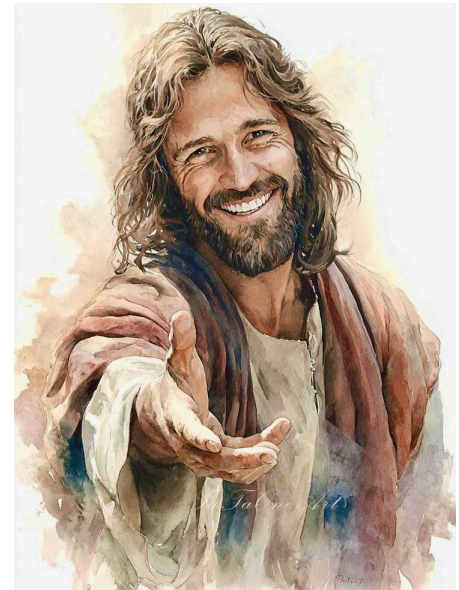
The joy of the Lord, the
joy of the Lord is my
strength

The joy of the Lord, the
joy of the Lord is my
strength
O my soul, bless His
Name

All that is within me say
O my soul, bless His
Name
All that is within me say
The joy of the Lord, the
joy of the Lord is my
strength

The joy of the Lord
The joy of the Lord
The joy of the Lord...

O my soul, bless His
Name
All that is within me say
O my soul, bless His Name
All that is within me say
O my soul, bless His Name



All that is within me say

The joy of the Lord
The joy of the Lord

Smiling, Pastor Brooks shouted: **Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!** Pastor Paul stepped in: **Keep praising Him!** With this, loud applause and wide smiles filled the room. We were ready for more. But first, **announcements** from today's team, Pastor Brooks and Angie. **CONNECTION GROUPS**, August 23 & 30, can answer many questions: *How can I get back into Church? Small groups at CCO provide life-changing opportunities to dig deeper into our faith, for example, through prayer groups, Bible study groups and other groups designed to foster community and trust, as we learn ways to fully plug into CCO.* **Sign up sheets** will be available in the foyer for the next two Sundays.

Pastor Brooks smiled: ***I still believe He does miracles!*** CCO's **21 DAYS OF PRAYER** features ministry from Church of the Highlands, Alabama, joining hundreds of churches via streaming services. One final question: Anybody excited about what God has in store for us this morning? With this, again, loud applause and wide smiles.



AWAKEN US, LORD. MAKE US BOLD IN FAITH!

Pastor Marc stepped to center stage: *Lord, lead us to give in faith and joy! God calls us to His generous heart. Father, I lift to You, Lord, all our financial needs. You are the God Who never fails. You are our Provider. I speak the Name of Jesus over all gathered in this room. Holy Spirit, come into our hearts. Clarify and increase our understanding of ways to support Your mission. I declare that Jesus' Name is above all names. Amen.*

I pray into the atmosphere
Spirit of God, You're here
You have all authority
I pray over my heart and mind
I am healed by Your stripes
Your blood declares that I am free

In the mighty name of Jesus, I pray
Calling on the power of Heaven, I proclaim
Every weapon formed against me, must break
In the mighty name of Jesus

I draw a permanent boundary line

The enemy has no rights to come near my family
No scheme could ever undo God's plans
No matter the circumstance
The cross has sealed my destiny

In the mighty name of Jesus, I pray
Calling on the power of Heaven, I proclaim
Every weapon formed against me, must break
In the mighty name of Jesus
In the mighty name of Jesus, I know
All the power of fear and darkness, must go
He's every key to every victory, I hold

In the mighty name of Jesus

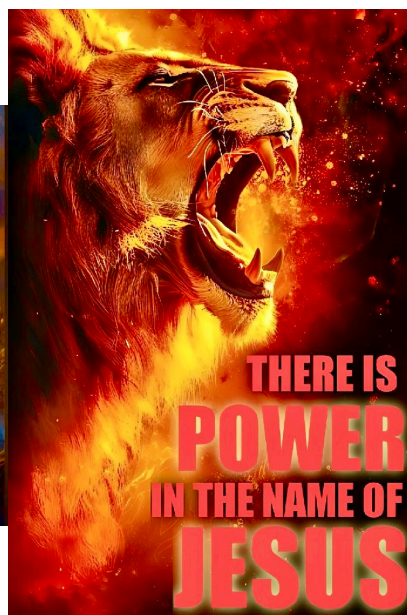
**I will not fear, I will not fear
When the enemy comes near
On the door frame of my life
Is the blood of Jesus Christ
I will not fear, I will not fear
There's an army of angels here
I'm protected on all sides
By the blood of Jesus Christ
I will not fear, I will not fear
When the enemy comes near
On the door frame of my life
Is the name of Jesus Christ
I will not fear, I will not fear
There's an army of angels here
I'm protected on all sides
By the name of Jesus Christ**

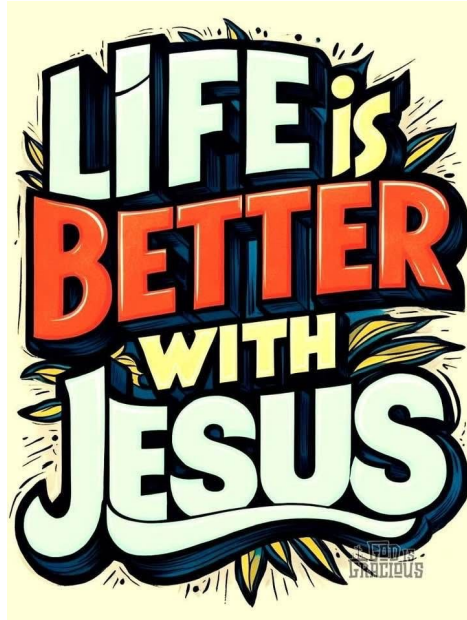
**In the mighty name of Jesus, I pray
Calling on the power of Heaven, I proclaim
Every weapon formed against me, must break
In the mighty name of Jesus
In the mighty name of Jesus, I know
All the power of fear and darkness, must go
He's every key to every victory, I hold
In the mighty name of Jesus**

**I will not fear, I will not fear
When the enemy comes near
On the door frame of my life
Is the blood of Jesus Christ
I will not fear, I will not fear**

**There's an army of angels here
I'm protected on all sides
By the blood of Jesus Christ
I will not fear, I will not fear
When the enemy comes near (oh)
On the door frame of my life (my hole life)
Is the blood of Jesus Christ (Is the blood of
Jesus Christ)
I will not fear, I will not fear
There's an army of angels here (of angels
here, oh)
I'm protected on all sides (on all sides)
By the blood of Jesus Christ (oh, by the blood
of Jesus)
I will not fear, I will not fear
When the enemy comes near
On the door frame of my life
Is the blood of Jesus Christ
I will not fear, I will not fear
There's an army of angels here
Oh, I'm protected on all sides
By the blood of Jesus Christ**

**In the mighty name of Jesus, I pray
Calling on the power of Heaven, I proclaim (I
proclaim)
Every weapon formed against me, must break
In the mighty name of Jesus
In the mighty name of Jesus, I know
All the power of fear and darkness, must go
He's every key to every victory, I hold
In the mighty name of Jesus**





Pastor Brooks stepped forward: ***Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Lord, we bless Your holy Name!*** Our hands and hearts lifted higher to the One Who loves us beyond measure.

I will bless the Lord Oh my soul and All that is within me Bless His holy name I will bless the Lord Oh my soul and All that is within me Bless His holy name

He has done great things He has done great things He has done great things Bless His holy name He has done great things He has done great things He has done great things Bless His holy name

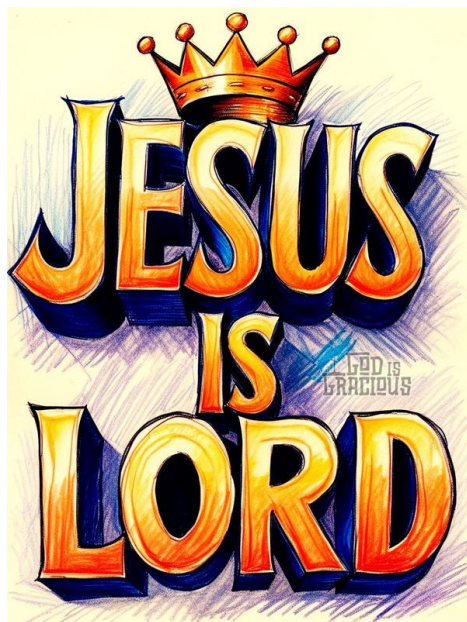
Hallelujah Hallelujah Hallelujah Hallelujah Hallelujah Hallelujah Lord you're worthy of the glory and the honor Hallelujah Lord you're worthy of the glory and the honor Hallelujah

[Verse]

I'm praying God come
And turn this thing around
God, turn it around
God, turn it around
God, turn it around
I'm calling on the name
That changes everything,
yeah
God, turn it around
God, turn it around
God, turn it around

[Chorus]

All of my hope is in the
name
The name of Jesus
Breakthrough will come,
come in the name
The name of Jesus



[Verse]

I'm praying God come
And turn this thing around
(Oh, yes)
God, turn it around
God, turn it around
God, turn it around
I'm calling on the name
That changes everything
(Oh, yeah)
God, turn it around
God, turn it around
God, turn it around

[Chorus]

'Cause all of my hope is in
the name
The name of Jesus
Breakthrough will come,
come in the name
The name of Jesus

[Post-Chorus]

God, turn it around
God, turn it around
God, turn it around (Oh, oh)
God, turn it around
God, turn it around
God, turn it around

[Bridge]

He is up to something
He is up to something
God is doing something
Right now
He is up to something
He is up to something
God is doing something
Right now
He is healing someone
He is saving someone
God is doing something
(Right now) Right now
He is healing someone
He is saving someone
God is doing something
(Right now) Right now
He is moving mountains
Making a way for someone
God is doing something
(Right now) Right now
He is moving mountains
Making a way for someone
God is doing something
(Right now) Right now
He is moving mountains
Making a way for someone
God is doing something
Right now

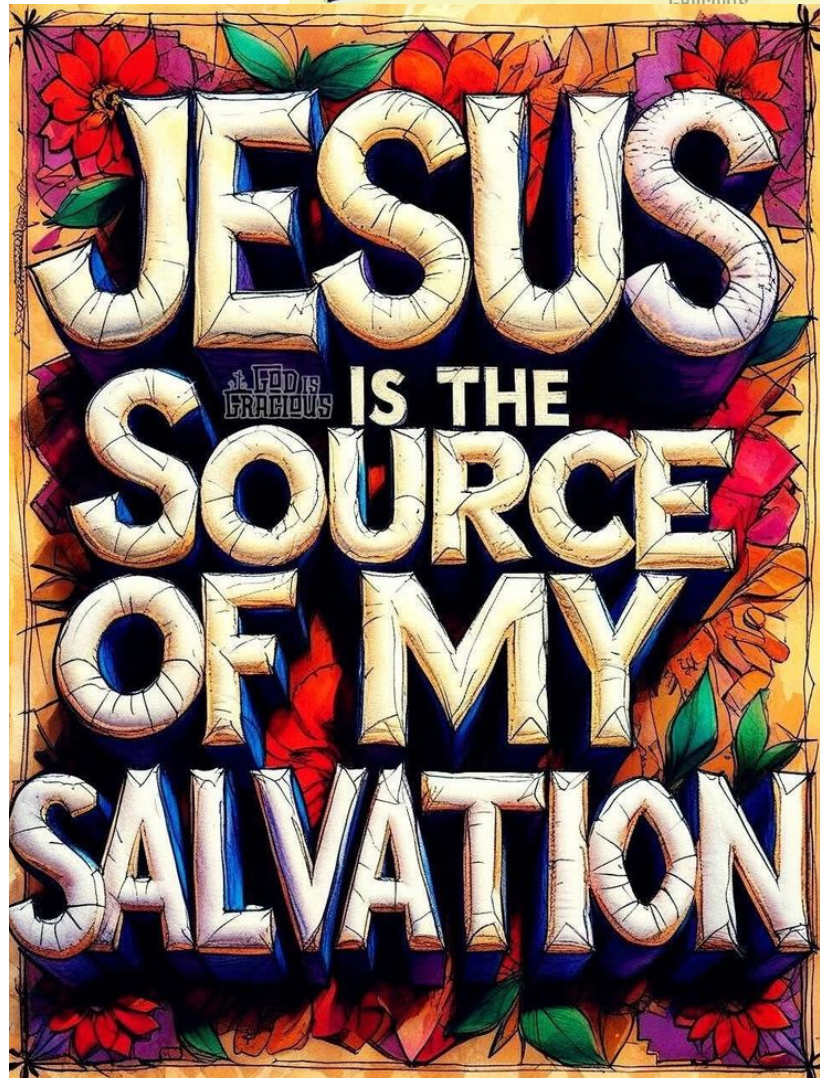
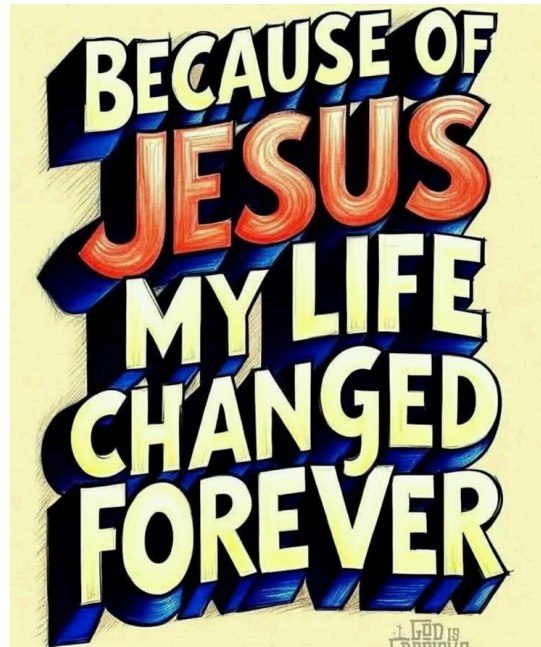
[Chorus]

All of my hope is in the name
(The name)
The name of Jesus (Of
Jesus)
Breakthrough will come
(Come in the name), come in
the name
The name of Jesus (All of my
hope)
All of my hope (Is in the
name) is in the name (Said)
The name of Jesus
Said breakthrough will come,
come in the name

The name of Jesus

[Outro]

God, turn it around
Turn it around
Oh-oh, oh
God, turn it around
Turn it around
Turn it around



Give Him praise! shouted Pastor Brooks. *Thank You, Lord. We testify that You are our Wayfarer.* After Pastor Tara on video, invited CCO kids to class, Pastor Paul stepped to center stage. *Are you glad you're here this morning?* Already he was on fire and had much to share.

Last week we explored Joshua 3, as we stood at mighty Jordan River at flood stage. The Promised Land stood on the other side of what seemed an impossible obstacle. As with the Israelites standing before the Jordan River, so we, the Church, are called to consecrate ourselves for God's Purpose(s). God is upstream. We can't see Him yet. He is working a miracle, to part the Jordan River as He parted the Red Sea. Today, as we stand at the river, let's look at Joshua 4.

INSIGHT: Joshua 4 describes the completion of the Israelite crossing of the Jordan River. God tells Joshua to have twelve men—one from each tribe—pick up twelve stones from the dry riverbed where the priests stood with the Ark of the Covenant. These stones are set up as a permanent memorial at Gilgal to teach future generations about God's power.

The Twelve Stones and Memorials

- **The Command:** Joshua tells the twelve tribal representatives to lift a heavy stone from the middle of the riverbed onto their shoulders.
- **The Camp at Gilgal:** The people carry the stones to their lodging place and set them up at Gilgal, east of Jericho.
- **The Second Monument:** Joshua also places twelve stones inside the riverbed itself, right where the priests stood.
- **Teaching the Children:** The stones act as a visual prompt. When future children ask what the stones mean, parents are to explain how God dried up the Jordan River just like the Red Sea.

Crossing and Completion

- **The Armed Tribes:** About 40,000 armed troops from Reuben, Gad, and the half-tribe of Manasseh cross ahead of the rest of the people to fight, as Moses commanded.
- **The Waters Return:** The priests carrying the Ark finally step out of the riverbed, and as soon as their feet touch dry land, the Jordan River's waters rush back and flood its banks as before.
- **Timing:** The people complete the crossing on the tenth day of the first month and camp at Gilgal.

Purpose of the Miracle

- **Awe of God:** The text states God did this so all people on earth would know His mighty hand.
- **Reverence:** It helps the Israelites learn to fear and respect God always.
- **Honoring Joshua:** The Lord exalts Joshua in the eyes of all Israel through this event.

*God wants us to carry something, said Pastor Paul. He wants us to carry something with us after the miracle. A stone perhaps. Or something else to **remind us of His faithfulness and miracle**. DO NOT EVER FORGET what God has done! So, God instructs the Israelites to go back to where the miracle of crossing the River Jordan took place, choose and carry on your shoulder 12 heavy stones to never forget. Carry these to Gill to set up a memorial to share the story with future generations.*

CONSIDER THIS:

- The 12 stones were intended to begin conversations about God and His faithfulness.
- The 12 stones were intended to provide a way for others to hear about the miracle.
- All this applies to us today!
- Have you told your family when God opened or closed doors in your life and why?
- Have you shared about seasons in your life when you were broken and He saved you?
- Tell others what God has done in your life!
- For example, if Jesus has SAVED you, then that's a MEMORIAL STONE!
- If you've been restored, that's a MEMORIAL STONE!
- If you've been healed, that's a MEMORIAL STONE!

INSIGHT: Here are 12 **Stones of Remembrance** to help us gain a deeper understanding of how and why riverbed stones or other significant reminders were suggested by God to deepen our understanding of the parting of the River Jordan and other miracles occurring today.

Joshua 4 is built around **memory, testimony, obedience, and passing faith from one generation to the next**. You could build around this idea. The twelve stones can become twelve memorable lessons:

- **1. REMEMBER WHAT GOD HAS DONE.** The stones ensured that Israel would never forget the day God brought them safely across the Jordan.
- **2. BUILD MEMORIALS TO GOD'S FAITHFULNESS.** God's works should not simply become distant memories; we should intentionally mark and remember His faithfulness.
- **3. TELL THE NEXT GENERATION.** "When your children ask..." (Joshua 4:6). Faith is meant to be remembered, explained, and handed down.
- **4. TELL THE STORY AGAIN AND AGAIN.** Israel's testimony was not merely about what happened—it was about **Who made it happen**.

- **5. REMEMBER WHERE GOD BROUGHT YOU FROM.** The stones came from the middle of the Jordan—the very place that had seemed impossible to cross.
- **6. OBEDIENCE PRECEDES THE MEMORIAL.** Israel crossed because they followed God’s command. The stones commemorated a victory born out of obedience.
- **7. GOD MAKES A WAY WHERE THERE IS NO WAY.** The flooded Jordan stood between Israel and the promise, but no obstacle was greater than the God who led them.
- **8. GOD’S PRESENCE GOES WITH HIS PEOPLE.** The priests carrying the Ark stood in the Jordan until everyone had crossed. God’s presence remained at the center of Israel’s journey.
- **9. WHAT GOD BEGINS, HE WILL COMPLETE.** The waters did not return until the entire nation had crossed. God did not bring Israel halfway through the river and abandon them.
- **10. YESTERDAY’S FAITHFULNESS GIVES COURAGE FOR TOMORROW.** Israel would soon face Jericho and many other battles. Remembering the Jordan prepared them to trust God for what came next.
- **11. YOUR TESTIMONY IS FOR MORE THAN YOU.** The memorial was so that “all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the LORD is powerful” (Joshua 4:24). God’s faithfulness to us becomes a witness to others.
- **12. REMEMBERING SHOULD LEAD TO REVERENCE.** Joshua gives the ultimate purpose: that God’s people might “**fear the LORD your God forever.**” Remembering God’s mighty acts should produce worship, gratitude, obedience, and awe.

Psalm 78:4 NIV

We will not hide them from their descendants; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done.

Psalm 78:11,19 NIV

They forgot what he had done, the wonders he had shown them. [19] They spoke against God; they said, “Can God really spread a table in the wilderness?”

We have a dangerous tendency to forget, don’t we? We forget people’s names, where we left our keys, things like that. But NEVER forget Who God is!!

EXAMPLE: *Forgetting can have serious consequences. My heart breaks every time I think of a pastor friend years ago, who at first forgot fairly inconsequential things, like keys and names, but unfortunately for him, he was quickly heading toward full stage Alzheimer’s disease, where those so afflicted, their families and friends are rendered not quite the same ever again.*

WE MUST REMEMBER, when facing hardship and seemingly unbeatable obstacles in life that God is our answer, our ONLY answer. We need to REMEMBER, that GOD CAN do miracles. He provides in the wilderness, our wilderness. Water from rock, defeating giants, healing the blind, opening deaf ears, feeding 5000 with a boy’s lunch: two fish

and a little bread, a miracle so amazing (aren't they all?) that bread fragments filled 12 baskets. Yes, GOD CAN! Remember that!

CONSIDER THIS:

- When we forget our spiritual identity, we lose connection to our own story & testimony.
- At communion, Jesus commends us to REMEMBER.
- His upper room passover seder essentially became intimate communion with Jesus.
- Psalm 78:4 NIV
- ***We will not hide them from their descendants; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done.***
- We must give testimony of how we were saved to give hope and encouragement to others.
- Often we find we are standing in a wilderness.
- Always remember that GOD CAN provide a way out.
- God is our Provider.
- We must always REMEMBER that every STONE is EVIDENCE of God's power.

**EVERY STONE OF REMEMBRANCE
IS EVIDENCE IN OUR LIFE
OF GOD'S POWER!**

The wilderness asks: CAN GOD? We have an answer: GOD CAN! Think of His provision to the Israelites in the desert, His manna, the defeat of the city of Jericho, and countless miracles, overcoming impossible obstacles. GOD CAN. He can cure profound addiction(s). He can open a door. He can pour His love, faithfulness and mercy into a new generation!

**GOD CAN.
ALL WE HAVE TO DO
IS ASK!**

However, don't ever let the monuments of the past be greater than God Himself! Consider Ephesians.

Ephesians 3:20-21 NIV

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, [21] to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Today is a milestone day in your life! said Pastor Paul. We are going to pray in a few minutes but first let's sing.

Verse 1

All my words fall short
I got nothing new
How could I express
All my gratitude?

Verse 2

I could sing these songs
As I often do
But every song must end
And You never do

Chorus

So I throw up my hands
And praise You again and again
'Cause all that I have is a hallelujah
Hallelujah
And I know it's not much
But I've nothing else fit for a King
Except for a heart singing hallelujah
Hallelujah

Verse 3

I've got one response
I've got just one move
With my arm stretched wide
I will worship You

Bridge (x3)

So come on, my soul
Oh, don't you get shy on me
Lift up your song
'Cause you've got a lion inside of those lungs
Get up and praise the Lord

As our souls lifted to God, so did our hearts. Open. Trusting. Radiant. We walked forward to pray, to lift our obstacles, our impossibilities, our *Jordan Rivers*, exchanging our *obstacles* for God's forgiveness, His mercy, His eternal love and direction. The sanctuary filled to overflowing with the holy presence of God as His Spirit descended upon us all. Pastor Paul, so alive in The Holy Spirit, prayed aloud as he walked back and forth on the stage. At times he spoke over the music; his other utterances were quiet, but remained intense. Today was made holy in God's Presence. Like Pentecost. Our pastor's hands were lifted upon our lives. There was hope after all. All this, because we explored Joshua 4, to stand with the Israelites facing the Jordan. Our attention focused on 12 riverbed rocks and our precious faithful God Who instructed that the heavy stones be carried to Gilgal to build a memorial there, to tell the story of what had happened at the Jordan, not only to share the story with our neighbors but future generations, our children and those who, standing in the wilderness, might know the hope and mercy of God. Hallelujah! God is good. All the time. Pentecost even now!

Verse 1

I love You, Lord
For Your mercy never fails me
All my days, I've been held in Your hands
From the moment that I wake up
Until I lay my head
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God

Chorus

'Cause all my life You have been faithful
And all my life You have been so, so good
With every breath that I am able
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God

Verse 2

I love Your voice
You have led me through the fire
In darkest night
You are close like no other
I've known You as a Father
I've known You as a Friend
And I have lived in the goodness of God

Bridge (x2)

Your goodness is running after, it's running
after me
Your goodness is running after, it's running
after me
With my life laid down, I surrendered now



**PROMPTS TO REMEMBER,
DIGEST AND APPLY:**

- The wilderness may change your circumstances, but it does not change God's capabilities.
- Our stones point backward but our faith looks forward.
- We've got stones that tell us what HE HAS DONE.
- We've got Scripture that tells us WHAT HE CAN DO.
- And we've got the promise of Jesus telling us to believe Him for WHAT HE WILL DO.
- Let yesterday's testimony give you faith for today's prayer.

