

Have you ever read the book of Joshua? What stories do you remember from it?

If you had to sum up the book theme in a single phrase (and you couldn't use the word 'onward') what would it be?

The direction of the Christian life is onward.

The Israelite's journey to the promised land began when God set them free from their slavery in Egypt. When did your journey begin? What kind of slavery did God set you free from?

The Israelite's journey to the promised land was delayed for forty years because of their grumbling, idolatry, and disobedience. In fact, no one over 40 years old made it in except Joshua and Caleb. How has grumbling, idolatry, and disobedience delayed your journey?

Read Joshua 1:13, Hebrews 4:1,11.

What does "promised land" symbolize for the believer today? What is spiritual rest?

Do you have a spiritual rest that is characterized by a sense of relief, release, and enjoyment that you are living the life God wants you to live?

How do you strive to enter into spiritual rest? What causes you to fail to reach the place of God's rest.

Do you have an ONWARD ORIENTATION?

An attitude that continually propels forward movement and resists stagnation.

- Do you believe that escaping slavery is what God has for you?
- Are you comfortable and complacent in your walk with God?

A disposition to move beyond the territory I now occupy in the territory God has promised.

- Are you wandering aimlessly with no sense of direction?
- Are you stuck in a spiritual desert? (spiritual desert? dryness in your marriage? dryness in your prayer life?)

An orientation toward God that seeks to close the distance between where I am and where God wants me to go.

- Is there distance between where you are content to live and where God is calling you? What do you need to do to close the distance?

A direction that faces forward no matter how long I've wandered or how far I've already come.

- Have you forgotten God's promise to give you a place of rest?
- Have you stopped moving onward because you are satisfied with how far you have come?
- Have you given up on moving onward because spiritual rest seems too far away?
- Are you in a good, comfortable church or ministry that seems to operate just fine without you moving onward into new levels of involvement?
- Are you content to sit back and let others lead while you coast on your accomplishments and congratulate yourself for all you have done in the past?

The battle cry of those who refuse to accept spiritual defeat no matter how fearful the enemies.

- Have you lost your urgency to live in victory?
- Are you afraid to move onward out of fear of the enemies? The enemies of God are stronger and more hostile than they have ever been. What are they? What temptations are defeating you?
- Are you are stuck in habitual sin and defeated in every spiritual battle?

A spirit-directed prompting when facing opposition to remember God's promise and rely on God's grace.

- Do you live with confidence that God's promises are true no matter what you see or feel?
- Do you rely too often on your own strength to gain God's favor and achieve spiritual victories?

Additional Scripture

- 2Timothy 3:16-17
- 1Corinthians 10:11
- Genesis 12:1-3
- Exodus 3:6-8
- Deut. 1:34-39
- Hebrews 4:1-13