

# Victorious Life: Believe God will do the Impossible

Joshua 3:14–17

June 15, 2025

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There is something that I want you to do as disciples of Jesus Christ. That is I want you to pray specifically for God to do the impossible. I want you to pray with the authority and the power of God, which has been given to you. I want you to believe what you pray.

I have begun praying that my wife has had her last surgery. The many ailments – arthritis throughout her body, fibromyalgia, and auto-immune disease – surgeries are part of life. Doctors have told us this very thing. She has had over fifteen surgeries. My prayers have included healing from all these ailments. I pray for God to heal her chromosomes. Science tells us that the ailments are related to the wrong chromosomes. I pray for God to heal her DNA. We've learned that the DNA contains the unique make-up of every person. I'm praying specifically for the source of the problem to be healed. No more prayers for generalities. I'm praying, believing God will do the impossible. This is the victorious life.

As we study the book of Joshua and his life we see several things happening that point out how to live the victorious life. We've identified these so far: proclaim God's Word and call upon His name, believe His promises and today we'll talk about living with the hope that He will do the impossible. In Joshua chapter three the people of God are about to enter the promised land from the east crossing over. They have been given very specific instructions. They're to prepare themselves for a sacred, holy moment. They are told that a new group of priests will carry the Ark of the Covenant across the Jordan River. They have been told that the Ark will lead the way. They have been notified that to stay behind the Ark about a half mile.

***Joshua 3:14–17 (NLT) So the people left their camp to cross the Jordan, and the priests who were carrying the Ark of the Covenant went ahead of them. It was the harvest season, and the Jordan was overflowing its banks. But as soon as the feet of the priests who were carrying the Ark touched the water at the river's edge, the water above that point began backing up a great distance away at a town called Adam, which is near Zarethan. And the water below that point flowed on to the Dead Sea until the riverbed was dry. Then all the people crossed over near the town of Jericho. Meanwhile, the priests who were carrying the Ark of the Lord's Covenant stood on dry ground in the middle of the riverbed as the people passed by. They waited there until the whole nation of Israel had crossed the Jordan on dry ground.***

**The Victorious life is lived with hope and not wishful thinking.** Wishful thinking is what we often mean when we say I hope. I hope it doesn't rain, I hope the kids are okay, I hope the river doesn't rise. That is not victorious living or faith in the Lord. It is a simple expression based on nothing. There is no power or authority behind wishful thinking. Wishful thinking demonstrates a negative attitude, anxiety and fear. When we live our lives with wishful thinking we can't see the future, the power of God, or the possibilities of God. The Israelite people watched as the priest carried the Ark toward the Jordan River. They might have said, "I hope Joshua knows what he's doing. I hope the priests will be okay. I hope the Ark will be okay."

It was the spring season in the land. The farmers had brought in the harvest. The snow on the mountains was melting. The streams were flowing. The Jordan River was swelling beyond its banks. Any non-believer, living on wishful thinking would have never dreamed of crossing the river. That person would have complained and worried, said no a thousand times and dug in their heels.

But the believers, the person filled with hope, seeking God's victorious life would have believed the Lord would do the impossible. A person living the victorious life wouldn't ask how, but when. A person living the victorious life wouldn't need to know what or why, but how soon.

Hope is founded in God's power and imagined in God's promises. Hope in God knows and believes that God has the power to do all things. This is hope in the Lord of heaven and earth. This is hope in the Lord who provided for the Israelites in the wilderness for forty years. This is hope in God who divided the Red Sea delivering the people from slavery. This is hope in the Lord God who spoke and created all things including man and woman.

The Israelites had this hope. Theirs was not wishful thinking for crossing the flooded Jordan River. Theirs was hope in the God who can and will do the impossible. This is hope that is backed up by the power and the authority of the Lord. They knew something would happen. They believed God would provide a way. They didn't have a negative attitude. There was no anxiety about what would happen next. There was no fear of the future. Did they think God would divide the waters? We don't know. Did they think the priests would walk across the water? We don't know. Did they think everyone would suddenly appear on the other side? We don't know. We do know they followed the commands of the Lord provided through Joshua. We know the Lord God's promise that they would be in the Promised Land would be fulfilled. Their hope may not have imagined what God would do, but they believed in the promises and they trusted the one, true and living God to keep His promises.

***Joshua 3:15-16 (NLT) It was the harvest season, and the Jordan was overflowing its banks. But as soon as the feet of the priests who were carrying the Ark touched the water at the river's edge, the water above that point began backing up a great distance away at a town called Adam, which is near Zarethan. And the water below that point flowed on to the Dead Sea until the riverbed was dry.***

**The water is too deep and we can't see how God is about to act.** The people had been told to stay back the distance that is about a half mile. This is not like the river's edge of the Muskingum. Here we have trees, undergrowth, and a steep slope to get to the water's edge. Think about a long, low plain that is open. The flood waters have come up into the fields. The people are more spread out than they are in a single file column. They are able to see the river before them, the priests, and the Ark they are carrying. They can witness the water stopping. They can see the water retreating upstream. They can see the water trickling away. They can see the riverbed drying up. This great thing is happening quickly.

God is doing a miracle. He is doing something that goes against the normal way. No person can do these things. It was not the magical feet of priests. This was the Lord, the God who made the heavens and the earth. This was the Lord who promised Abraham that His descendants would become a great nation, that they would possess the Promised Land. The Israelites, God's people of the promise are living the victorious life. The Lord God has provided all their needs while they were forty years in the wilderness. The Lord has made dry land for them to enter the Promised Land just as He made dry land for them to cross the Red Sea being freed from slavery. God is their Savior and

God is their Lord. He is truly the Lord of heaven and earth. All of nature answers to Him. All of creation answers to Him. All of humanity will answer to Him.

Everyday people reject this God, the living God, the true God. Everyday there are people who ignore the Savior and Lord of the world. Everyday there are men, women, and children who don't know the Lord of all life.

This miracle not only established Joshua as their leader, but also became another testimony to God's power, grace, mercy, and love. I can't imagine the things God can do. My imagination isn't big enough for the wonders of God. My imagination has been limited by my negative experiences. When my life has not gone according to my plans, I begin to limit what I think God can do. This is true for each one of us. The bad things that happen in our lives create doubt. That doubt makes us vulnerable to uncertainty. It's like river that has flooded over it's banks. We think we know where things are located but nothing is for sure.

This is when we need hope. When the water is so deep we can't see where to go or what to do we need to believe in God's promises, proclaim God's Word, call upon the Lord of heaven and earth with the hope that He will do the impossible.

***Joshua 3:16 (NLT) Then all the people crossed over near the town of Jericho.***

**We have Hope in the midst of impossible circumstance that God will provide.** The Lord keeps His promises one impossible circumstance at a time. God created this circumstance. First, He brought the people to the Jordan River when it would be at it's deepest level while flooding over it's banks. The Lord's plan was for the people to defeat all the nations that occupied the Promised Land. They could have entered from the south, then traveled north defeating one nation after another. But they came from the east where they would be forced to cross the river.

Second, the Lord brought the rains and snow followed by warm temperatures to melt the snow and flood the river. These circumstances are not accidents or coincidence. This is all the intentional planning and work of the Lord.

To give us victories God will guide our footsteps on a specific path. That path will allow certain things to happen. My wife being victorious over cancer means the hand of God was in her life in many ways. God didn't cause the cancer, but he allowed it to happen. This is not a cruel God, but the Lord who has seen the beginning, the middle, and the end. My God, our God, was providing us with an opportunity to have hope in His promises, that He would provide the impossible.

My position in each church and life in each community was not an accident, but the work of God. In every situation the Lord has done the impossible. Hope has grown within me. I have been transformed. You can say that for yourself. God has been at work in your life, through various circumstances and situations. There have been no accidents on this journey you have been traveling. The Lord has been keeping His promises. He has given you one victory after another. You and I are living the Victorious Life right now.

We can have even greater victories as we proclaim His Word, Call upon His name, believe the promises, and live with hope that He will do the impossible. What circumstance are you facing now where you can't see a solution? Does it involve your body, your health? Put your hope in God to do the impossible. Does your present circumstance feel overwhelming? Put your hope in God to do the

impossible. Do you feel like giving up because there is no way out? Put your hope in God to do the impossible.

The Victorious life starts before the miracle takes place and God fulfills His promises. It is enough to be saved from your sins. Jesus died and rose from the dead to take away the punishment for our sins and give us a new life. Throughout your life the Lord has been seeking to do the impossible for you and with you. Once you have been saved transformation begins. Once you've given your life to Jesus impossible things begin happening. Now, know and proclaim the Word of God, call upon the Name of the Lord, stand on His promises, and believe He will do the impossible.

***Joshua 3:17 (NLT) Meanwhile, the priests who were carrying the Ark of the Lord's Covenant stood on dry ground in the middle of the riverbed as the people passed by. They waited there until the whole nation of Israel had crossed the Jordan on dry ground.***

**Turn your wishful thinking into hope by believing God will do the impossible.** Hope sets you free from negativity, anxiety, and fear. All three are built upon one another. They carry you down to dark places. Your victorious become few and far between.

Hope that God will do the impossible is more than living a fantasy. Hope sees the world as it really is. It is a place where bad things to sinners and saints alike. Hope that God will do the impossible sees big and small victories. This world is filled with anger, hatred, violence, vengeance, and terror. Hope that God will do the impossible leads us to love and compassion, grace and mercy. This world is preoccupied with self, pleasure, and anything to escape the problems. Hope that God will do the impossible finds satisfaction in helping, caring, and giving to others.

This is not a fantasy life, this is the victorious life. Too many people aren't living the victorious life, because they don't know Jesus. They don't know the God's Word, so they can't call His name. Too many people don't know the promises, so they can't believe God's promises. They don't have hope that God will do the impossible. They see your fantasy life and they want the victories. They are tired of facing one defeat after another. They don't want to be on the losing team. They want their lives to be headed in a new direction. They want to get off the train that is leading to death and destruction.

Hope is your testimony to the power, grace, love, and mercy found only in Jesus Christ. When Jesus was performing miracles – casting out demons, healing those who were crippled, giving sight to the blind, and raising the dead – people had hope. They believed in the promises, they believed Jesus could do the impossible.

When Jesus hung on that cross nearly everyone lost their hope. They gave up believing God could do the impossible. The world grew dark. Despair became the ruling emotion. All felt like it was lost. Where was God? Why wasn't the Lord doing something? When would God show up? When Jesus rolled away the stone and walked out of the tomb hope came to life again. God did the impossible. God showed up. Jesus is alive.

When you make the choice to proclaim God's Word you will be living the victorious life. Jesus wants you to live the victorious life. you believe the promises of God you will be living the victorious life. Jesus wants you to live the victorious life. When you believe God will do the impossible you will be living the victorious life. Jesus wants you to live the victorious life.