

# Faith to London

**Christianity is a religion of action!**      **1 Peter 1:13**      Therefore, prepare your minds for action ...

e.g. #1      **ACTION: "Making Known the Greatness of God"** → Doing all we do "to the glory of God" (Col.3:17)

→ Action. To get yourself into a position that requires the intervention of God! And therefore DISPLAYS the power of God.

**Q.**      For every Christian: Are you putting yourself into circumstances that require help from God?

e.g. #2      **ACTION: "Getting the gospel out"** → Helping people get right with God --- "Faith" (Heb 11:6) Helping people to believe – to have faith -- to trust and obey God.

"Here! Watch this! Look. I'll show you!"

**Q.**      For every Christian: Are you explaining, just by how you live, what it looks like to trust God and so live in obedience? The more they know about you, the more they see that really trusting God shapes and changes everything?

ACTION!!! But not only action! One of the things about Christianity that commends itself to the attention of anyone who contrasts and compares is the balance: **being** and **knowing** and **doing**.

**So here this morning we see some things that God calls us to do / and to be (or to become) / and to know...**

**A biblical illustration:**      **1 Corinthians 10:11**      Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction...

## **Background: Joshua 3**

God's chosen people, living as slaves in a foreign land! (Imagine that!)

A leader emerges, Moses

Moses leads them out of Egypt ---- through the Red Sea ... and out into the desert!

An 11 day journey gets complicated: and lasts 40 years! (Imagine that!)

Moses dies. A new leader emerges ("Joshua") ["The Lord is our Salvation..." Jesus"]

A new generation, a new chance to enter "The Land" --- And... a new river to cross!

## **Joshua 3:8-17**

**8** "You shall, moreover, command the priests who are carrying the ark of the covenant, saying, 'When you come to the edge of the waters of the Jordan, you shall stand still in the Jordan.'" **9** Then Joshua said to the sons of Israel, "Come here, and hear the words of the LORD your God." **10** Joshua said, "By this you shall know that the living God is among you, and that He will assuredly dispossess from before you the Canaanite..."

**11** "Behold, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth is crossing over ahead of you into the Jordan. **12** "Now then, take for yourselves twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one man for each tribe. **13** "It shall come about when the soles of the feet of the priests who carry the ark of the LORD, the Lord of all the earth, rest in the waters of the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan will be cut off, and the waters which are flowing down from above will stand in one heap."

## **Compare Exodus 14:13-22**

But Moses said to the people, "Do not fear! Stand by and see the salvation of the LORD which He will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you have seen today, you will never see them again forever. "The LORD will fight for you while you keep silent." ... The angel of God, who had been going before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from before them and stood behind them. So it came between the camp of Egypt and the camp of Israel; and there was the cloud along with the darkness, yet it gave light at night. Thus the one did not come near the other all night. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD swept the sea back by a strong east wind all night and turned the sea into dry land, so the waters were divided. The sons of Israel went through the midst of the sea on the dry land, and the waters were like a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.

So now let's notice something about "putting our faith into action." (About getting ourselves into a position in life in which God's greatness will be displayed by His helping us with our challenges. About living by faith so that people who know us and watch us can see what it looks like to live life this way)

→ Generally speaking: **When it comes to trusting and obeying God, the sooner you begin to do it, the simpler it will be to do it. Putting it off doesn't make it simpler or easier. Putting it off makes it more complicated and more difficult.**

**Why?** For one thing, until you do, you are in some state of **distrust and disobedience**, and that is a complicating way to live!

### Joshua 3:8-17

**14** So when the people set out from their tents to cross the Jordan with the priests carrying the ark of the covenant before the people, **15** and when those who carried the ark came into the Jordan, and the feet of the priests carrying the ark were dipped in the edge of the water (for the Jordan overflows all its banks all the days of harvest), **16** the waters which were flowing down from above stood and rose up in one heap... So the people crossed opposite Jericho. **17** And the priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood firm on dry ground in the middle of the Jordan while all Israel crossed on dry ground, until all the nation had finished crossing the Jordan.

Well, we should do something **personally** !!!! [Another balance to be struck here: individual life and church life.]

e.g.'s **The first issue**

**a) Becoming a committed follower of Christ:** Getting baptized, with all that it represents... There are certain things that won't begin to happen until you step down into the water.

**Acts 8:36** As they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch said\*, "Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?"

THAT's the question! It will not become simpler or easier if you just wait a while! Quite the contrary!

There are certain things that won't begin to happen until you step down into the water. And if you never do, you will never know!

### **b) Getting some good practice started**

→ Generally speaking, **the sooner you begin to do it, the simpler it will be to do it. Putting it off doesn't make it simpler or easier. Putting it off makes it more complicated and more difficult.**

### **c) Getting some bad habit under control**

→ Generally speaking, **the sooner you begin to do it, the simpler it will be to do it. Putting it off doesn't make it simpler or easier. Putting it off makes it more complicated and more difficult.**

What are the challenges? Can you address them this summer?

**Joshua 3:5** "Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you."

Well, we should do something **corporately** !!!! What is God calling us to be here in London?

Now just as with demonstrating the Love of God to London, so demonstrating faith to London provides us with choices. We can do...

### **i) Spontaneous little projects    ii) Big costly projects**

1) **1950's** Buy land, build a church building

2) **1970's** Buy more land, build a bigger church building

3) **1980's** Expand the building

4) 2000's Expand it again? *Two New Wings! ???*

→ Generally speaking, *the sooner we begin to do it, the simpler it will be to do it. Putting it off won't make it simpler or easier. Putting it off will make it more complicated and more difficult* (more expensive!).

Here is a challenge! Each of us can prepare ourselves for it this summer?

**Joshua 3:5** "Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you."