

ECHO CHURCH

YEAR 1 • MONTH 4 • WEEK 4

CROSSOVER

S E R I E S

Part 3: "Watch What You Say When You Cross"

Joshua 1:8 (NKJV)

Rich Saunders Jr. | April 26, 2026

8 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

Joshua 1:8 (NKJV)

There is a difference between having a word from God and speaking like you have one.

Joshua is at the edge of transition, and God shifts the focus. He moves from what I will do for you to what must come from you. Because the greatest threat to what God promised Joshua is not the enemy in the land. It is the language in Joshua.

God knows something we often overlook. If your mouth is not aligned, your movement will never be sustained. Many believers lose in seasons they were supposed to win, not because God changed His mind, but because their language revealed they never agreed with Him.

So now God addresses something deeper than courage. He addresses conversation. And He does it in a single verse that contains three movements, each one building on the last.

If your language does not match God's Word, your life will eventually reflect the contradiction.

M1 What Leaves Your Mouth Reveals What Leads Your Life

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| *"This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth..." (v.8)*

God does not say keep it in your heart. He says keep it in your mouth. Because what stays in your mouth shapes what stays in your mind, and what stays in your mind directs how you move. This is the precision of God's instruction. He does not address the destination first. He addresses the declaration.

Israel had come out of Egypt, but Egypt was still in their language. Complaining. Doubting. Rehearsing fear. And God is cutting that off at the leader level. Because leadership is not just direction. It is declaration. Joshua cannot lead people into a promise he has not learned to speak.

What you confess consistently, you eventually move toward. What you deny consistently, you drift away from. This is why the instruction begins here, at the mouth, before the strategy, before the crossing, before anything else. God is establishing the internal posture that will determine the external outcome.

Your mouth is not just expressing your reality. It is reinforcing it.

APPLICATION

Audit your language. Are you speaking what you see, or are you speaking what God said? One sustains bondage. The other builds faith.

"You cannot speak defeat consistently and expect to walk in victory eventually."

CROSS REFERENCES

- **Proverbs 18:21** | Death and life are in the power of the tongue.
- **Romans 10:17** | Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

M2 Meditation Is the Bridge Between Hearing and Doing

| *"...but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do..." (v.8)*

God connects meditation to obedience. Not to inspiration. Not to emotional experience. To obedience. That sequence matters. Many believers read the Word and feel something in the moment. But feeling fades, and when it does, the old patterns return. Not because they are uncommitted, but because inspiration without saturation does not produce transformation.

The Hebrew word translated meditate here is hagah, which carries the idea of a low murmuring sound, something spoken quietly and repeatedly. It is not silent reflection. It is active, verbal, repeated engagement with the text. Rabbinical tradition understood this as an audible practice. You turn the Word over until it becomes the instinctive language of your inner life.

When that happens, obedience becomes less about willpower and more about default response. You stop fighting as hard to do the right thing because the Word has already reshaped what feels right. It has rewired your instincts through sustained repetition. This is why

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God says day and night. Not once. Not occasionally. Constantly. Because you will not live what you only visit. You will live what you dwell in.

Meditation transforms the Word from something you heard into something you live.

APPLICATION

If the Word is not shaping your thoughts daily, something else is. And whatever is shaping your thoughts is shaping your life.

"You do not drift into obedience. You develop into it through meditation."

CROSS REFERENCES

- **Psalm 1:2-3** | Meditates day and night, prospers in whatever he does.
- **Colossians 3:16** | Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.

M3 Success Is Built, Not Bestowed

| *"For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success."
(v.8)*

God disrupts passive thinking here. He does not say I will make your way prosperous. He says you will make your way prosperous. That is not a withdrawal of divine involvement. It is a clarification of human responsibility inside divine promise. God gives the land. God guarantees the outcome. But Joshua has to actually walk in alignment to access what God has already provided.

The Hebrew word translated good success is sakal, meaning to act wisely and with prudence that leads to effective action. It is not about outcomes alone. It is about the quality of execution. God is not simply telling Joshua that things will work out. He is declaring that when Joshua walks in alignment, the quality of his leadership will reflect divine wisdom. That is a different category than luck or favor. That is God-formed competence through obedience.

Which means you can be busy and still be missing it. You can achieve things that are not your assignment and still fall short by God's standard. Good success is not cultural success. It is the deep fulfillment of finishing what God put in your hands and finishing it well. Stop managing your outcomes. Start stewarding your alignment. Because the promise does not respond to effort. It responds to obedience.

God provides the promise, but you steward the pathway.

APPLICATION

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Stop waiting for God to do what He already told you to build. If you align your life with His Word, success is the byproduct, not the goal.

"God does not manage your outcomes. He measures your alignment."

CROSS REFERENCES

- **James 1:25** | The doer of the word is blessed in what he does.
- **Psalms 1:3** | Whatever he does shall prosper.

CONCLUSION

One verse. Three movements. A complete architecture for the person who wants to not just cross over, but stay on the other side.

Watch what comes out of your mouth, because it is revealing what is actually leading your life. Guard what you meditate on, because it is forming the person you are becoming. Build through alignment, because God has already given the promise and He is waiting on you to steward the pathway.

God is not giving Joshua new information in this verse. He is deepening responsibility. And that is exactly where you are. You have the Word. The question is whether you are carrying it correctly.

What has been coming out of your mouth that does not sound like what God said?

If you want to live what God promised, you have to speak like it is already settled.
