

STANDING ON THE BANKS OF TOMORROW

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God delivered Israel from 430 years of bondage to Egypt. He led them through the wilderness. He brought them to the Promised Land. All that they had to do was keep believing in the God who had brought them to where they were, but instead of believing the good report and entering into Canaan, they believed the negative report and missed their opportunity to enjoy the blessings and promises of God.

Why didn't they cross over? Because they over-estimated their enemy. Many people have been defeated before the fight ever got started, simply because they had already lost in their own mind. Not only did they over-estimate their enemy, they under-estimated their God.

How quick we sometimes forget what God has already done for us in the past. The Bible says that God had brought them forth out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand. Yet now we find them, wishing they had never even left Egyptian bondage. They forgot God's purpose and God's promises to them and as a result, they were controlled by fear instead of faith and so they were condemned to wander aimlessly in the wilderness until those who had been fearful and afraid, died off.

Are you full of faith or fear? Are you willing to believe God for the impossible or are you controlled by what others around you might have to say?

The future is never automatic. What God has in store for us as individuals and as a church is not necessarily ours, unless we are willing to believe and receive. God will do His part, the question is, will we do ours?

God doesn't usually do things by Himself. He includes people in His plans. People just like me and you. He expects us to work together with Him to accomplish His purpose and plan. He wants us to participate with our obedience, our faith, our sacrifice, and our commitment.

Just as Israel stood then, we stand now. We are standing on the banks of tomorrow. Two days ago we celebrated 15 years that this church has been in existence. Will Cottonwood still be in existence 15 years from now?

We are facing an unknown future. None of us know what tomorrow holds. We don't know how many giants we might face or how many walled cities we might come up against, but the question is, "Will we face the future in faith or in fear?" "Will we move forward in obedience or will we spend the rest of our lives wandering around in the wilderness of disobedience?"

My words to you today are the same as Joshua's was then. "We are well able to possess the land." Let's move into the future full of faith and see what God has in store for us these next 15 years.