

Hello! This is Dorothy -

And how are you today? I was thinking the other day - if you could write something on your own gravestone, what would you like to say? I remember what was on my mother's gravestone and my father's gravestone after they had gone to the Lord. And I thought the most succinct description that I would love: "*She wholly followed the Lord.*"

Let me ask about your own heart. You love the Lord Jesus; you say you count upon Him for your salvation; you count upon Him that you are going to be brought into His presence forever, but could it be said you want to wholly follow the Lord? I hope so!

In the **Book of Joshua**, those opening chapters are very much like the opening chapters of the **Book of Ephesians**. They both speak of the life of faith that we are called to live if we know the Lord Jesus as our personal Saviour. As His child, we receive His risen life. He calls us to live then by faith through reckoning - that is, counting upon the fact - and living in His victorious power in everything. In other words, we are called to live by faith.

Let us turn, if you have your Bible, to the **Book of Joshua**. A whole

generation of the children of Israel had died in the wilderness before entering the land of Canaan. As they had despised God's provision and way, there had been forty years of wondering. But not so with Joshua and Caleb. They were the ones who had believed. We read in **Joshua 1** —

3 Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you . . . So, thank God there exist a few believers, despite those who might have no faith, no vision, who do a lot of murmuring and are being somehow very colloquial in their thinking as to the task of God and what He wanted to do through them. Let us think now about a Joshua and Caleb, who were willing to believe and to have the faith to see. You know, we were purchased by the precious Blood of our spotless Lord Jesus Christ, who died on Calvary. As He died there, He died for your sin and for my sin two thousand years ago. We were purchased by Him, not only to be free from our sin, but to be purchased, possessed and justified by Him, sanctified, and, yes, glorified one day. That was the transition which took place. It was at our conversion time - the time we came into Christ Jesus - you could liken it to having been brought out of the bondage of Egypt. Egypt speaks of sin. People say, "Oh, give me the garlic of Egypt!" That means going back to that old life before I knew Christ. It is also possible to have been brought out of Egypt and to know you are saved, and yet, right now, to know that you are living in the wilderness. The wilderness experience of

defeat and despair.

It is a wonderful thing, in the **Book of Joshua**, and we are going to study this, to see that we can be brought into the land of victory! We do not have to wait to die for that to happen. That is our privilege right now.

First of all, are you ready to say, *Yes, Lord, I recognize I am living in the wilderness of defeat. I, by faith, want to see that when You died, I died with You. Yes, I was co-crucified with You; You took care of me! It was my co-burial; it was my co-resurrection and my co-ascension with my Lord Himself. I can live today. Whatever is happening, whatever has been done to me, whatever despicable things are going on around me, I can live in His victory! I can live by the power of His risen life.* You see, we are talking now about a great contrast. Instead of the contrast of living in a wilderness of defeat and struggling against the powers of darkness, we can live in the liberty of His life and victory and see that we are children of light.

That is why the **Book of Ephesians** is so important in **chapter 6**, where it goes on to say —

13 **Therefore take the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day . . .** You are *in the evil day*, but you can *with stand in that evil day*. I do not care what has happened or what is going on, you can stand. For the verse

continues . . . **and having done all, to stand.**

However, for this to be accomplished, not only are we to be a child of God, but we are to be hungry for the inheritance we have in Christ Jesus that right now we can claim. That we say, *Lord, I want that life. I am hungry for that life. And thank You, Lord, You are adequate for that life. If you are willing, we can go over this Jordan into this land which I (the Lord) will give you.*

Are you willing? Are you that willing vessel for Him to do that in you right now? If so, tell Him. And let us know. We want to pray for you. We love you.

In Jesus' Name. Amen.