

IT'S TIME TO MOVE ON!

Deuteronomy 2:1-3; Joshua 1:1-5

Woodland Park Church of Christ

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“Then we turned and journeyed into the wilderness of the Way of the Red Sea, as the LORD spoke to me, and we skirted Mount Seir for many days. ² “And the LORD spoke to me, saying: ³ **“You have skirted this mountain long enough; turn northward.”** Deuteronomy 2:1-3

After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, it came to pass that the LORD spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses’ assistant, saying: ² “Moses My servant is dead. **Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them**—the children of Israel. ³ Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses. ⁴ From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the River Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your territory. ⁵ No man shall *be able* to stand before you all the days of your life; **as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you.** Joshua 1:1-5

Context

Nearing the time for children of Israel to enter their Promised Land. **Genesis 12:1-7; Genesis 15:12-20**

- Nearly 40 years since Moses, by God's might, had led them out of Egyptian bondage.
- Through their own unbelief, low self-esteem and insecurity, they were made to wander 40 years (making no advancement and going nowhere – just existing). **See Numbers 14:1-35**
- Their attitudes (sealed by the 10 naysaying spies) were debilitating, discouraging, and defeating.
- Proved that attitudes are contagious.
- “Nothing can stop a person with the right mental attitude, nothing can help the person with a bad one.”

- So, the generation that distrusted God has been removed from the scene; the time is now ripe to complete the journey into Canaan – The Promised Land!
- Couldn't get there marching around that same mountain.
- Have you been marking time, inert, stalled in your present state for the last longest?
- Has God been tugging at your heartstring to be more and do more in His service?
- What about for your Family – wife and children?
- Have you grown satisfied, apathetic and comfortable in your current state, when you know you can do better or be more?

- Many of us sitting here today, know that we have marched around the same mountains in our lives long enough, wasting much precious time and resources!
- Time to take the next step and not remain dormant or stagnant.
- **Note Isaac Newton's 1st Law of Motion –**
 - A body at rest will remain at rest; an object in motion will travel in the same direction at the same speed unless acted on by an unbalanced force (greater or opposite).
 - An “unbalanced force” – realization of God's expectations/goodness and sense of ought; desire to lead family godly and productively; an urgency to make the most of our “little time” (**see James 4:14**).

There will be challenges and growing pains, sometimes withdrawals when you break from habits, practices and addictions.

After roaming in the wilderness nearly 40 years and before Moses died, Israel still had to travel through lands of giants and would have to defeat Kings Sihon (Heshbon) and Og (Bashan) when they resumed their march towards the Promised Land. *Deuteronomy 2:26 - 3:7.*

➔ **Even after Moses passed the baton to Joshua –**

- ➔ Children of Israel had to cross over Jordan and set up memorial;
- ➔ More battles to be fought and lands to be conquered (the Canaanites just were not going to roll over and play dead) – Jericho, Ai (twice), northern and southern lands;
- ➔ Lands had to be distributed among the twelve (12) tribes;
- ➔ Reminder of God's presence and the importance of following God!



Our Youth will learn all about this
(and you will too), as the
**book of Joshua is the focus of the
2022 Bible Bowl!**



I. TO MOVE FORWARD, OFT TIMES WE MUST RID OURSELVES OF THE OLD ATTITUDES AND MINDSETS.

- God understood that if he had brought the people into the land of Canaan who left Egypt, Moses and Joshua would have had to contend with the same attitudes over and over again.
- There were battles to be fought on the way to Canaan, and it would take men of heart, faith and courage!
- If your attitude and conduct are poor in one place, a sudden change in zip codes will not automatically make things better.

Then the LORD said: “I have pardoned, according to your word; ²¹ but truly, as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD— ²² because all these men who have seen My glory and the signs which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have put Me to the test now these ten times, and have not heeded My voice, ²³ they certainly shall not see the land of which I swore to their fathers, nor shall any of those who rejected Me see it. ²⁴ **But My servant Caleb, because he has a different spirit in him and has followed Me fully,** I will bring into the land where he went, and his descendants shall inherit it. **Numbers 14:20-24**

II. GOD EXPECTS US TO GROW, MATURE & EXCEL

Stagnation, complacency and shiftlessness not apart of God's will for our lives!

*You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; ¹⁸ **but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.** To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen. **II Peter 3:17-18***

For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need *someone* to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. ¹³ For everyone who partakes *only* of milk *is* unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. ¹⁴ But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, *that is,* **those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.** Hebrews 5:12-14

Grow your talents, resources, influence –

- Recall the Parable of the Talents → **Matthew 25:14-30; see also Luke 19:11-27**
- Greater force and relevance for the Lord – Audio-visual Team, Health Ministry members; Deaf Ministry service facilitators, etc.
- Touch and impact more people in a positive manner – we can bless others and show God's favor!

Do you see a man skillful *and* experienced in his work? He will stand [in honor] before kings; he will not stand before obscure men.

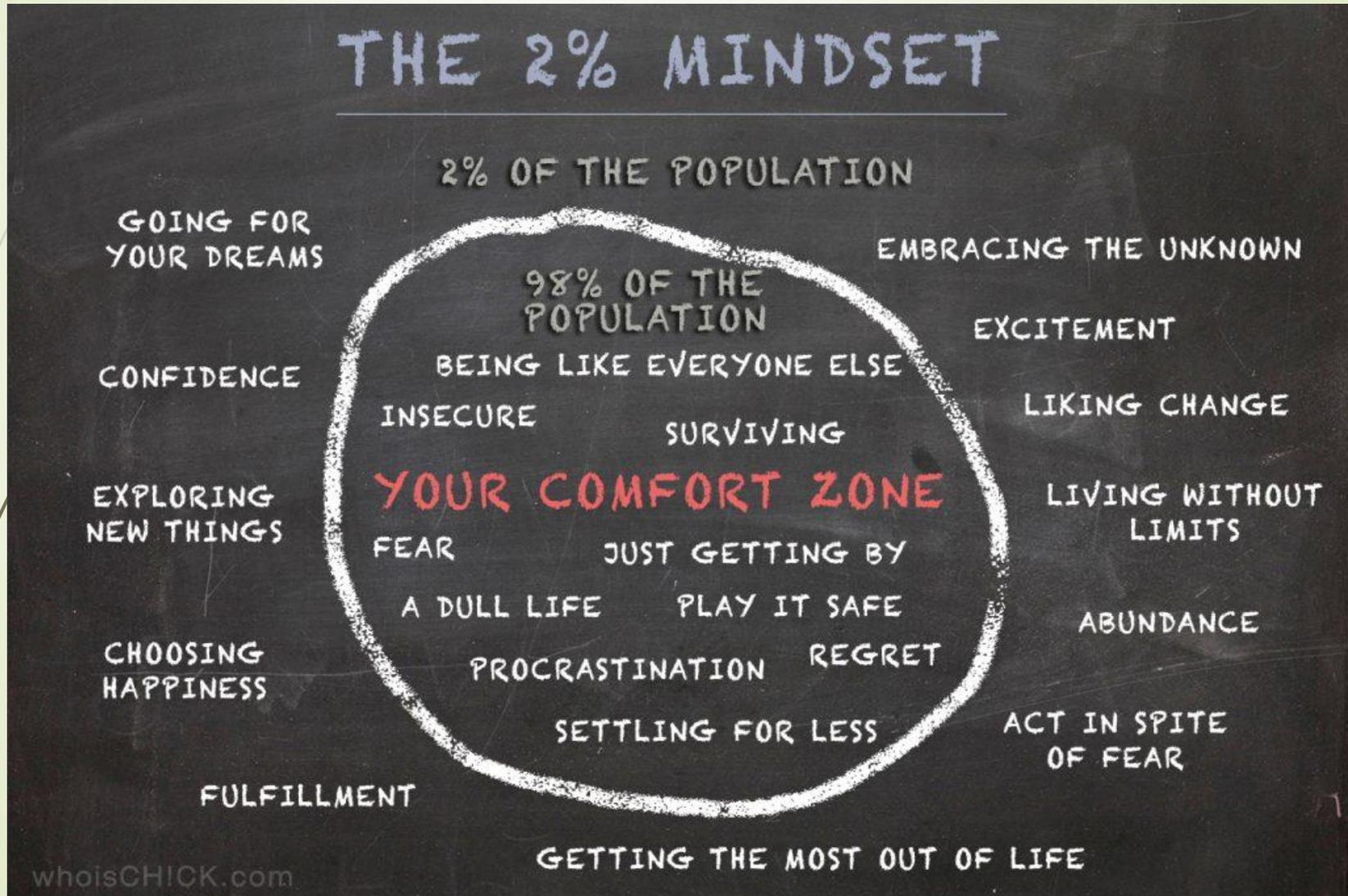
Proverbs 22:29 [AMP]

III. TRUE GROWTH REQUIRES MOVING BEYOND COMFORT ZONES (AND WHAT WE ARE USED TO)

- The Hebrews author's admonishment of the Jewish Christians was prompted by their devotion to what they had become accustomed.
- They were hanging on to and stubbornly clinging to age-old traditions and established doctrines of Judaism.
- They could not understand the new notions of priesthood. **See I Peter 2:9**
- A commitment to Christ would move them beyond their spiritual comfort zones.
- But to grow in grace, they would have to move!

- Many of us find it difficult, nearly impossible to move forward and break the grip of inertia even when we know we can and should because it is uncomfortable.
- Being thrust into uncharted waters (places we have never been, attitudes we have not assumed) sometimes breed fear, insecurity and doubt.
- But **Because He Lives** we can all face tomorrow!!
 - Our children can even face uncertain days!
 - So, we encourage them to make the most of their time on earth, while stressing and impressing upon them the importance of godly living. **See Deuteronomy 6:1-9**

Become a two percenter (2%er)



IF YOU WANT TO BECOME A BETTER YOU IN 2022, COMMIT TO IMPROVING AND RISING FROM WHERE YOU ARE!

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. **II Timothy 1:7**

... as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. **I will not leave you nor forsake you.** **Joshua 1:5**



Lord's Invitation Extended to All

➔ Be added to the Lord's body

Hear the gospel (**Acts 15:7**)

Believe (**Acts 15:7**)

Repent (**Acts 2:38**)

Confess (**Acts 8:37**)

Be baptized (**Acts 2:38, 8:38**)



Lord's Invitation (cont'd)

- **Be reconciled unto the Lord** (1 John 1:8-9); or
 - **Desire prayer** (James 5:16).
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