Happy New Year everybody.

We have some work to do tonight and God has been speaking to me at a level where we do not even walk into church, we float into church.

I feel I have wings just propelling me.

Ah man, I have been waiting for us to get together.

Do you have any time left between now and the end of the year? Cool. Let's hang out.

Please welcome all of our locations, our on-line audience, and our television audience.

We are going on a journey tonight.

The best book to go onto a journey is the book of Joshua.

Joshua = the Lord saves.

How many times has God saved you this year or saved you from yourself this year? Quiet frankly, this is what you really need saving from the most.

We welcome all of our friends, guests, and enemies.

But, tonight, I want to go to one specific spot in Joshua 4:10.

Joshua 4: 8 to 13: “8 So the Israelites did as Joshua commanded them. They took twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, as the Lord had told Joshua; and they carried them over with them to their camp, where they put them down. 9 Joshua set up the twelve stones that had been in the middle of the Jordan at the spot where the priests who carried the ark of the covenant had stood. And they are there to this day. 10 Now the priests who carried the ark remained standing in the middle of the Jordan until everything the Lord had commanded Joshua was done by the people, just as Moses had directed Joshua. The people hurried over, 11 and as soon as all of them had crossed, the ark of the Lord and the priests came to the other side while the people watched. 12 The men of Reuben, Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh crossed over, ready for battle, in front of the Israelites, as Moses had directed them. 13 About forty thousand armed for battle crossed over before the Lord to the plains of Jericho for war.”

God is taking to you to new levels of understanding this year.

Say Neighbor: “Hello From The Other Side”

God told me to tell you that it is coming your way.

All you have to do to receive it is say Hello From the Other side.

Prayer lead by Pastor Steven: “Lord, bless your word. anoint my lips. Do your thing. Open our hearts. Have your way. Come in power. Reign in glory. Take your place. Take your seat. We welcome you in praise.

Let’s go walking with Joshua. A transitional moment.
Some people handle transition well. Some are not built for transition.

Joshua is the type of person that is willing to move forward into a new place that is different and strange.

Is there anyone here tonight that is willing to face some uncertainty in order to find freedom?

Recall the cute story by Pastor Steven: As a boy Pastor Steven was fascinated with what happens when the clock hit 11:59 PM to midnight. And then became disappointed after the event came.

Let’s start with this point: Most transitions are anti-climactic.

There is more excitement and expectation leading up to an event vs. the actual event.

For example, a wedding does not make you a good wife or a good husband.

The build-up is typically better than the actuality event.

Tonight we are making a transition to a new year.

Where we say, so what? It is just a new year.

Think about certain anti-climactic changes in our lives.

You can cross over from day to night, from single to married, from poor to rich and not even notice that you transitioned to the new place and not even feel it.

The experience of being there is much different than the expectation.

Where the new state is not as grand as the experience of getting there was.

Joshua is in the middle of a generational transition.

If you do not understand how long someone has wondered in the wilderness, you will never understand the excitement of their deliverance.

See the passage of Joshua. There is much symbolism and significance of this moment.

For some, there is much significance to just making it to 2016.

Someone in this room contemplated ending their life this year. Someone in this room contemplated leaving their wife in 2015.

But they stayed and stuck it out. So please respect the fact that they are loudly praising God this evening.

See Joshua 1 – the inspiration: 1 After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses’ aide: 2 “Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites. 3 I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. 4 Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates—all the Hittite country—to the Mediterranean Sea in the west. 5 No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. 6 Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them. 7“Be strong and very courageous. . . . 9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”

See Joshua 2 - Investigation: Sent only two spies (and not ten like Moses) to investigate Jericho. Key lesson here: When in a big transition, shrink your circle and confine to only the people who can seize this season for all of its worth.
• Be careful who you camp with this year. Because if you are with the wrong people, you may never get to the other side.

• In Joshua 3 we learn instruction. Where God is telling Joshua to get ready and consecrate yourself because you are going to do amazing things.

• The moment that you make the decision to make room for God in your heart, you can expect results and you need not wait like Joshua did. Right now. Here today.

• You can get stuck in any of these stages and still not have things work out.

• Inspiration alone will not get things done.

• Merely investigating what God can do in your life will not bring you over to the other side.

• Listening to instruction alone will not bring you over.

• In Joshua 4, we see initiative.

• This is your season to initiate change. Don’t wait. Initiate.

• Do you want to wonder in the wilderness for forty more years?

• While Joshua is in this transition, there is a geographical picture of things.

• For the generation under Moses, they went around and around and around. This is the same for us in our life journey.

• But Joshua did not go around. He went in.

• And it takes faith to do that. It takes faith to transition to the other side.

• The geological transition also reveals a psychological transition that needs to take place in our hearts.

• My word for 2016 is “cross over.”

• In Joshua 3 and 4: You see iterations of cross and crossover.

• We are always in various stages of transition.

• For the Israelites, their first transition was from slaves to survivors.

• It is one thing to come out of the slavery of your sin and come into the grace of God.

• But that is not all.

• Now the Hebrew people are going from survivors to settlers.

• Now we are moving in and taking over.

• It’s not about the bad things that we no longer do anymore because we know Jesus. We are called to assume a new kingdom – a land we are told to possess. The cures that we are called to summon and the light we are told to shine.

• Say this: “I am crossing over.”

• It takes faith to cross over.

• It takes faith to break out of the circumference of certainty.

• It is a certain kind of faith – where you have circled the mountain long enough and are now ready to come down and charge straight in.

• When you have had year heart broken and you trusted in people, you know have faith to put your hope in God.

• This is the kind of faith that only makes sense on the other side.
The kind of faith that may not make sense right now.
This is not only a map, it is a tapestry.
If it were quilt, the underside is very confusing.
But if you flip “the quilt” over to the other side, you will see that there is a destiny, a plan, a design, and a reason.
Say this: I am a masterpiece. God is doing something in my life that will make sense on the other side.
Moses only had sufficient faith to get out of Egypt.
Joshua had the faith required to get across the Jordan to the other side.
Are you with me?
It takes a special kind of faith to cross over. Not a comfortable faith. Not a complacent faith.
A faith that looks forward.
We do not have time to talk about the arc of the covenant. We can do a whole series on this and all of the little nuances of this. Just understand that the arc of covenant represents the presence of God. And the Hebrew people needed to walk out into Jordan river to divide the waters.
See: Joshua 3 where the Hebrew people had to follow the Levitical priests caring the arc of the covenant. Then you will know which direction to go but yet keep 1000 yard distance. Why the distance? This is a bit strange since God says I should be close to him. God says I don’t want you to be comfortable as to how I (God) do things – nor do I want you to think the I (God) am stationary in your life. Because I (God) am always pointing into the direction of your future.
There are five of these – to fight all of the psychological barriers that you have to fight next year.
  o **God needs a faith that looks forward.** Consider Moses. Moses died. Everybody in 2015 lost something (a dream, a loved one, a job, etc.). In this context, God points to what is ahead so that the Hebrew people would not be fixated on that which they lost – so there eyes are fixed on things forward. You can’t stay stuck here. Say it by faith: I am looking forward to it – even though we do not know what “it” is. Say: I want to see how thing turns out. You might have a challenge in 2016. For God says: I know the plans that I have for you to prosper. Faith is the substance of things hoped for and things out ahead of me – and whatever is behind me is not meant to go with me. Fix your eyes on Jesus the author and finisher of my faith. Trust the next chapter because we know the author. In Hebrews we read that Jesus endured the cross set before him. Don’t let what is behind you allow you to miss what is before you. Not this year. Give your faith something to look forward to this year. You will not get those wasted 40 years back. Just keep moving forward.
  o **God needs a faith that stands between.** I can’t choose which river that I am going to cross this year. However, I do get to choose what I can carry. There are somethings that you can’t carry going into next year. Keep your eyes on the arc. The priests had to go out into the middle of the Jordan and stand there. See vs. 10: Some of us had to remain standing this year. You did not get everything right this year, however, you did remain standing. If you have no other reason to be thankful, at least you are still standing. In all
of depths of danger that I endured, I am still standing. I am here to thank Him and I am still standing and carrying the stuff that God put on my shoulders. You did not neglect God. You did not forsake Him this year. I got it on my shoulders and I am still standing. The Kaisa wood ed arc was 27” X 27” X 45” and overlaid with gold. See Ex 25:22: On each end was an angle (cherubim). Above the arc and between the two cherubim, God says “I will meet with you.” Say this: God met you in the middle. God did not wait for you to completely exit your dysfunction and despair. He met you in the middle. You can’t wait for everything that you want in order to glorify God. He (God) wants to meet you in the middle. If you wait for an end result to praise Him, you will never get there, because God wants to meet you in the mist of your journey.

- **God needs a faith that carries it out:** God told Joshua 4:1: When the whole nation has finished crossing the Jordon, take twelve stones from the middle. God told them to go back. Hu? Most preachers want to say “you made it through and the past is behind you.” However, this is not triumphant testimony. So what if you merely made it through, even the atheist drug dealer made it through. We do not need to come to church merely to make it through. Go back and get something back that will prepare your faith for where you are going. Say this: I am coming out of this thing with wisdom, perspective, and blessing. Dig down into the middle of the river bed and pick up something that you could have died on. Because if God did not do what he did, the Hebrew people would still be lying in the middle of the Jordon river. Take the experiences that could have taken you out this year – take twelve of them (twelve tribes if Israel – a symbol of order and government). Each month of the year has taught you something. Go back to January and learn how God gave you blessing, mercy, compassion, etc. What could have been rock bottom became their stepping stone. Now we are walking on what was sent. Every experience taught you something this year. This way, we leave 2015 with no regrets. You can’t change it, therefore, you might as well step on it. We need a faith that gets through and gets over. There is a difference between going through the Jordon river vs. going over the Jordon river. There is a difference. God says meeting me between the cherubim and above the arc. Praise God today that you not only go through something this year – also praise God that you got over something this year.

- **God needs a faith to get over:** There is something that you keep tripping over (memory, addiction, etc.) I would love to say that you would be free from this issue or addiction in 2016. However, this is not how things are. Recall the story of the man was healed by Jesus? After the man was healed, Jesus instructed him to get up and walk but also take the mat with him. Jesus says: Pick it up and take it with you – so that the thing that used to hold you is still here but no longer holds you – because you are over it. Is there something that you keep tripping over (the personal thing, insecurity, shame, what they did to me, depression, disappointment, that proclivity, that thought pattern, that thing that you can’t tell your neighbor about) that God has called you to triumph over, pick up your foot up and put it down – and shout “I am over it.” Also see Hebrews 2. Say again: I
am over it. It is not going way, and I will still carry it. But I am over it. All that has been pushing against you and pushing you back to darkness, Jesus put up a cross.

- **God needs a faith that points back**: Point back but don’t look back. While your faith is looking forward, let your finger point backward. Whatever you’re pointing at is what God brought you through and is now the evidence of His faithfulness for where He has taken you. Do you have anything that you need to point back today? Know this: You have a God where your faith looks forward but you also point back to your progress and experiences. Point back to remind the devil that you are moving forward. You see the problem is that you have been pointing forward.
  - Tonight is the night that you are crossing over where God has brought you to this point. You have 12 rocks and setup camp on the other side.
  - In Joshua, we learn that the 12 rocks were placed in a circle and not in a heap – because crossing over is not something that you do one time.
  - So, look you have to do the following in 2016:
    - Look forward
    - Stand between
    - Carry out
    - Get over
    - Point back
  - Not just once, but often.
  - See Joshua 4:4: Joshua has children: Joshua’s faith is their foundation. When his children see these stones, they will ask – what does this mean? Tell them Israel crossed the Jordon on dry ground.
  - Why is this significant? Think about all of the things that they could have said. We often have more details about our 40 years in the wilderness than we know about our deliverance.
  - So when I ask about your 2015, what are you going to memorialize? Are you going to memorialize your misery or your miracles?
  - If you chose to memorialize only the pain, you will never get to the other side.
  - Are you and overcomer?
  - And they overcame by the blessings of God and the word of their testimony.
  - Tell your children this. When they come to you, say, Hello from the other side.
  - You are going to make it and everything is going to fine.
  - Say to 2015: Hello from the other side and thank you for all of the toil, the trouble, etc. You are not facing Jordon anymore. You are now facing Jericho and you are blessed.