

Move from borrowed
faith and secondhand
testimonies to
develop your own
personal relationship
with God

GOD DID IT!

BECOMING
WHAT GOD
SPOKE!

JOHN 4:20-24

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RODMAN STREET CHURCH

1.25.26

GOD DID IT: BECOMING WHAT GOD SPOKE!

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Title: God Did It: Becoming What God Spoke

Sermon Summary: This powerful sermon explores the journey from merely belonging to a faith community to becoming what God has declared over our lives. The central text from Joshua chapter 4 reveals a profound truth: there's a difference between crossing over and becoming what God spoke. We discover that belonging gets us into God's house, but becoming teaches us how to live in it. The message emphasizes that God doesn't just deliver us from situations—He develops us into our divine assignments.

The sermon challenges believers to move beyond borrowed faith and it stresses that faith requires three essential elements: speaking what God says before we see it (words of faith), stepping into uncertainty based on God's promises (walk of faith), and leaving a testimony for future generations (witness of faith). The central message is that miracles happen not just to get us through difficulties, but to transform us into who God has called us to be, creating a legacy of faith that points others to God's power and faithfulness.

Before the Israelites ever stepped into the flooded Jordan, God spoke. Before the miracle manifested, faith had to declare what God said. This challenges us to examine our own lives—are we speaking what we see, or are we declaring what God said? The priests had to step into rushing waters with no guarantee except God's Word, reminding us that faith

doesn't wait for proof; it creates expectation. Most significantly, God commanded them to build a memorial of twelve stones so future generations would ask, 'What do these stones mean?' Our testimonies aren't just about our survival—they're survival guides for those coming after us. This message calls us to move from borrowed faith and secondhand testimonies to develop our own personal relationship with God and from simply belonging to a community to becoming what God has spoken over our lives.

Chapters

Chapter 1: The Words of Faith

Faith begins with believing and speaking what God has already declared, not waiting for circumstances to change before we confess His promises over our lives.

Chapter 2: The Walk of Faith

Real faith doesn't just talk but moves into action, stepping into uncertainty based on God's Word even when conditions haven't changed and no path is visible.

Chapter 3: The Witness of Faith

Faith is fulfilled when we leave a visible testimony behind, building memorials that point future generations to God's power and faithfulness rather than our own strength.

Key Points:

- God does not just do miracles to get us through something; He does it to grow us into something

- There is a significant difference between belonging to a church and becoming what God spoke over your life
- Friends celebrate what God did, but families carry what God said
- Faith always speaks before it sees—it declares before it demonstrates and confesses before it confirms
- Faith does not need permission from your circumstances to speak
- You cannot become what God spoke until you first believe and say what God said
- Real faith doesn't just talk; it moves, acts, and activates your assignment
- Faith often receives instructions without receiving explanations
- The water didn't move before the priests stepped; it moved because they stepped
- You cannot walk by faith if you are depending on somebody else's knowledge of God
- Borrowed faith will leave you missing your moment—you must know God for yourself
- Faith is fulfilled when there is a witness left behind for future generations
- Testimonies shape generations even when miracles fade from memory

Scripture Reference:

- Joshua 4:20-24 (primary focus)
- Joshua 3:11-13

- Joshua 4:15-18
- Hebrews 11:1
- Psalm 121

Stories:

- The account of Israel crossing the Jordan River with the priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant going first into the flooded waters
- The twelve stones taken from the Jordan and set up at Gilgal as a memorial for future generations
- Joel Osteen's mother, Dodie, who was diagnosed with terminal cancer in 1981 and given only weeks to live but survived until 2025 because of faith
- The Pastor's daughter Essence being told that one position on the soccer team was already taken—hers—instilling confidence before she arrived at Cleveland State University
- The personal testimony about the trash pickup schedule, where the pastor followed his neighbor's example instead of checking the schedule himself, only to discover his neighbor was on vacation in Florida and also didn't read the schedule but followed someone else
- The three Hebrew boys in the fiery furnace with the fourth man (the Son of God) already present before they arrived
- Reference to the two young girls (seven and nine years old) who recited Psalm 121 at their great-grandmother's funeral because she had poured faith into their lives

Scripture References from the Sermon

Explicitly Referenced Scriptures:

1. **Joshua 4:20-24** - Main text about the 12 stones set up at Gilgal
2. **Joshua 3:11** - The ark of the covenant going into the Jordan ahead of the people
3. **Joshua 4:15-17** - Command for priests to come up out of the Jordan
4. **Hebrews 11:1** - "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen"
5. **John 14:1-3** - "Let not your heart be troubled... In my Father's house are many mansions"
6. **John 14:6** - "I am the way, the truth, and the life"
7. **Psalms 121** - Referenced as being recited by two young girls at their great-grandmother's funeral
8. **2 Timothy 1:7** - "God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and a sound mind"

Alluded to or Thematically Referenced:

9. **Exodus 14** - The parting of the Red Sea (referenced multiple times as comparison to Jordan crossing)
10. **Numbers 13-14** - The story of the 12 spies, Caleb and Joshua's faith, and the 40 years of wilderness wandering
11. **Daniel 3** - The three Hebrew boys in the furnace with the fourth man (Son of God)
12. **Matthew 24:35 / Mark 13:31 / Luke 21:33** - "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my word will never pass away"

13. **Psalm 23:1** - "The Lord is my shepherd" (referenced in "goodness and mercy are following you")
14. **Psalm 34:7** - Angels encamped around believers
15. **Hebrews 7:25** - Jesus praying/interceding for believers

Hymn Referenced:

16. **"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"** - Based on **Lamentations 3:22-23**

Thematic Connections (Suggested Supporting Verses):

17. **Romans 10:17** - "Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (supports the "words of faith" theme)
18. **James 2:17** - "Faith without works is dead" (supports the "walk of faith" theme)
19. **Deuteronomy 6:6-7** - Teaching children about God's commands (supports the generational legacy theme)
20. **Proverbs 22:6** - "Train up a child in the way he should go" (supports passing faith to next generation)

QUOTES:

God did not just do it to get us through something. God did it so that He could grow us into something.

Belonging gets you into the house. But becoming teaches you how to live in the house.

Faith does not wait on proof. Faith creates expectation.

Don't let what you see make you forget what God said.

God goes into your situation before you ever get there, which lets me know that nothing that ever happens to me ever catches God by surprise.

The water didn't move before they stepped. The water started moving because they stepped.

You cannot become what God spoke until you first believe and say what God said.

Faith always speaks before it sees. Faith always declares before it demonstrates. And faith always confesses before it confirms.

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5-Day Devotional: Becoming What God Spoke

Day 1: Faith Speaks Before It Sees

Reading: Joshua 3:11-13; Hebrews 11:1

Devotional: Before the Jordan River parted, God spoke. Before the miracle manifested, faith declared it. The priests stood before rushing waters with nothing but God's Word as their guarantee. Faith doesn't wait for proof—it creates expectation. Today, you may be facing your own flooded Jordan: a financial crisis, a health diagnosis, or a broken relationship. Faith doesn't need permission from your circumstances to speak. What has God already spoken over your life? Stop rehearsing your fears and start repeating His Word. Don't let what you see make you forget

what God said. Faith always declares before it demonstrates. Speak God's promises over your situation today, even when nothing has changed yet.

Reflection Question: What word has God spoken over your life that you need to declare today, regardless of your current circumstances?

Day 2: Faith Walks While Conditions Remain Unchanged

Reading: Joshua 4:15-18; James 2:17-18

Devotional: The Jordan was still flooding when God commanded the priests to step into it. Nothing had changed externally, but something had shifted internally—they believed God's Word enough to move. Real faith doesn't just talk; it acts. Belonging to God's family means you listen to His voice, but becoming what He spoke requires you to walk in obedience. The water didn't move before they stepped—it moved because they stepped. God is waiting on your movement, your obedience, your willingness to step into uncertainty with only His Word as your foundation. You cannot live on borrowed faith or someone else's testimony. Stop waiting for everything to line up perfectly. If God said move, move now.

Reflection Question: What step of obedience is God calling you to take today, even though your circumstances haven't changed?

Day 3: God Goes Before You Into Your Battles

Reading: Joshua 3:11; Isaiah 45:2-3

Devotional: The Ark of the Covenant—representing God's presence—went into the Jordan ahead of the people. God enters your situation before you ever get there. Nothing that happens to you catches God by surprise.

He was in the furnace before the three Hebrew boys were thrown in. He was in your diagnosis before the doctor delivered the news. He was in your financial crisis before the bills arrived. This means you're never walking into anything alone or unprepared. God has already surveyed the territory, arranged provision, and prepared the way. When you know God has gone before you, you can walk with confidence, not fear. Your greatest battles have already been won by the One who fights for you.

Reflection Question: Where do you need to recognize that God has already gone before you and prepared the way?

Day 4: Faith Leaves a Witness for the Next Generation

Reading: Joshua 4:20-24; Psalm 78:4-7

Devotional: God commanded Joshua to set up twelve stones as a memorial so future generations would ask, "What do these stones mean?" Your testimony isn't just for you—it's a legacy for those coming behind you. What you teach your children about God's faithfulness will shape what they believe when they face their own floods. Faith that becomes always leaves something visible, something that points others to God's power. Don't hide your testimony. Tell your children and grandchildren how God healed you, delivered you, provided for you. When you hit your "rewind button" and remember God's past faithfulness, you build confidence for future battles. Your survival becomes someone else's survival guide. Build memorials in your life that declare: God did it.

Reflection Question: What testimony of God's faithfulness do you need to share with the next generation?

Day 5: From Belonging to Becoming

Reading: Joshua 1:1-9; 2 Corinthians 5:17

Devotional: God didn't just deliver Israel from Egypt; He developed them into a nation that would possess the Promised Land. Belonging gets you into God's house, but becoming teaches you how to live in it. God doesn't just want you to survive your season—He wants you to step into your divine assignment. You are becoming what God spoke over you before you were born. This requires more than Sunday attendance; it demands daily obedience, personal faith, and generational responsibility. You cannot become what God spoke by watching others walk—you must walk yourself. Stop following assumptions and start following the Father. Read His Word for yourself. Pray for yourself. Build your own relationship with Him. When you become what God spoke, you'll look back and testify: Nothing but God (NBG). God did it!

Reflection Question: What is the difference between where you are (belonging) and where God is calling you (becoming)?

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Small Group Guide: "God Did It - Becoming What God Spoke"

Based on Joshua 4:15-24

Opening Prayer

Begin by thanking God for His faithfulness and asking the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion and help each person hear what God wants to speak to them today.

Ice Breaker (5-10 minutes)

Share a time when you witnessed something so incredible that the only explanation was "God did it." What happened, and how did it impact your faith?

Key Scripture

Joshua 4:23-24 - "For the Lord your God dried up the Jordan before you until you crossed over. The Lord your God did to the Jordan just what He had done to the Red Sea when He dried it up before us until we all crossed over. He did this so that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the Lord is powerful and so that you might always fear the Lord your God."

Main Points Recap

1. The Words of Faith

God speaks before we move. Faith declares what God said, not what we see.

2. The Walk of Faith

Real faith moves. It doesn't just talk—it steps into uncertainty based on God's Word.

3. The Witness of Faith

Faith leaves something behind for the next generation—a testimony that points to God's power.

Discussion Questions

Part 1: The Words of Faith (20 minutes)

- 1. The sermon emphasized that "faith does not need permission from your circumstance to speak."**
 - What circumstances in your life are currently trying to silence your faith?
 - What has God already spoken over your situation that you need to declare out loud?
- 2. The pastor mentioned hitting your "imaginary rewind button" to remember God's past faithfulness.**
 - What is one past victory God gave you that can encourage you in your current situation?
 - How can remembering God's track record change how you pray today?
- 3. "Don't let what you see make you forget what God said."**
 - What are you currently seeing that contradicts what God has promised?
 - How can you shift from rehearsing your fears to repeating God's Word?

4. The difference between belonging and becoming:

- How would you describe the difference in your own words?
- Are you currently just "belonging" to the church, or are you "becoming" what God spoke over you?

Part 2: The Walk of Faith (20 minutes)

5. The priests had to step into the flooded Jordan before the waters parted.

- What is God asking you to step into right now, even though conditions haven't changed?
- What's holding you back from taking that step?

6. "The water didn't move before they stepped. The water moved because they stepped."

- Where are you waiting for God to move before you obey, when God might be waiting for your obedience?
- What would it look like to move first and trust God to make a way?

7. The trash can illustration showed the danger of borrowed faith.

- Have you been following someone else's faith instead of developing your own relationship with God?
- What "schedule" (God's Word) do you need to start reading for yourself?

8. Faith often receives instructions without explanation.

- When has God asked you to do something without explaining why?

- How comfortable are you with obeying God when you don't understand the full plan?

Part 3: The Witness of Faith (15 minutes)

9. The 12 stones were memorial markers for future generations.

- What "stones" (testimonies) are you building in your life that your children or others can see?
- If someone asked you, "How did you make it through that situation?" what would you say?

10. "Miracles fade from memory, but testimonies shape generations."

- What testimony do you need to share more openly, even if it makes you uncomfortable?
- Who in your life needs to hear your "God did it" story?

11. The witness always points away from us and toward God.

- How can you make sure your testimony glorifies God and not yourself?
- What's one way you can "make God famous" this week?

Key Takeaways

✓ **God speaks before we move** - Faith begins with hearing and declaring God's Word over our circumstances.

✓ **Faith walks while conditions are still hard** - We don't wait for proof; we step out in obedience and watch God move.

✓ **You cannot live on borrowed faith** - Each person must develop their own relationship with God and know His Word for themselves.

✓ **Faith leaves a legacy** - What God does in your life becomes a testimony that encourages future generations.

✓ **God did it, and He'll do it again** - God's past faithfulness is proof of His future provision.

Practical Applications

This Week, I Will:

Individual Commitments:

- ☐ Identify one promise from God's Word and speak it out loud daily, regardless of my circumstances
- ☐ Take one step of obedience that I've been putting off, trusting God to make a way
- ☐ Share my testimony with at least one person about how "God did it" in my life
- ☐ Stop following someone else's faith and spend time in God's Word for myself
- ☐ Create a "memorial stone" (journal entry, photo, note) documenting a time God came through for me

Group Commitment: Choose one practical action your group can do together:

- Share testimonies via group text/chat throughout the week
- Pray specifically for each person's "Jordan River" situation

- Hold each other accountable to take one faith step this week
 - Start a group testimony journal or video collection
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Reflection Questions for Personal Study

1. What is the difference between surviving a season and stepping into my divine assignment?
 2. Am I more comfortable talking about faith or walking in faith? Why?
 3. What fear is currently louder than God's promise in my life?
 4. What would change if I truly believed that God goes into my situation before I get there?
 5. What legacy of faith am I leaving for the next generation?
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Memory Verse

Joshua 4:24 - "He did this so that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the Lord is powerful and so that you might always fear the Lord your God."

Closing Activity (10 minutes)

Building Memorial Stones:

- Give each person a stone or piece of paper
- Have them write one thing God has done in their life (their "God did it" moment)
- Go around the circle and let each person share their stone/testimony

- Place all the stones in the center as a visual reminder
 - Pray over each person, asking God to help them become what He has spoken
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Closing Prayer

Pray for:

- Faith to speak God's promises over impossible situations
 - Courage to step out when conditions haven't changed
 - Boldness to share testimonies that point others to God
 - The next generation to know God's faithfulness through our witness
 - Each person to become what God has spoken over their life
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Leader Notes

Be Sensitive To:

- Group members who may be in difficult situations and struggling to see God's faithfulness
- Those who may have grown up without faith examples and feel behind
- People who are naturally private and may need encouragement to share

Encourage:

- Vulnerability and authentic sharing
- Supporting each other in taking faith steps

- Celebrating small victories and acts of obedience
- Accountability without judgment

Resources:

- Have extra Bibles available for those who want to look up referenced passages
- Consider creating a group testimony board or digital album
- Share relevant worship songs that reinforce the message ("Great Is Thy Faithfulness," "Way Maker," etc.)

Remember: The goal is not just to discuss faith, but to activate it. Challenge your group to move from belonging to becoming!

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How does the distinction between 'belonging' and 'becoming' challenge your current relationship with God, and are you merely attending church or actively transforming into who God has called you to be?
2. In what areas of your life are you waiting for circumstances to change before you step out in faith, rather than stepping out so that God can change the circumstances?
3. Pastor Canady shared how he followed his neighbor's trash schedule instead of reading it himself—what 'borrowed faith' are you relying on instead of developing your own personal relationship with God?

4. The priests had to step into the flooding Jordan River before the waters parted—what flooded situation is God calling you to step into right now, trusting His Word over what you see?
5. How can you create 'memorial stones' in your life that will help the next generation understand what God has done, and what testimonies are you preserving for your children or those who come after you?
6. When have you experienced God going into a difficult situation before you arrived there, and how does recognizing His presence ahead of time change how you approach current challenges?
7. What negative words or fears are you speaking over your life that contradict what God has already spoken, and how can you begin to align your confession with His promises?
8. The sermon emphasizes that 'faith does not need permission from your circumstance to speak'—what doctor's report, financial crisis, or relationship struggle are you allowing to silence your faith declarations?
9. How does understanding that God allowed Israel to go through the flood (not just around it) change your perspective on the difficulties you're currently facing?
10. If your children or those watching your life were to ask 'what do these stones mean' about your faith journey, what would your testimony reveal about God's faithfulness and power?