

# The Faith of Joshua

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Heb 11:30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days.

## Background

### His name is changed

His given name was Hoshea ("salvation"), but Moses changed it to Joshua ("Jehovah is salvation").

### His life has three stages

1. In **Egypt** – he is a slave; he knew the rigors of slavery.
2. In the desert **wilderness** - he is a servant of Moses; one of 12 spies who spy out Canaan. God is preparing (90 years) Joshua to lead Israel into Canaan.
3. In **Canaan** - Leadership (20 years)  
Transition – Moses dies, Israel mourns (30 days; Dt 34:8)  
In Canaan - he is a warrior

## His Life Message

Joshua 1:1-9 Now it came about after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, that the LORD spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' servant, saying, 2 "Moses My servant is dead; now therefore arise, cross this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them, to the sons of Israel. 3 "Every place on which the sole of your foot treads, I have given it to you, just as I spoke to Moses. 4 "From the wilderness and this Lebanon, even as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and as far as the Great Sea toward the setting of the sun will be your territory. 5 "No man will be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I have been with Moses, I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you. 6 "Be strong and courageous, for you shall give this people possession of the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. 7 "Only be strong and very courageous; be careful to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, so that you may have success wherever you go. 8 "This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success. 9 "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

### Don't get paralyzed in Life's transitions (Jos 1:1-2)

"Moses My servant is dead, now arise, you (and all this people) cross this Jordan - to the land which I am giving to them!"

### Live your life with your face to the future and your back to the past!

We can become stuck between yesterday's disappointments (regrets that enslaves us) and the wish of a better tomorrow (which we cannot grasp); frozen between the memories of "the good old days" and the Spirit's invitations of faith adventures and potential experiences.

There is almost a sternness in the text as God says to Joshua, "Moses My servant is dead. Life goes on. Face reality. The man is dead. The job is yours. Get on with it."

God gives us tears to weep, but not forever. He allows our hearts to break, but not indefinitely.

## **Leadership hinges on your ability to hear what God is saying in life's battles.**

After 30 days of grieving God say's "Moses is dead, cross this Jordan ..."

Joshua's faith perspective (spying out the land; Num 14:1-10)

Num 14:6-8 Joshua and Caleb spoke to all the congregation ... "If the LORD is pleased with us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us, ... do not rebel and do not fear the people of the land, for they will be our prey. Their protection has been removed from them, and the LORD is with us; do not fear them."

He receives specific instructions in the battle at Jericho (Jos 6:3-5).

He receives no guidance in the battle at Ai, until after the are defeated (Jos 7 - 8).

He receives no guidance when he is deceived by the Gibeonites (Jos 9)

## **You will reach your destiny to the degree that you win the fear battle!**

### **Three times God say's "be strong and courageous"**

Jos 1:6 "Be strong and courageous, ...

Jos 1:7 "Only be strong and very courageous; ...

Jos 1:9 "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! ...

**He then adds** "Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go." (Jos 1:9)

### **Moses commissioned Joshua with the same words**

Dt 31:6-8 "Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid or tremble at them, for the LORD your God is the one who goes with you. He will not fail you or forsake you." 7 Then Moses called to Joshua and said to him in the sight of all Israel, "Be strong and courageous, for you shall go with this people into the land which the LORD has sworn to their fathers to give them, and you shall give it to them as an inheritance. 8 "The LORD is the one who goes ahead of you; He will be with you. He will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed."

### **God confirms this same message to you.**

Heb 13:5 Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU,"

## **Don't expect victory without some conflicts and battles.**

## **God is the Giver (grace); We are the receivers (faith). (Jos 1:3-5)**

### **God gives the land**

"Every place ... I have given it to you, just as I spoke to Moses." (Dt 11:24-25; see also Jos 2:9, 24; 6:2, 16; 8:1; 10:8; 18:3; 22:4; 23:1, 13, 15, 16)

### **Israel must take the land**

Jos 1:3 "Every place on which the sole of your foot treads, I have given it to you ..."

Dt 11:24-25 "Every place on which the sole of your foot treads shall be yours; your border will be from the wilderness to Lebanon, and from the river, the river Euphrates, as far as the western sea. 25 "No man will be able to stand before you; the LORD your God will lay the dread of you and the fear of you on all the land on which you set foot, as He has spoken to you.

Rom 16:20 The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

"Beneath/under the feet" denotes the defeat and subservience of enemies (Jos 10:24; 2Sa 22:39; 1Ki 5:3; Ps 8:6; 45:5; 47:3; Isa 49:23; La 3:34; Mal 4:3; Mt 22:42-45; Ps 110:1; Ac 2:34-36; 1Co 15:25-28; Eph 1:22-23; Heb 10:13; Rev 3:9)

## **God gives the victory as we fight with dependency on Him (His strength)**

### **God's already been where you're going**

Jos 1:5 "Just as I have been with Moses, I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you."

Jos 1:9 "for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

God will be with you, He will never leave you nor forsake you. He will prosper you wherever you go.

Fear of tomorrow can be as crippling as slavery to the past, but God is already in your tomorrow. He's already been where you're going. Child of God do not fear what lies ahead. He holds the future, and He holds you in His hand. God has gone before you and secured tomorrow on your behalf. Notice God does not say, "Everywhere your foot shall tread I will give you," but rather, "I have given unto you." He's already done it. With God, there's no yesterday, today, and tomorrow. He not only sees the beginning and the end, He is the beginning and the end. Tomorrow is already today with God. Don't be afraid to walk into it.

### **Success in life happens as we meditate on the Word of God and act upon it.**

"The secret of success is to hear and obey." (Pastor Yonggi Cho)

Jos 1:8 "This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success. (Mt 7:24; Jas 1:22-25)

Reading, memorizing, and meditating upon the Word of God are of no value without obedience to the Word of God. To obey the Word of God, you do what the Word of God indicates should be done in every situation.

#### **References used in this study:**

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