

## VICTORIOUS FAITH BRINGS VICTORIOUS LIVING

JANUARY 15, 2023

### WORSHIP

Happy Day, In Jesus' Name,  
More Than Conquerors,  
Broken Vessels (Amazing  
Grace), Crown Him With  
Many Crowns

### WELCOME

How would you define  
"faith"? What makes you  
put your faith or trust  
in something or someone?

### WORD

#### **JOSHUA 2:8-11** (READ THE ENTIRE JOSHUA 2)

<sup>8</sup> Now before they lay down, she came up to them on the roof, <sup>9</sup> and said to the men, "I know that the LORD has given you the land, and that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land have melted away before you. <sup>10</sup> For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed. <sup>11</sup> When we heard it, our hearts melted and no courage remained in any man any longer because of you; for the LORD your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath.

One of Satan's greatest weapons is to make us focus on our past. By focusing on our past, what do we accomplish? Satan wants us to blame our past and be stagnated by it. **Isaiah 43:18-19** reminds us not to ponder on the things of the past, because God is indeed able to do something new! No matter what your past is, God can give you a new chance in life. We see this timeless truth come true in the life of Rahab, someone who was not even from Israel, and someone with a very dark past. Her future changed dramatically, and a new day for her life arrived as we read **Joshua 2**. Rahab was a prostitute. She belonged to a pagan culture, worshipping many man-made gods and idols. What happened to change her life? She encountered the GRACE OF GOD!

Victorious Faith brings Victorious Living – this is important to know because many of us live defeated lives. Even if we go to church religiously, we feel dry and dead. How can we be victorious? The key is FAITH. What is faith to you? Biblical faith always has an object, and we exercise faith every day. When we sit on a chair, avail of transportation like take a flight, eat out in a restaurant– we do things by faith, and faith always has an object. Our ultimate faith must be placed on GOD alone. What are the four aspects of victorious faith?

#### 1. CENTERED ON TRUTH

**Joshua 2:1** describes how Joshua first had the land of Jericho observed by two spies before forming his strategy for conquering the land. A man of faith will also do his part! In God's eyes however, those spies were sent for a higher purpose – to save Rahab and give the people of Israel victory! Many people are suffering today, and we must believe that God is real and intercede for them.

Rahab was pagan, and **vv. 2-7** describes how the king of Jericho knew that the spies stayed in Rahab's house. But Rahab hid them and even lied the king's men! Remember though that this passage is just describing the story, not prescribing to us to do as Rahab did. But why did she do this? Rahab narrated what she knew to the spies (**vv.8-11**). Her faith was impacted by the news about how God was with this group of people (Israelites) through their journey towards the Promised Land. Rahab acknowledged that the "**LORD is God in heaven above and on earth beneath**"!

Encountering the truth impacts us – it empowers our faith and centers it on reliable truth. People today may base their faith on tradition, feelings, and popular opinion. This is very deceptive; be careful where you center your faith on. Your emotions, thoughts, and plans must be subservient to the reliable truth of GOD! What map are we following in this life? What is the basis of the direction of our lives? May we all submit to the truth – and what is truth? **Psalms 119:160** declares God's word is truth and is everlasting!

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#### 2. COURAGEOUS

Rahab's faith displays courage as she took action and risked her life by hiding the spies. Real faith is courageous! The list of faithful Bible characters mentioned in Hebrews 11 only contains two women – Sarah, and Rahab. **Hebrews 11:30-31** commends “Rahab the prostitute” – she did not side with those who were “disobedient”. The entire land of Jericho heard about God. They knew the same things that Rahab knew. But Rahab courageously responded to that knowledge by acknowledging God. **James 2:24-26** uses Rahab as an example of faith taking action. Real faith will have action – it does not remain as head knowledge. The evidence of faith is transformed life and changed behavior. By our fruit, we will be identified as followers of Christ. Every time we follow God, it demands courage. To be honest, to keep your integrity, to refuse bribes, to stand against the tide and choose righteousness – it takes courage to do all these. You will never know what God has for your life until you step out in faith! Trust God completely (**Psalm 56:3-4**)! Trust in God and entrust your everything to God.

#### 3. CONCERN FOR OTHERS

Rahab was concerned for her family. **Joshua 2:12-13** is where Rahab negotiates for her family's safety for when the army of Joshua takes over Jericho. Do we have the same concern for others? The Apostle Paul repeatedly warns the churches he ministered to because he had concern for them. If we are concerned for our loved ones and other people, we should watch our lives, pray for them, and share the gospel to them!

#### 4. CONTINUING

The spies made a covenant with Rahab before they left her house. For the army to not destroy her family's household, she was asked to tie a **scarlet cord** at the window, so that all who lived in her house will be saved (**Joshua 2:17-18**). This is symbolic of the blood on the doorposts during the Passover (**Exodus 12:23**), and ultimately, the blood of Christ shed for all of us – it is the key to salvation, and Rahab endured by listening to this instruction and continued to trust their word. She did tie a scarlet cord in the window. She survived and the promise was fulfilled (**Joshua 6:25**). The Bible gives us a wonderful surprise – Rahab is part of Jesus' genealogy (**Matthew 1:1-6**), becoming one of Jesus' ancestors! Nobody is so bad that the grace of God cannot rehabilitate. We must be willing to change and embrace a new beginning like Rahab, whose victorious faith brought about a victorious life!

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

##### 1. Self-Check.

How do you center your faith in the TRUTH?

##### 2. Setting It Right.

What is stopping you from giving your complete, total surrender to Jesus?

##### 3. Living It Out.

How do you best express compassion to your loved ones who are not yet fully committed to Jesus?

4. What can you do to make your faith enduring? committed to Jesus?

#### WORKS

##### PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray for family, friends and fellow Filipinos to discover that the only true and worthy object of our faith is JESUS CHRIST. Take courage and share the gospel to others; give them the opportunity to be saved by putting their trust in Christ alone as Savior and Lord.

### WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

#### I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

#### II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of public servants; repentance and salvation for government leaders and citizens for a Christ-centered Philippines.
- God's provision for families deeply affected by inflation.
- War in Ukraine to end, loss of lives prevented; escalating tension in East Asian countries to stop.

#### III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples.
- Elders, pastors, deacons, and families (holy, humble, harmonious, happy, heart-working.
- Ministries and churches expansion worldwide.

#### IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

#### V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God.
- Righteous living.
- Salvation of family and friends.

### MEMORY VERSE

#### JOSHUA 2:11

11...the Lord your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath.