

BATTLE STRONG - WALK BY FAITH

FEBRUARY 12, 2023

WORSHIP

How Great Thou Art,
Your Love Awakens Me,
Sovereign, See A Victory,
Victor's Crown

WELCOME

What is the biggest or
strongest wall that you've
seen in your life?
Describe it.

WORD

JOSHUA 6:1-5 (READ THE REST OF **JOSHUA 6**)

Now Jericho was tightly shut because of the sons of Israel; no one went out and no one came in. ² The Lord said to Joshua, "See, I have given Jericho into your hand, with its king and the valiant WARRIORS. ³ YOU SHALL MARCH AROUND THE CITY, ALL THE MEN OF WAR CIRCLING THE CITY ONCE. YOU SHALL DO SO for six days.

⁴ Also seven priests shall carry seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark; then on the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets. ⁵ It shall be that when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when you hear the sound of the trumpet, all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city will fall down flat, and the people will go up every man straight ahead."

There are many things in our life that are walls or obstacles. They are like Jericho. It could be our relationship (strained, broken, rejection); health (sickness, mental, emotional); work (business, boss, co-employee, financial); addiction (substance, sex, porn, gadgets); purposelessness (lack of direction, doubts, fear); or sin (bitterness, unforgiveness, pride, self-dependence).

How do we experience victory over these? We have to battle strong! We need to walk by faith. "Walk by faith" is a New Testament command. We take these New Testament truths to highlight what is happening in the Old Testament: walk by faith not by sight (**2 Corinthians 5:7**); faith has a strong confidence in the Word of God and we hold on to God's promise and this enables us to obey (**Hebrews 11:1, Hebrews 11:30-31**). The battle of Jericho in Joshua 6 is a story of faith and obedience, and this is how we live by faith:

1. PERSPECTIVE (Joshua 6:1-7)

In **Joshua 6:1**, Joshua is looking at Jericho—a walled city. Scholars say the walls are 9 meters high and 6 meters wide; it was a fortress. It represented the power of the Canaanites in the new land the Israelites were going through, it was an obstacle. God has promised us His power and His presence to do His will but sometimes we have obstacles. The physical eyes will see the gigantic wall. To have the right perspective we need to ask "What does God see? What is God telling me to do?"

Joshua sees the walls but God sees victory (**v.2**). We see problems and challenges but God has given us His grace and His power to overcome these challenges.

God told Joshua what to do in **vv.3-5**:

1. All the men of war, along with 7 priests who will be carrying and blowing 7 trumpets of rams' horns before the ark, will march around the city once per day for 6 days.
2. On the seventh day, they will all march around the city seven times.
3. After the 7th round, the priest will make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when the army hears the sound of the trumpet, all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city will fall down flat, and the people will go up and conquer Jericho.

Joshua obeyed (**vv.6-7**). He had lots of faith! We live in a world where there is a lot of cynicism and skepticism that will make fun of this story. But this is a historical event that happened. This is what God wants us to see today, He wants us to see our problem through His perspective.

God speaks to us through His Word. When God speaks to you when you are in His Word, being still and convicted by the Holy Spirit, listen and obey Him (**Psalms 46:10, Romans 10:17**). We need to have the right perspective and to obey.

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2. PERSEVERE (Joshua 6:8-20)

“Do what God tells you to do and keep on obeying Him” is one of the critical lessons of this chapter. It is not just one day of marching around the city--- it was seven days!

Not only did they persevere doing it seven times, they were not to shout also—to be quiet. These people are known for grumbling, yet they obeyed without grumbling (**vv.8-10**). Obedience is an act of worship (**vv.11-13**). To walk by faith is to persevere even if we don't see God working. Keep on obeying. Keep on following God.

There are moments in life that we feel like giving up. Many of us are tired. We need to battle strong and walk by faith. When we persevere in obedience and experience breakthrough, that was the Lord's work (**vv.15-16**) and He gets the glory!

3. PROMISE (Joshua 6:25-27)

We can walk by faith because “God keeps His promises. We can trust Him.” Many of us experience broken promises, thus, having jaded hearts. God is different. He is not like us. When He makes a promise, He will do it. That's how powerful and wonderful God is. God gave two promises and kept them:

1. God kept His promise to Rahab. Rahab was saved (**Joshua 6:25-26**). She believed in God. We find her name in the New Testament—in Hebrews and in the genealogies. She was an ancestor of Jesus.
2. God kept His promise to Joshua (**Joshua 1:9, 6:27**). God was with Joshua. One of God's greatest promises is that God promises to be with us.

We have the Bible. We have to be reminded that there are battles in this life. We can battle strong. We can walk by faith by: seeing things in His perspective, persevering and experiencing His power in obedience, and holding on to His promises. Whatever it is you are going through, God is with you. He will give you the strength to walk by faith.

However, the greatest obstacle in our life, even greater than Jericho, is sin. Sin has caused a great obstacle between us and God. It separates us from God. 2000 years ago, God became man. He saw the obstacle from a different perspective. It was His way to reveal what kind of God He is. He humbled Himself and became a man. He persevered in obedience. He was obedient to the point of death on the cross. He held on to God's promises because He is God. Because of what Jesus did, the greatest obstacle in our life—the thing that hinders us from having a relationship with God was torn away (**Matthew 27:51**).

That's why there is hope for us today. Jesus is the Victor; He has done everything for us to have a relationship with Him. We just have to surrender ourselves to Him. We have to humble ourselves and admit that we need Him. That is faith. We are saved by faith in Christ alone and the faith that saves is the faith that enables us to walk by faith daily.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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

1. Self-Check.

Share one time you experienced a hurdle or troubling situation (a Jericho) and how God delivered you.?

2. Setting It Right.

What are the obstacles or hardships (Jerichos) in your life today?

3. Living It Out.

How can you walk by faith? What do you need to apply from the message today?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray for people to find victory and seek salvation in Christ alone. Model this to them as you keep the right perspective, persevere in obeying God and holding on to His promises. Share the reason for your faith that the battle is won through the 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 help and comfort for Turkish and Syrian people devastated by the 7.8 magnitude earthquake.
- 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

2 CORINTHIANS 5:7

...for we walk by faith, not by sight