

Joshua and Israel  
Hebrews 11:30-31

Introduction:

1. We are looking in Hebrews 11 where we see shining examples of faith.
  - a. In the 1<sup>st</sup> three verses of chapter 11, we have saw
    - i. What faith is
    - ii. That by faith the elders received a good report
    - iii. That by faith we come to understand that God created all there is out of nothing.
  - b. Beginning with verse four down through verse 22, we have saw the faith of Abel, Enoch, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph, Moses' parents, and Moses.
2. This evening, we will begin with the faith displayed by Joshua and the children of Israel.
3. We need to remember that Paul tells us the following in 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 10
  - a. 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 10:6a..."Now these things were our examples..."
    - i. To know how to live to appropriate the blessings of God
    - ii. To know how to live so as to not be plagued because we displeased God
  - b. 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 10:11
    - i. Now all these things happened unto them for examples:
    - ii. These things are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.
  - c. 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 10:13

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

- i. Our test, trial, temptation is not rare, but is common all men
- ii. These men and women of faith in chapter 11 demonstrate to us a faithful God Who came through for them, and Who is still the same today for you and I, for He is no respecter of persons.
- iii. Hold to your faith, for God has an escape hatch already planned for you.

4. So, the study of these historical figures and their acts of faith should motivate us to move in faith, live in faith, talk in faith, to understand that our Faithful God is with His faithful people.

#### XIV. Faith of the Israelites under Joshua's leadership at Jericho

##### **Note:** Scripture

- i. The full story is in Joshua 6.
- ii. Look at Hebrews 11:30  
By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days.
- A. The development of Joshua's faith

##### **Note:** How do you think Joshua's faith developed to where he could lead Israel?

- 1. Amalek attacked the Children of Israel in Rephidim
  - a. Amalek was the grandson of Esau
    - i. Amalek was raised in Esau's house
    - ii. Amalek inherited the hatred Esau had for his brother, and thus Amalek hated Israel, the descendants of David.
  - b. In Exodus 17, we find that Joshua was made the General of Israel's army
    - i. Moses took his rod and went to the top of the hill to intercede with God, and Joshua led the army in battle.
    - ii. Look at v14

And the Lord said unto Moses, Write this for a memorial in a book, and rehearse it in the ears of Joshua: for I will utterly put out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven.

- iii. Moses is to rehearse this in the ears of Joshua because God has chosen him to be the next leader, and I would ask, why would God choose Joshua? What criteria does God look for when He chooses His leaders?
- 2. In Exodus 24:13, Joshua is called Moses' minister, and Joshua went with Moses up into the Mount of God.

**Note:** Minister from the Hebrew is "one who serves," or "one who is being trained, or schooled," which means that Joshua served Moses as Moses was schooling him in the understanding and worship of Jehovah God.

3. In Exodus 33:11, Moses would leave the tabernacle he had erected to return to the camp, but Joshua did not depart from the tabernacle, which means that he stayed in the presence of the Lord where Moses spoke face to face with God.
4. Joshua the son of Nun was chosen by God, trained by Moses, and schooled in the presence of the Lord.
  - a. When people drew back from God's presence, Joshua went with Moses into the fire and cloud of God's glory
  - b. This special contact with God enabled Joshua along with Caleb to declare that they were able to take the Promised Land regardless of the giants, while the other ten spies caused discouragement and doubt in the hearts of the people.
  - c. In Numbers 27, Moses at God's direction took Joshua in whom was the Spirit and laid his hands upon him
    - i. This signified to the people and to Joshua that God had chosen him
    - ii. By laying his hands upon him, Moses put some of his honor on Joshua
  - d. In Deuteronomy chapters 1, 3, and 31, Moses at the direction of God proclaimed to Joshua and the people that he was the new leader, and that God would be with him.
  - e. In Deuteronomy 34:9, we read this about Joshua

And Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom; for Moses had laid his hands upon him: and the children of Israel hearkened unto him, and did as the Lord commanded Moses.

**Note:** Moses had laid his hands on Joshua, and the Spirit of wisdom was upon him.

5. Joshua had lived under the shadow of Moses, but now that Moses is dead, we find in Joshua 1:1, that the Lord spoke unto Joshua
  - a. In verses 1-7, God gives Joshua personal confirmation of His anointing and direction, which is needed, if we are to follow Him.
  - b. In Joshua 3, they cross Jordan's river, and the Lord tells Joshua that He is going to begin on this day to let Israel know that He, the Lord is with Joshua.
  - c. In Joshua 4:13-15, Joshua received a personal visitation for the Captain of the Lord's Army.
  - d. God gave Joshua personal direction on how to fight Jericho, as he prepared to take the city.

**Note:** These incidents over time built Joshua faith to where he could lead Israel across Jordan, to Gilgal a place of sanctification, to Jericho, and to conquer all of Canaan.

**Note:** Here is an example for you and I on how to build our faith. It is built by hearing the Word, and our faith one block at a time to enable us to face obstacles that grow larger with each step, but in each one, we find that God's grace abounds toward us to make us sufficient for the need.

- i. Begin by drawing close to God instead of withdrawing
- ii. Enter His presence and learn to stay in His presence
- iii. Let previous miracles prepare you for future miracles as you continue to grow in your knowledge and understanding of our lord
- iv. Learn to think and react with faith not doubt, fear, emotions, and/or anger
- v. Have a personal relationship with the Lord, where you talk with Him, and He talks with you.
- vi. Listen to the Spirit and respond with acts of faith, and do not be afraid to follow God where He leads
- vii. You will start with a measure of faith which will grow to great faith as you move from obstacle to obstacle in faith with God's Word being hid in your heart on a daily basis.
- viii. Pray always and have a daily time of prayer with determination to spend a certain amount of time with the Lord regardless of how you feel, or how easy or hard it may be.
- ix. Some days of prayer and bible study will be easy and some days will be difficult, but do it anyway, for the rewards are great and beneficial.

**Note:** Now, let us continue with the tearing of the walls of Jericho.

B. Let us look at God's battle plans for the destruction of Jericho

1. Walk around the walls once a day for six days and seven times on the seventh day
2. Carry the Ark of the Covenant with you as you march around the walls. Why?
  - a. The Ark of the Covenant was the seat of God's presence
  - b. By carrying the Ark of the Covenant, they carried God's presence around the city.
  - c. They were being constantly reminded that God was in their midst

3. Seven priests are to go before the Ark of the Covenant with each one carrying a Ram's Horn and they are to blow on the horns as they march around the city
4. The armed men went before the Priests that blew the trumpets and armed men followed the Ark of the Covenant.
5. They were to march in total silence except for the blowing of the horns. Why?
  - a. Are there times we talk too much?
  - b. Do we ever get rumors started without meaning too?
  - c. Wouldn't there be times that we would be better off doing God's work without comment?
  - d. If they talked while they marched, what do you think they would say?
    - i. This will never work.
    - ii. What does Joshua think he is doing?
    - iii. I really do not think Joshua heard from God?

**Note:** Anytime our leaders take us places that do not fit our criteria, then we think they missed God, and there is a tendency to talk which causes unrest, disunity, division, and rebellion. Sometimes, we are to just be quiet and march while waiting to see what God will do if anything, because we do not want to be caught fighting against God.

6. On the 7<sup>th</sup> day at the conclusion of the 7<sup>th</sup> trip around the city Joshua told the people to shout, which they did, and God brought the walls down.
7. Let us consider the trial of Israel's faith
  - a. The battle plans seemed improbable for a victory
  - b. The battle plans gave the enemy opportunity to make fun of them while showing contempt for Israel's army.
  - c. Carrying the Ark of the Covenant into battle placed it in danger
  - d. They were still learning to follow God's command which goes against our senses and what we think and figure at times
  - e. God enjoys doing great things by using the small and contemptible things of this life and of our wisdom, for when we are weak, His arm is made bare in our behalf.

### C. Let us look at the success of following God's plan

1. The walls of Jericho fell before them.
2. This was a large formidable city that they faced and victory here was important for them and for the other cities of Canaan.
  - a. Important for them so they could see God's miraculous power at work in their behalf
  - b. Important for the rest of the inhabitants of Canaan so that they would know God was fighting on the behalf of His people Israel, and that God was in the center of their midst.
3. By the battle being won according to God's plan, then God was magnified
  - a. Israel could not boast, for it was God who shook the walls
  - b. Israel had to be involved by marching, being silent, carrying the Ark of the Covenant, blowing their horns, and then shouting, but God brought the walls down.
4. We are to learn from this example of God's greatness that God can and will in his own time and way cause all powerful opposition to fail, but it will be done in the way that gives Him glory and for His interest.
5. So, let us learn to follow God regardless how small and insignificant it may appear, for we find that the grace of faith is mighty through God for the pulling down of strong-holds.

**Note:** Get ready as our faith rises for this occasion to see God work mighty in our lives and our churches.

### XV. Let us look at the faith of Rahab

**Note:** Rahab is an example for us to show that God is no respecter of persons

**Note:** Scriptures

- i. You can read the full story of Rahab and the spies in Joshua 2
- ii. You can see the results of Rahab's faith in Joshua 6:22-23
- iii. Furthermore, Rahab's faith continued to reward her, for she was the mother of Boaz and thus, the mother in law to Ruth and an ancestor of David's and of Jesus Christ

iv. Now look at Hebrews 11:31

By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace.

A. Let us see who this Rahab was.

1. She was a Canaanite

- a. She did not share in the birthright of the Israelites
- b. She was of the people who were to be destroyed
- c. She had nothing to help her but her faith
- d. From all that she had heard about Israel, she became a believer
- e. Here we see the power of God's grace working where it seemed there was no grace

2. She was a harlot

- a. She lived in sin
- b. Her house was a public house
- c. She was a common woman of the town
- d. In spite of all this, she believed that the grace of God could cover the greatness of her sins if she truly repented
- e. Rahab found that there was no limit to the forgiving power and mercy of God.

**Note:** Here with Rahab we remember that Christ came to save the chief of sinners, and that where sin has abounded, grace has superabounded.

B. Let us see what Rahab did by her faith

1. She received the spies Joshua sent to Jericho in peace (Joshua 2:6-7)

- a. She made them welcome
- b. She hid them from those who were trying to capture them
- c. She made a noble confession of her faith in Joshua 2:9-11
  - i. v9...I know that the Lord hath given you the land

ii. v9... Your terror is fallen upon us and all inhabitants of the land faint because of you.

iii. v10...

For we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red sea for you, when ye came out of Egypt; and what ye did unto the two kings of the Amorites, that were on the other side Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom ye utterly destroyed.

iv. v11...

And as soon as we had heard these things, our hearts did melt, neither did there remain any more courage in any man, because of you: for the Lord your God, he is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath.

- d. Rahab then requested that these two spies make a covenant with her that she would be shown favor for herself and her family
- e. A sign was given which was that scarlet thread be hung from her window so that her household would be safe, and that scarlet thread represents the blood of Jesus which saves us from our sins and from eternal destruction

2. So, from Rahab, let us learn

- a. True faith will show itself in good works, especially towards the people of God.
- b. Faith will act regardless of the danger
- e. A true believer and a person of faith will desire
  - i. To be in covenant with God
  - ii. To be in fellowship with the people of God
  - iii. And be willing to be identified with God's people regardless of the outcome

Conclusion

- 1. Let us be people of faith
- 2. Let us learn to rely upon God regardless of what we may be facing