

JOSHUA

Week Six

We face a Coalition of Evil Forces Banded Together to Destroy Us

Significant truths:

Chapter 10

1. Joshua even in the face of overwhelming odds had faith in the saving intervention of God.

Dr. Don Campbell in *People Who Know Their God*, made the following observation about battles we face in our Christian experience.

“Most of us learn, early in our Christian experience, that we do not just face one enemy. We face a coalition of evil forces that have banded together in an attempt to destroy us. Those enemies are commonly called “the world,” “the flesh,” and “the devil.” The world pressures us and hammers us and tries to conform us to its mold. The flesh is the sinfulness within us which betrays us and undermines us and sabotages us, even though we want to serve God with our minds and our bodies. The devil is master strategist of the assault against us and sometimes attacks us openly, sometimes craftily, but always with an unerring sense of where our weaknesses lie.”

“Together, the world, the flesh, and the devil make an unbeatable combination – or they would be unbeatable, if not for the saving intervention of God. Without God, victory against such an alliance is impossible. With God, victory is assured.....”

Joshua was a man who knew God above all else. The results are impressively recorded. As Daniel later wrote, “The people who know their God will display strength and take action” (Dan. 11:32) For Joshua, For Daniel, and for us as well, the key to victory is knowing God personally and trusting Him completely.

2. No prayer or dream or vision is too great for God. If there is no limit to what God can do, then there is no limit to what we can dream or pray or accomplish in His service.

If He is not able to make the sun stand still, why waste your breath asking him to do so? Faith in a god who is not able to deliver on what he has promised is not audacious. It's absurd. But no prayer of faith to a great God is a waste of time. The measure of God's abilities will always surpass the measure of our audacity. No prayer is too big for our God. No vision too sweeping. No risk too great. God has never been nervous about his ability to live up to our faith in him. This amazing fact invites us to believe him for the kind of requests and goals that most people would consider outside the realm of possibility. If there is no limit to what God can do, then there is also no limit to what we can dream or pray or accomplish in his service. Our God spoke the universe into existence. Then he stooped down and measured it with his hand (Isaiah 40:12). Did you know that scientists have found stars that are as large in circumference as the entire orbit of Jupiter? Yet God did not spend a single ounce of energy in creating them. He simply said, “Let them be.” And they were. Our God is the One who leveled Jericho's walls while Joshua and the children of Israel walked laps in childlike obedience. Our God is the One who took on flesh and walked among us, opened blind eyes, and raised dead people to life. And remember, not only did he walk on water—he enabled an ordinary fisherman to walk on water with him. The God of the Bible can do whatever he pleases. And what pleases Him is to show off his power for his glory and honor. So,

give him the opportunity. Dream big, pray incessantly and live a life that can be explained only by the existence of a God who is infinitely great.

3. Keep your eyes on Him, to obey Him, and trust in His strength, not your own.

Our need is to stay focused on Him, to obey Him, and to have faith in His ability, trusting in His strength, rather than our own. This will usually mean expending great effort in cooperating and participating with God in dealing with our battles, all the while knowing that the Lord is there with us enabling us and fighting for us.

Paul in speaking of his calling in Colossians and the great effort involved in proclaiming the risen Christ, wrote, “We proclaim him by instructing and teaching all men with all wisdom so that we may present every man mature in Christ. Toward this goal, I also labor, struggling according to his power that powerfully works in me” (Colossians 1:28-29)

4. Calm your fears by increasing your capacity for faith.

Do you feel that Joshua had fears, or that he ever doubted God? Joshua was one who depended on God, but He also allowed His faith to grow as he encountered battle after battle. He did not take God lightly especially after Ai and his encounter with the Gibeonites. God gave Joshua responsibilities. He was to pray and seek God’s counsel, before he took action. But Joshua came to realize that the victory belonged to God and it was God who provided the victory. That is something we too often fail to realize. When we reflect on God’s vision for our life, we should be overwhelmed. We are going to wrestle with a lot of the same fears that Joshua, or Moses, or Jonathan, or David experienced. It’s not wrong to feel fear. It is wrong, however, to let that fear have the last word in your life. The people who accomplish the most astounding things for God’s glory aren’t the people who feel the least fear. Often, they’re the ones who deal with the most intense fear. But instead of letting that fear disable their dreams, they start increasing their capacity for faith. They act on the part of God’s direction they do understand. And they leave the rest up to him.

Questions and Discussion: Look at the key truths provided in Chapters 10 of Joshua and whatever your role as a Christian – husband, father, wife, mother, son, daughter, employer, employee, church member, teacher, or in whatever other capacity you find you are in, consider the following questions for discussion:

- Do you ever feel that God has abandoned you? That you feel you are alone in your battles? Name one step you could take to seek God’s intervention? Is God’s intervention dependent on you or is it strictly up to Him to act?
- Do you fully grasp the infinite power and greatness of God or is that something you struggle with? Have you dreamed big? What limitations to you put on God? If there is no limit as to what God can do, then why put limitations on your prayers, your dreams, or your vision?
- How do you keep your eyes focused on Jesus? In what ways are you becoming more Christlike? What about your family? What steps can you and your family take to be more Christ centered?
- Share a time when you could tell your capacity for faith was growing? Did it calm your fears? How do you overcome your fears?