

A Panorama of Faith

Chapter 11

Audio Lesson: Old Testament Survey lesson 25



Objective: to understand how important faith is to God and how practical it is for us.



“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.”

—Joshua 1:9

The book of Joshua is the record of the conquest of the land of Canaan. As we study this record, we will see “A Panorama of Faith.” Chapter after chapter gives us examples and warnings that show us what faith is and what faith is not. It begins with “A Perpetuation of Faith” as Moses had transferred leadership to Joshua before he died. People of faith like Rahab, who was not someone we would expect to have great faith, indicate that there are “Perplexities of Faith” that stretch our understanding. We also find in Joshua “The Proving of Faith.” When God is trying to give us the faith to enter our spiritual Canaan, He will often prove our faith to encourage us. As we take steps of faith, God blesses and confirms those steps of faith. We later find in this book “A Pillar of Faith,” a monument of rocks built as a memorial to the miracle of crossing the Jordan River at flood stage. Then we see “The Prerequisites of Faith.” Before the people of Israel invaded Canaan, they were commanded to circumcise every male among them to dedicate themselves and set themselves apart from the Canaanites as God’s people. God also gives us a “Prescription for Faith,” sending us on a mission into His Promised Land.

God still commissions us with His plans for our lives. Sometimes, His commission for our lives will test our faith as His battle plan for Jericho tested the faith of Joshua. If you know God well enough, you know that His commission will not take you where His grace cannot keep you. If you know God is leading you to do something, do it. His plan is always the right plan, even when it doesn’t make sense at first. The book of Joshua teaches us that faith is practical. When faith walks, it works, and when faith works, it wins the battles of life.



1. **True** or false? The people of Israel followed Joshua just as they did Moses.
2. True or **false**? When we have faith, there are no more mysteries. God helps us clearly understand everything He does.
3. **True** or false? Moses' relationship with Joshua is a good example of how to transfer leadership.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one answer for each question.

4. Why was Rahab saved when Jericho was destroyed?
 - a. Because she lied to protect the Jews
 - b. Because she had faith**
 - c. She escaped because she knew the Israelites were coming
 - d. Because she was a very moral person
5. What did God tell Joshua? (choose all that apply)
 - a. To be strong**
 - b. To wait several more years to enter the Promised Land
 - c. To remind the people of God's laws**
 - d. To obey God's laws**
 - e. To be courageous**
 - f. To depend on Israel's military skills
6. What is the relationship between obedience and faith?
 - a. They have nothing to do with each other.
 - b. Obedience is more important than faith.
 - c. Only faith is important. Obedience does not matter.
 - d. True faith results in obedience.**

7. Why did the Israelites build a monument where they crossed the Jordan River?
- a. **To remember the miracle and to teach their children and grandchildren about it**
 - b. To worship the Canaanites' god of the river
 - c. So they would know where to cross back when the Canaanites defeated them
 - d. To use it as a watchtower
8. What lesson does the circumcision of Israel's men teach us?
- a. That men cannot worship God unless they are circumcised
 - b. **That we must make a clean break with sin and be fully dedicated to God**
 - c. That God thinks rituals are very important
 - d. That God's people must be punished before they can receive His blessing
9. Which of the following is a lesson from Joshua's commission?
- a. Subjective experience is always wrong.
 - b. No one is truly called by God until he sees God in a vision.
 - c. **Many great people of faith had a subjective experience in which they encountered God.**
 - d. Do not walk outside of the camp after dark.
10. How did the battle plan for defeating Jericho seem?
- a. Perfectly reasonable
 - b. Ingenious
 - c. Very difficult
 - d. **Ridiculous**
11. Why did Joshua follow God's strange plan?
- a. Because he was not a very good military strategist
 - b. Because he had no other options
 - c. Because he thought it was a brilliant plan
 - d. **Because God told him to**
12. What made the walls of Jericho fall?
- a. **Faith**
 - b. The ground shaking from all those people walking around it
 - c. The noise of several million people shouting
 - d. Boulders catapulted from far away
13. What is the biblical pattern for learning the truth?
- a. Study until we are convinced of truth.
 - b. **First obey by faith, and then we will know truth.**
 - c. Know truth first, and then do it.
 - d. Be skeptical until it is proven.

14. Joshua teaches us the Practice of Faith. (Put them in order)

- a. Faith that wins **(3)** 1. _____
- b. Faith that walks **(1)** 2. _____
- c. Faith that works **(2)** 3. _____



Is it easy or difficult for you to act in faith? How often are you able to act according to what you believe rather than what you see?



God honors courageous faith. Ask Him to give you guidance and help in taking a bold step of faith for Him.



Going Deeper

1. Why did God give Joshua a ridiculous military strategy for his first battle as the new leader of Israel, and why did Joshua follow that strategy to the letter? _____

2. Explain how this expression, “The faith that walks is the faith that works and the faith that works is the faith that wins,” works out in your own life as you personally apply this teaching on the book of Joshua. _____

3. What does this book teach about the relationship between faith and obedience and how we are to apply that emphasis in our own personal life? _____

4. Why were these people instructed to erect a pillar of stones when they miraculously crossed the Jordan River, and what is the personal application in this for you and me? _____

5. What is the application for us concerning what circumcision meant to the people of God, and why was it a prerequisite required by God? _____

6. Why did God rebuke Joshua for his prayer (Joshua 7:10), and how do we apply the lessons learned at the two battles of Ai? _____

7. What is the personal application to the sin and punishment of Achan? _____

