

## Joshua 6

How to live a victorious life as a believer--abundant Christian life—strategy for defeating the enemy who comes in form of world enticements w/ earthly indulgences . Flesh-w/ its passions to bring us into bondage again. Devil-*prince power air* to deceive & draw us away from Christ.

God promises an abundant life, one full of joy & all good things God offers thru a relationship & full commitment to Jesus Christ. As **Ark** led Israel into promise land & leads in victory over Jericho w/ all eyes on it.

Our eyes are to be fixed on Jesus in good days & bad when facing our Jericho's. Before the battle Joshua meets Captain of host of LORD- revelation of Christ incarnate or **Christophany** –Joshua fell in worship & joined Him. A good leader is one willing to be led--in authority must be under authority.

*1 Now Jericho was tightly shut because of the sons of Israel; no one went out and no one came in. 2 And the LORD said to Joshua, "See, I have given Jericho into your hand, with its king and the valiant warriors. 3 "And 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 "And 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."*

Once saved it's surprising to find obstacles in our way—our Jericho's to conquer. **As a young believer I'd hear testimonies of overcoming difficult situations and thought now that I know I won't have to go thru it God will air lift me over.** Not happen-trial and testing is given by God to mature us & endure us—can't avoid them.

Each of us has their Jericho's—**not all the same**—may be a struggle **w/in**—prone to discouragement, depression, lust, temper, alcohol/drugs, envy, greed—that place of **weakness** always haunting you, ever looming-seeking to snare & bring you into bondage—Joshua needed the people to be alert, watchful, on guard---same w/ us, not just know the enemy but to do battle.

Your Jericho's may be **outside** of your control w/ family issues, job related, friends, career obligations that keep you in a state of constant frenzy—no time for Jesus—*"I'm tired of my Jerichos, I give up, I quit!"*---But you can't, you won't, **too much at stake**—any dead fish can float down stream it takes a live fish to swim upstream.

Jericho looks imposible to gain victory, oldest city in world—outer wall 6' thick, 20' high-inner wall 12' thick 30' high, between walls 15' wide w/ houses (low rent area-first to be conquered)

*6 So Joshua the son of Nun called the priests and said to them, "Take up the ark of the covenant, and let seven priests carry seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the LORD." 7 Then he said to the people, "Go forward, and march around the city, and let the armed men go on before the ark of the LORD." 8 And it was so, that when Joshua had spoken to the people, the seven priests carrying the seven trumpets of rams' horns before the LORD went forward and blew the trumpets; and the ark of the covenant of the LORD followed them. 9 And the armed men went before the priests who blew the trumpets, and the rear guard came after the ark, while they continued to blow the trumpets. 10 But Joshua commanded the people, saying, "You shall not shout **nor let your voice be heard**, nor let a word proceed out of your mouth, until the day I tell you, 'Shout!' Then you shall shout!" 11 So he had the ark of the LORD taken around the city, circling it once; then they came into the camp and spent the night in the camp.*

Silent marching w/ trumpets blowing **'God uses the foolish things of this world to confound the wise and the weak things to shame the strong. 1Cor 1:27** We don't want to be seen as foolish or weak **but** smart & strong—it's why we are fascinated w/ **mirrors**, addicted to them, how do I look. Our ego often gets in the way of God's plans for us.

Our desire for God must be stronger than our desire for what people think about us. Pride gets in the way of humility... ***Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time; 1Pet 5:6***

***12 Now Joshua rose early in the morning, and the priests took up the ark of the LORD. 13 And the seven priests carrying the seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the LORD went on continually, and blew the trumpets; and the armed men went before them, and the rear guard came after the ark of the LORD, while they continued to blow the trumpets. 14 Thus the second day they marched around the city once and returned to the camp; they did so for six days. 15 Then it came about on the seventh day that they rose early at the dawning of the day and marched around the city in the same manner seven times; only on that day they marched around the city seven times.***

Enemy on wall realize it's not a frontal assault, **no** catapults bombarding the city- **no** brave warriors scaling the walls—**no** mighty men on siege towers climbing over wall--**no** battering rams w/ brave souls to break down walls--it looks like to those on the wall that they have no plan.

The enemy's fears turn to relief & confidence—maybe mocking the **merry-go-round** **marchers**, shouting insults, **taunting & shaming**—cat got tongue, you walk funny, getting **dizzy** walking in circles, look like trail of **ants** hunting for honey pot.

We don't like people to make fun of us, laugh to each other about us, ridiculing our relationship w/ God. I did that-**Me at surf shop**

But even in this God is working, getting rid of our ego, pride, reputation that gets in the way & lifts us up instead of Him. **Pr 6** Seven things on God hate parade ***haughty eyes, proud look:17.***

Probably a nervous mocking because of reputation—nothing happens for seven days—then seventh day something different--seven times around, trumpets blowing, shouts, walls fall. How? ***Heb 11:30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they had been encircled for seven days.—***

13 times around w/o explanation—tested by doing nothing--w/o knowing why. No details, no telling how many more days or times around the wall or what is the strategy.

How are we going to take the city if we don't have a plan—to know the details of how God is going to conquer our Jericho's is not faith & faith must be tested to be trusted.

*“In silence”* we are prone to complain about our situation, grumble like first generation, their march of no faith turned into funeral march. True faith bears up w/o complaint-silently endures—*‘Not angry, not ask why’*

How does faith work? Doesn't focus attention on the walls or the enemy on wall—Not comparing resources. Victory comes when we recognize God is bigger than our enemy His presence is close at hand, *Ps 145:18 The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, To all who call upon Him in truth.* “—Ark leading the procession is mentioned 11 times in chapter 6

*16 And it came about at the seventh time, when the priests blew the trumpets, Joshua said to the people, “Shout! For the LORD has given you the city. 17 “And the city shall be under the ban, it and all that is in it belongs to the LORD; only Rahab the harlot and all who are with her in the house shall live, because she hid the messengers whom we sent. 18 “But as for you, only keep yourselves from the things under the ban, lest you covet them and take some of the things under the ban, so you would make the camp of Israel accursed and bring trouble on it. 19 “But all the silver and gold and articles of bronze and iron are holy to the LORD; they shall go into the treasury of the LORD.” 20 So the people shouted, and priests blew the trumpets; and it came about, when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, that the people shouted with a great shout and the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight ahead, and they took the city. 21 And they utterly destroyed everything in the city, both man and woman, young and old, and ox and sheep and donkey, with the edge of the sword.*

Why this strategy? 1-test obedience--faith w/o understanding 2-humble selves before might hand of God-mockers break down pride 3-Recognize impossibility of situation to conquer on own. 4-Uselessness of self effort & absolute dependence on God to bring victory.

We march around our Jericho's & they seem to get bigger & bigger & we seem smaller and smaller—we are helpless & it is hopeless to conquer. In these times **We decrease but He increases**. We come to a place of absolute trust in the Lord, dependant upon Him completely--so when victory comes we shout **'glory to God great things He has done'** No credit or praise to ourselves. **Chuck left ½ billion in assests to Jr 'Look what God has done'**.

Redpath 'God expects nothing more from us than failure, yet we spend years trying to make ourselves something other than a failure'

When strong in me I'm weak in He...weak in me strong in He....**HE>i**

Hard to be silent we want to tell others, hoping they have solutions, give clues to why this is happening or how long do you think it will last... never-ending **talk** is a sign of lack of **trust**. ***Ps 65:1 There will be silence before Thee, and praise in Zion, O God; And to Thee the vow will be performed.*** ...We talk about our Jericho, our difficulty hoping we can solving it by ourselves or w/ help of others, counselors—we're depending upon man instead of God. Maybe they can help get us thru our trial. ***Job 13:15 "Though He slay me, I will hope in Him.***

Our Jericho will be weight or wing--stepping stone or stumbling stone--The problem w/ Jericho's is we try **new** strategies to bring the walls down, **new** methods instead of God making **new** men, new women.

The right vision for victory is making a new version of me. We need to go from our walking & talking to our kneeling in praying—it is where the power lies and the enemy trembles ***Ps 62:1-2 1 My soul waits in silence for God only; From Him is my salvation. 2He only is my rock and my salvation, My stronghold; I shall not be greatly shaken.***

*22 And Joshua said to the two men who had spied out the land, “Go into the harlot’s house and bring the woman and all she has out of there, as you have sworn to her.” 23 So the young men who were spies went in and brought out Rahab and her father and her mother and her brothers and all she had; they also brought out all her relatives, and placed them outside the camp of Israel. 24 And they burned the city with fire, and all that was in it. Only the silver and gold and articles of bronze and iron, they put into the treasury of the house of the LORD. 25 However, Rahab the harlot and her father’s household and all she had, Joshua spared; and she has lived in the midst of Israel to this day, for she hid the messengers whom Joshua sent to spy out Jericho.*

I’ve always wondered if one of the spy was Salmon who is in genealogy of Christ. ***Matt 1:5 to Salmon was born Boaz by Rahab....***Rahab is the great, great great grandmother of David—she is in Royal line of Christ.

*26 Then Joshua made them take an oath at that time, saying, “Cursed before the LORD is the man who rises up and builds this city Jericho; with the loss of his first-born he shall lay its foundation, and with the loss of his youngest son he shall set up its gates.” 27 So the LORD was with Joshua, and his fame was in all the land.*

About 550 years later **1Kings 16:34** amazing prophecy fulfilled—city under ban, all into Lords treasury, or Jericho in totality was Lords first fruits of rest of the cities to be conquered.

Ch 7 cause and cure for defeat