



13 | JOSHUA 11:10-23; 12:1-23

LIVING BY FAITH IN THE LAND

Faith is what characterizes the true believer.

Outline

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Call to Worship

Oh, magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together!
4 I sought the Lord, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears. —Psalm 34:3-4

Songs

Better is One Day
Lord, I Need You
Good, Good Father
Nearer, Still Nearer
Give Me Jesus

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME: We are glad you are here! Be sure to grab a Welcome Packet from the Welcome Center if you are visiting with us. So good to have Jim and Lydia Johnson with us from Brazil.

LIGHTS: We now have lights in our parking lot. Thanks to Gavin Barclay and the deacons for making this happen so we can get to our cars safely when we are here at night, esp Wednesdays.

GIVING: You can still give over Zelle through your bank with no fees.

Use secretary@livinghopechurch.net.

We also have a collection box on the Welcome Center

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Children's Church is available for ages 2-6 at the start of the sermon

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Starting next week, Oct 18, Jerry Soen will be teaching a class for men only and Pastor Mike will continue his class on Creation, Man, and Sin

MIDWEEK SERVICE: Midweek service is NOT this week, but next week.

LIFE GROUPS: Life Groups are beginning back up! If you need a group check with one of the pastors or elders and we will get you connected. There will be no Midweek service on Life Group weeks. Check with your Life Group leader to confirm meeting dates and locations. All meet on Wednesdays at 7pm.

Leader: Matt Black; Host: Cerrillos, Elgin

Leader: Mike Klikas, online

Leaders: Marcel Reid/Jerry Soen; Host: Andrews, Carol Stream

Leader: Mike Tiberi; Host: Poldermans, Bartlett

MEN'S BREAKFAST: Calling all men and boys! Come join us for our Men's Breakfast Saturday, Oct 17 at 8am for some food, fellowship and the Word. Please bring a breakfast item to share.

CARING NETWORK GALA: Join us for the Caring Network Gala from your own home on Thursday, October 22, 7:00-8:30 PM for an update on their ministry, how you can get involved, and to hear from guest speaker Dr. David Jeremiah. If you would like more info on how to get access to this event, please contact Wendy Jones at Allhisglory6@yahoo.com.

Introduction

We continue in a series in the book of Joshua called "Footsteps of Faith." Our title this morning is: "Living in the Land by Faith".

Key thought: When we live by faith, we will magnify God, live in peace, and celebrate victory after victory.

In Joshua 11, we read of the conquest of northern Canaan, and in chapter 12 a record of a complete conquest of Canaan, their new home, the Promised Land of Israel.

The point of the land of Israel is not merely a piece of real estate, but that God would make his abode there and live there. His eventual home is on top of Mount Moriah in Jerusalem, where the Temple Mount is today.

You will bring them in and plant them on your own mountain, the place, O LORD, which you have made for your abode, the sanctuary, O Lord, which your hands have established. –Exodus 15:17

The point of God bringing them into the land was to abide with them. So understand, the main point of the inheritance for Israel and for us is not the land. The land is the

wrapping paper. The gift is God's presence. We see this in the Abrahamic covenant in Genesis 17.

And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. –Genesis 17:7

With that in mind, let's remember that we are on the same journey as Joshua and the children of Israel. Our enemy is different, but our inheritance is the same. And the pathway to claim that inheritance is the same: faith.

You must have faith to follow God in your battles, and you are guaranteed victory. God will fight for you. You will see his mighty hand. You will continually experience his manifest presence, his Shekinah glory. This is what God promised to Abraham and to Joshua and to us.

Shekinah means God's presence will manifest by "dwelling" or "settling" with us.

That's his promise. How do you get it? Well if you are a Christian, you have it. You are God's Temple. His Shekinah glory dwells in you. That's his promise: to dwell in his Temple, which is his people. It's not just a mountain in Israel. Mount Moriah in Jerusalem where the Temple Mount is built is not the permanent dwelling place of God. You are his permanent dwelling place.

So you say: how do I experience this incredible presence? That's what we are talking about today. God wants you to experience the fruit of his presence, which is the fruit of the Spirit. Are you experiencing and manifesting his glory today through peace, love and joy?

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. –Romans 14:17

You see? We don't just get the land, we get more than the land. We get the Kingdom. We get God himself, ruling and reigning in us. How? By faith. We live by faith in the land. I want to teach you how to live by faith this morning. Someone defined faith this way:

Faith is trusting God by the work of Christ knowing the outcome is in his control for your good and his glory.

First, biblical faith is a victorious faith. If you live that way, you will win every single time.

1. A VICTORIOUS FAITH (11:10-15)

Peace! Oh that the Christian might live with peace in his or her heart at all times. This is what victory looks like.

PEACE REIGNED IN JOSHUA'S VICTORY (11:10-15)

In order to have peace, there had to be a total destruction of the tribes of Northern Canaan. They destroyed the Anakim, except for those in the area of Gaza (vs 21-22). Remember that's where Goliath comes later. There has to be a total victory. These later became the kingdom of the Philistines. The emphasis here is total victory. That's what all God's people must expect and attain.

Joshua 11:10-15 | And Joshua turned back at that time and captured Hazor and struck its king with the sword, for Hazor formerly was the head of all those kingdoms. ¹¹ And they struck with the sword all who were in it, **devoting them to destruction; there was none left that breathed.** And he burned Hazor with fire. ¹² And all the cities of those kings, and all their kings, Joshua captured, and struck them with the edge of the sword, devoting them to destruction, just as Moses the servant of the Lord had commanded. ¹³ But none of the cities that stood on mounds did Israel burn, except Hazor alone; that Joshua burned. ¹⁴ And all the spoil of these cities and the livestock, the people of Israel took for their plunder. But every person they struck with the edge of the sword until they had destroyed them, and they did not leave any who breathed. ¹⁵ Just as the Lord had commanded Moses his servant, so Moses commanded Joshua, and so Joshua did. **He left nothing undone of all that the Lord had commanded Moses.**

The commands in question are those in the Pentateuch that call Israel to utterly destroy the Canaanites (cf Num 27:18–23; Deut 3:21–22; 31:7–8, 23). Why destroy the Canaanites? Isn't that cruel? Listen to one commentator, Bible scholar Ralph Davis.

Obedience for Israel meant decimating and/or expelling the native population of Canaan (11:10–12, 14b). Naturally, we regard such commands as unnecessarily vicious, because we do not comprehend the contagious spiritual cancer that was throughout Canaan. We arrogantly pride ourselves on being kinder than God, but we only prove that we haven't a clue about what holiness is. ¹ —Dr. Ralph Davis, Reformed Theological Seminary

PEACE IN THE CHRISTIAN'S VICTORY

Victory came for Joshua and Israel because of obedience to God. Joshua “left nothing undone of all that the Lord had commanded Moses” (11:15). Don't miss that. That sounds bland and nonthreatening enough, and commonplace. We are not called to trust our own hearts or our own judgment, but the Word of God alone.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. ⁶ In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. —Proverbs 3:5-6

Joshua had victory because of obedience. That means we are worshipping God both with our thoughts, our emotions, our words, and our actions. Every part of us is engaged in worship. There is no place for idolatry. Nothing can be magnified as greater than the pleasure and peace we get from Jesus. That's what Joshua was walking in.

The only reason we don't have total victory is that we refuse to obey God and take him at his Word.

¹ Davis. *Joshua*, 92–93.

Fussing, frustration and fear fill the hearts of Christians. And then that's too much, so you swing over to apathy and foolishness. Some of you are feeling low level anxiety and guilt. This indicates the need for surrender. Your flesh is holding onto something. These fleshly emotions indicate a lack of victory because of obedience.

What have you not surrendered? Where are you not taking God at his Word? Where are you not enjoying the Shekinah presence of God abiding and dwelling in you?

What does total victory look like for the Christian? It looks like peace and fellowship. This is worship. When we say "total victory" we are talking about 100% worship. Every day we are casting our crowns before the Lord. Every day we are like the 144,000 who go into all the earth and evangelize. We are worshippers. We are walkers in the Word. We are robed in the white robes of the righteousness of the saints: Jesus' perfections. We have hearts filled with the Holy Spirit. We are walking in victory!

So, faith that enjoys the presence of God is a victorious faith. The victory comes from a total obedience and surrender to God. The indicators of obedience are the fruit of the Spirit.

2. A PERSEVERING FAITH (11:16-20)

True biblical, robust faith is not only victorious, it's also persevering. It never, never, never, never gives up because God's mercy never, never, never gives up on us. You fall down, then you get up again. You've got to be looking into the eyes of your heavenly Father who is good and expect a good outcome for your good and his glory, no matter how long it takes.

Joshua did this. He made war a long time, probably five to seven years if we do the math. The next few verses are very brief, but they represent a long, long time. Waiting on God is no problem if you know there is a good outcome.

PERSEVERE IN GOD'S TIMING

Joshua 11:16-18 | So Joshua took all that land, the hill country and all the Negeb and all the land of Goshen and the lowland and the Arabah and the hill country of Israel and its lowland ¹⁷from Mount Halak, which rises toward Seir, as far as Baal-gad in the Valley of Lebanon below Mount Hermon. And he captured all their kings and struck them and put them to death. ¹⁸**Joshua made war a long time** with all those kings.

Joshua made war a long time because he took God at his Word. You see we often start off good in the Christian life, we are taking God at his Word, but then the pain increases, the trials mount, and we forget God's goodness. No, robust faith is always persevering, remembering that God has a good outcome (Rom 8:28-30).

For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor. No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly. –
Psalm 84:11

It's not that we forget the Bible. We know it. But we refuse to walk in it because of unbelief, which is rooted in a suspicion of God. Is he really good? If you have that attitude you will not persevere. You will give into fear and frustration and despair instead of taking God at his Word.

But if you know God is good, you will persevere. You will not be a forgetful hearer but a doer. We can persevere in God's timing, because we know he has a good outcome!

Be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. ²⁴ For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. – James 1:22-23

PERSEVERE IN GOD'S MERCY

Now one thing that is powerful about faith is that it always comes from a tender, humble, childlike heart. God resists the proud and gives grace to the humble. So even though Joshua and Israel are just one nation, untrained in war, they are going to devastate the Canaanites in the north, just as they did in the south. Why? Because the Canaanites hearts are hard. You see our strength comes from trusting God in his mercy. Tender hearts bring powerful victories.

This is where we read about some very chilling verses about the hardening of the Canaanites hearts. These Canaanites heard of the great miracles from Israel, but they **refused to surrender their lives to the Lord**. Anytime you refuse to surrender to the Lord with a tender heart, you lose. So the Lord defeated the Canaanites through giving them what they wanted. They hardened their hearts, so the Lord let them remain in their hardness of heart.

Joshua 11:19-20 | There was not a city that made peace with the people of Israel except the Hivites, the inhabitants of Gibeon. They took them all in battle. ²⁰ For **it was the Lord's doing to harden their hearts** that they should come against Israel in battle, in order that they should be devoted to destruction and should receive no mercy but be destroyed, just as the Lord commanded Moses.

How do we explain God hardening people's hearts? Let's understand God is merciful, Amen?

The Lord is... is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. –2 Peter 3:9

So why does God harden some people's hearts? That's a good question! We find in the book of Genesis that Pharaoh hardened his heart 7 times, and God hardened his heart 3 times. When God hardens hearts, it is that he withdraws his common grace. We never want that to happen. But his mercy is always there for anyone who wants to come to him. He says:

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. —Matthew 11:28

The Bible teaches that all human beings know God, but they suppress the truth in unrighteousness (Rom 1:18ff). Hardening then is God taking away his restraints and allowing them to do as they please.

As the Holy Spirit says, ‘Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts’ (Hebrews 3:7-8).

Remember God is not tempted to do evil, neither does he tempt any one of us (Jas 1:13). The only thing that holds sinners back from the Lord is their own stubborn wills. If they persist in turning against the Lord, **God will harden their hearts.**

There comes a place of rejection for some, where their hearts are so hardened that God does not grant them repentance because they cut off their only way that have to God: faith. They refuse to believe.

If you have any conviction right now, any pangs of heart, then your heart is not hardened. But if you have been resisting Christ, come to him immediately. Stop hardening your heart, or there may come a time when God may judicially leave you where you are.

God wants us to have a tender heart.

3. A MAGNIFICENT FAITH (11:21-23)

When we talk about a magnificent faith, I’m talking about a faith that magnifies the Lord’s greatness.

MAGNIFY THE LORD’S GREATNESS (11:21-22)

Track with me here saints. God should be magnified over any of our fears. How great is our God compared to any giant, any army of giants? And that’s what we have here: an army of giants: the Anakim.

Joshua 11:21-22 | And Joshua came at that time and cut off the **Anakim** from the hill country, from Hebron, from Debir, from Anab, and from all the hill country of Judah, and from all the hill country of Israel. Joshua devoted them to destruction with their cities.²² **There was none of the Anakim left in the land of the people of Israel.** Only in Gaza, in Gath, and in Ashdod did some remain.

How great is he compared to an innumerable army of Canaanites with chariots and horseman? And how small is our greatest enemies compared to our great God? Our trials, our sin, our greatest fears, our greatest hurts and frustrations disappear when we magnify the greatness of our God.

Oh, magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together!
4 I sought the Lord, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears. —Psalm 34:3-4

Dear saints, we have *nothing to fear*. God is greater than anything you might try to magnify. Remember, these Canaanites had **tens of thousands of chariots and horsemen**. It was an impossible victory. But all the Christian life is impossible victory after impossible victory. Do you think God would do things that were explainable? Is there anything too hard for the Lord?

Remember when the people of Israel were so afraid of the giants in the land in Numbers 13? They were afraid of the giants in the land, the Anakim. What a joy to read that Joshua and Caleb were not afraid of the giants back in Numbers. Well, they get their chance to finally destroy the Anakim. No matter how you magnify your trial or your enemy, God is greater! The Anakim were an army of Goliaths. God took them down.

Remember what God promised Israel:

“Do not be afraid of them, for tomorrow at this time I will give over all of them, slain, to Israel.” –Joshua 11:6

What do we have to be afraid of?

Greater is he who is in you than he who is in the world. –1 John 4:4

What do we have to be afraid of? In Christ we should fear nothing. Anything in this life is infinitely small compared to the greatness of God.

God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.
–2 Timothy 1:7

A Foreshadowing of Christian Victory

This kind of victory over the Canaanites is a foreshadowing of the Christian’s victory. It’s guaranteed. Think of the promises we have! The Christian is “set free from the law of sin and death.”

The law of the life-giving Spirit in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death. –Romans 8:2

No giant of sin can dominate you.

We are more than conquerors through him who loved us. –Romans 8:37

Sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. –Romans 6:14

Israel’s greatest battle was never against the Canaanites, it was against sin. That’s why they erected a Tabernacle. That’s why they offered sacrifices.

Our great God has done something greater than defeating all of Canaan. He’s defeated sin and death. He sent the King of kings and Lord of lords, and can I say, Jesus got us the victory. Just as he gave Joshua the victory, he’s given us the victory! Is there anyone greater than the Lord? Who could destroy sin and death? Who will open the Scroll of Redemption and save us? **Weep not!** We have a conqueror! We have a King! His name is Jesus. He gives us the victory!

So Joshua magnified the Lord's greatness and took out the Anakim and all the 300,000 soldiers, 100 thousand horsemen, and 20,000 chariots (according to Josephus) of the armies of northern Canaan.² So we see we need to magnify the Lord's greatness. Is there anything too hard for the Lord? No! But also let's magnify his goodness.

MAGNIFY THE LORD'S GOODNESS (11:23)

Joshua magnified the Lord's goodness, and oh, how good is our God! He gave Joshua the whole land.

Joshua 11:23 | So Joshua took the whole land, according to all that the Lord had spoken to Moses. And Joshua gave it for an inheritance to Israel according to their tribal allotments. And the land had rest from war.

Look at what he gave Joshua. The whole land. Rest from war. Let's magnify the Lord. He's greater than any sin problem you have. He wants to take that from you if you will surrender to him. Oh the rest he wants to give you!

What is our Inheritance?

God wants you to have the fullness of his inheritance, which is not the land of Israel, but Jesus himself. Oh, we will get the land.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. –Matthew 5:5
The promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world... came through the righteousness of faith. –Romans 4:13

With Abraham, we will inherit the earth and the entire cosmos. We are heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ (Rom 8:17).

Ultimately God himself is our inheritance!

And you shall be my people, and I will be your God." –Jeremiah 30:22

What is our Rest?

What is this rest? Their rest was not mainly getting the land, but having God as their God. We get a commentary on this from the author of Hebrews.

For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on. ⁹So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, ¹⁰for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his. –Hebrews 4:8-10

God wants us to live in the rest and comfort of the fruit of the Spirit at all times. He wants us to experience close communion and worship in him all day long, day and night. **We rest in Jesus (Mt 11:28).**

² James Montgomery Boice, *Joshua* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2005), 87–88.

We have the rest of joy unspeakable and full of glory. We have the rest of perfect peace because of the blood of Christ who settled our sin debt with his own blood. Rest! Glorious rest! Only through faith, surrender – total trust in Jesus.

4. A CELEBRATORY FAITH (12:1-23)

Now look at the blessings that Joshua received because he and all Israel took God at his Word! We are not going to read it, but we have a list of all the conquered kings and kingdoms conquered by Moses and Joshua.

Joshua closes the conquering of the land of Canaan, with a kind of celebration. Chapter 12 gives us a glorious celebration. Verses 1–6 speak of the conquest and settlement of the land east of the Jordan, which had happened under Moses, while verses 7–24 list the thirty-one kings that fell to Joshua from Jericho onward.

Each king and kingdom represent the removal of an impossibly strong opponent by the hand of the living God and his limitless, sovereign power.

So let us celebrate this morning. To God be the glory. We have every spiritual blessing in Christ (Eph 1:3). We have the fullness of God dwelling in us in the Holy Spirit (Eph 1:23; 3:19). We have the riches of his presence. We have power to live in the pure peace and love and righteousness in the Spirit. We no longer have to fuss and worry and despair.

If you are fussing and fearing, you are not taking God at his Word.

As a Christian, you never have to live in the bondage of fearing and fussing. Instead you need to rest on his Word. There's nothing to fear. God is greater than anything you are facing. You never need to fuss and be bitter or angry. God is in control.

You have an inheritance that is greater than all of northern and southern Canaan! Rejoice that you have the kingdom. It's not a physical kingdom like Canaan.

For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. –Romans 14:17

What is left for the Christian is to lament this wicked world. We weep with those who weep. We come alongside the sufferers, but we never lose hope.

We are still in a battle till we see Jesus, but the enemy is defeated. We don't ever have to worry or fear or fuss. That is not what we do. **Fearing and fussing are indicators that you are not taking God at his Word.**

Conclusion

Whatever is in front of you, take God at his Word. When you see an impossible situation, count it all joy. Rejoice because you are going to do exploits as your your great God fights for you. Look at all those kings listed. They had no chance. And no sin has a change in your heart when the Spirit and the Word are reigning. Do fear. Don't fuss. Wal in the Word through worship and celebrate! Insist on living out the Word of God by faith. We are in the Promised Land, Christ is our inheritance. We are united to him, and he to us.

Our great God and Savior Jesus Christ has rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to his eternal kingdom (Col 1:13).³ We are in the Promised Land! To him be the glory forever and ever!

³ David Jackman, *Joshua: People of God's Purpose*, ed. R. Kent Hughes, Preaching the Word (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2014), 134.