



# 10 | JOSHUA 9

## DOUBLE CROSSED

*Human Logic is Not Enough to Make Godly Decisions*

### Outline

*Introducing the Gibeonites*

*Spiritual Warfare*

1. **THE CRAFTINESS OF THE ENEMY (9:3-13)**

The Gibeonites' Attack

The Flesh's Attack

*The Spirit's Guidance*

2. **THE POWER OF PRAYER (9:14-16)**

Take Time to Pray

Consult the Word of God

Be Sure to Obey

3. **THE REDEMPTION OF FAILURE (9:17-27)**

God Blessed the Gibeonites

God Blessed Joshua

God Blesses Us

*Always Be Ready for Satanic Attack*

*Seek the Mind of God Continually*

*Persevere to the End*

### Call to Worship

I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever. <sup>2</sup> Every day I will praise you and extol your name for ever and ever. <sup>3</sup> Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom. <sup>10</sup> All your works praise you, LORD; your faithful people extol you. <sup>21</sup> My mouth will speak in praise of the LORD. Let every creature praise his holy name for ever and ever. Psalm 145:1-3, 10, 21

### Songs

*Behold Our God*

*How Firm a Foundation*

*Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*

*Give Me Jesus*

*Christ the Sure and Steady Anchor*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**WELCOME:** Welcome visitors

**GIVING:** You can still give over Zelle through your bank with no fees (use secretary@livinghope.net). We also have a collection box on the Welcome Center.

**MEN'S RETREAT:** October 2-3. Friday, Oct 2, 4pm Check-in. Saturday, Oct 3, 7pm dismissal. In Lake Geneva. Cost is \$83.50 per man or boy and includes lodging, two dinners, a breakfast, a lunch, and snacks throughout. Sign up at the Welcome Center. Pastor Mike will also send out an online sign up.

## Introduction

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

**Key thought: Common sense is not enough for wise living. The flesh will always deceive you and lead you astray. Seek the Lord in his Word and by his Spirit if you want to live the abundant life.**

Today we are going to learn that mere Bible knowledge is not enough. We need to know God personally. We cannot just function on principles. Don't get me wrong. We need Biblical principles. Without solid theology you will certainly fail. But mere knowledge puffs up. Love edifies. Saul of Tarsus had an incredible knowledge of the Bible, but without the living God active in his life, that superficial knowledge was twisted and led him to kill Christians.

In other words, we need a heart that is constantly seeking God himself, through the Word if we are going to make godly choices in life. Knowing God makes you humble, content, at rest, and filled with love and hope. I want that. Paul calls this mindset for the New Testament Christian: "walking in the Spirit". John calls it "walking in the light". That's what we want. Are you making godly choices in your life? Media, friendships, family, marriage? Are you still falling into the same wrong choices? How can you and I change today? We are going to learn how to walk with wisdom.

Our lesson comes from the story of how Israel was deceived by a group of Canaanites from Gibeon. Israel failed to seek the Lord for wisdom. We don't have to make the same mistake.

### *Introducing the Gibeonites*

These two verses describe how the natives of Canaan, alarmed by the news of Israel's victories, banded together to fight the Israelites.

**Joshua 9:1-2** | As soon as all the kings who were beyond the Jordan in the hill country and in the lowland all along the coast of the Great Sea toward Lebanon, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, heard of this, <sup>2</sup>they gathered together as one to fight against Joshua and Israel" (9:1-2).

One group of Canaanites did not join this confederacy—the **Gibeonites**. Convinced that Israel could not be defeated, these people decided to try a strategy which proved to be effective in deceiving Israel and in securing survival for themselves. Israel was forbidden from making covenants with close neighbors. The law of God was that Israel had to destroy their close neighbors, and the Gibeonites were a **mere 25 miles away**. Now Israel was allowed to make treaties outside the borders of the Promised Land. So the Gibeonites had an ingenious plan. We can't blame them. We all might have done the same thing.

### *Spiritual Warfare*

God's people should have known better. Remember from the beginning, the serpent was "crafty" more than any of the other creatures in Eden. That serpent beguiled Eve and is ready to beguile every one of us.

After an experience of great blessing, God's people should have been especially prepared to confront the enemy. But Israel's greatest enemy wasn't the confederation of the armies of Canaan. It was a group of men from Gibeon who were about to enter the camp and deceive Joshua and the princes of Israel.

Satan sometimes comes as a **devouring lion** (1 Pet 5:8), sometimes as a **deceiving serpent** (2 Cor 11:3), and sometimes as an **angel of light**. We must be alert and protected by the spiritual armor God has provided for us (Eph 6:10–18).<sup>1</sup>

How well do you know the enemy of your soul? The Bible says we are not to be ignorant of Satan's devices (2 Cor 2:11). He has a bag of tricks that he has found to be extremely effective in tripping God's people up. If we are aware of how he operates we can avoid being caught off guard when he comes against us with these tricks.

I think the attack we are usually waiting for is the direct attack. Where Satan comes charging at us like a roaring lion, teeth bared, blood on his mind. It happens. But we need to remember that he also loves to show up as a slithering serpent. I think this is a far more effective tactic. Because while a direct attack causes us to brace ourselves for impact, when he comes incognito as "an angel of light" we are lulled into complacency and then set up for a sucker-punch.

We see this in action in the Old Testament book of Joshua. Moses had died. Joshua was leading God's people into the Promised Land. Army after army came against them in battle and each time in the end God's people came out victorious. But then they were bested by the men from Gibeon. This defeat didn't take place on the battlefield. There was no actual battle. The Gibeonites won by taking off their weapons, putting on raggedy clothes and carrying dry and moldy bread. We see three very powerful things in this passage. This morning, we're going to talk about the power of the **enemy**, the power of **prayer**, and the power of **redemption**.

---

<sup>1</sup> Warren W. Wiersbe, *Be Strong*, "Be" Commentary Series (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 107.

---

## 1. THE POWER OF THE ENEMY (9:3-13)

---

Truth: You must never try to outsmart the enemy. You are not smarter than Satan and his demons. If you are to live in victory over sin, you must live in close fellowship with the Lord. Without fellowship, you will be deceived every time. We see this in Joshua 9.

Gibeon was located only twenty-five miles from the camp of Israel at Gilgal and was on Joshua's list to be destroyed. Gibeon was part of a seven-nation coalition, but they pulled out of it because they believed it was a losing cause. They knew they could never beat the God of Israel. So, **if you can't beat 'em, join 'em!** So the Gibeonites deceived Joshua. Despite the fact that God had instructed them to take out all the inhabitants of the land of Canaan, **Joshua signed the peace treaty promising not to fight with the Gibeonites.**

The problem is, Israel could not make covenants with the people inside the boundaries of the Promised Land. In Deuteronomy 20:10–20, God's law stated that Israel must destroy all the cities in Canaan. If after the Conquest Israel was involved in other wars, they could offer **peace to cities that were outside the land.** Somehow the Gibeonites knew about this law and decided to use trickery for their own protection.

God's enemies in Gibeon knew they couldn't win, so they deceived Israel into making a covenant and coalition with the Gibeonites.

**Joshua 9:3-13** | But when the inhabitants of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done to Jericho and to Ai, <sup>4</sup> they on their part acted with cunning and went and made ready provisions and took worn-out sacks for their donkeys, and wineskins, worn-out and torn and mended, <sup>5</sup> with worn-out, patched sandals on their feet, and worn-out clothes. And all their provisions were dry and crumbly. <sup>6</sup> And they went to Joshua in the camp at Gilgal and said to him and to the men of Israel, "We have come from a distant country, so now make a covenant with us." <sup>7</sup> But the men of Israel said to the Hivites, "**Perhaps you live among us; then how can we make a covenant with you?**" <sup>8</sup> They said to Joshua, "We are your servants." And Joshua said to them, "Who are you? And where do you come from?" <sup>9</sup> They said to him, "From a very distant country your servants have come, **because of the name of the Lord your God.** For we have heard a report of him, and all that he did in Egypt, <sup>10</sup> and all that he did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon the king of Heshbon, and to Og king of Bashan, who lived in Ashtaroth. <sup>11</sup> So our elders and all the inhabitants of our country said to us, 'Take provisions in your hand for the journey and go to meet them and say to them, "We are your servants. Come now, make a covenant with us."' <sup>12</sup> Here is our bread. It was still warm when we took it from our houses as our food for the journey on the day we set out to come to you, but now, behold, it is dry and crumbly. <sup>13</sup> These wineskins were new when we filled them, and behold, they have burst. And these garments and sandals of ours are worn out from the very long journey" (9:3-13).

Joshua made a terrible mistake. He trusted the enemy instead of consulting the Lord. Since the enemy knows how to use the Word of God for his own purposes, God's people must keep alert (Mt 4:5-7). How does the enemy deceive us?

## THE GIBEONITES' ATTACK

Even though the Gibeonites actually lived 25 miles away they made themselves look like they had traveled hundreds of miles. They made a great show of telling Joshua that they had set out with piping hot bread and brand-new clothes, but now their provisions were rotten, and their clothes were all old and used. They knew that God's people were not allowed to make a treaty with a nearby enemy, but they were allowed to do so with a people that lived far away. It worked.

The Gibeonites assembled a group of men and equipped them to look like an official delegation from a foreign city. Their clothing, food, and equipment were all designed to give the impression that they had been on a long and difficult journey from a distant city.

Satan is our enemy. He is a counterfeiter and "masquerades as an angel of light" (2 Cor 11:14). He has his "deceitful workmen" (2 Cor 11:13) at work in this world, blinding the lost and seeking to lead believers astray. But more than that, Satan likes to use an inside attack. It's much **easier for us to identify the lion** when he's roaring than to detect the **serpent when he's slithering** into our lives.<sup>2</sup>

## THE FLESH'S ATTACK

The Gibeonites told lie after lie. Instead of consulting the Lord, Joshua and all Israel relied on their good wits. Satan's ambassadors can lie so convincingly.<sup>3</sup> We can't afford to "lean to our own understanding" (Prov 3:5-6) in any situation.

Satan is a liar and the father of lies (Jn 8:44), and he will use your flesh to keep you in bondage. You are free from the power of the flesh if you are a child of God.

You see, it's impossible to serve God in with the fleshly, self-centered mindset.

For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. —Romans 8:7

If our mind is not set on Christ in faith, we are going to make bad decisions, even if we have a ton of good theology. The people of Israel had just read God's law, the entire Pentateuch, in Shechem, between two mountains: Ebal and Gerizim. They had the Word. What was their problem?

They "**did not ask counsel from the Lord.**" —Joshua 9:14

We must never act on mere instinct. The flesh always leads us down the wrong path.

Beware of the flesh's attack. It's an inside job. Your own heart can deceive you and turn against you. Like the Gibeonites, the flesh is very subtle. In your flesh, you may be worried or angry or just plain apathetic. And you tell yourself:

- "Everything's ok."
- "I'll just worry more, and I'll feel better."
- Or, "I'll just stew and fuss a bit more and I'll feel better."
- Or, "I'll ignore it and it will go away."

It's a lie. It never works. You can't *worry* yourself to happiness. You can't *ignore* the pain of your sins and get happiness. You can't *fuss* about your life and it get better. It's all the flesh. It's all a lie.

<sup>2</sup> Warren W. Wiersbe, *Be Strong*, "Be" Commentary Series (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 107.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, 108

## *The Spirit's Guidance*

The Christian must have the direct guidance of God by the Holy Spirit through the Word. You cannot lean to your own understanding. Our own flesh will deceive us. Through pride and self-righteousness, we can think, "I got this." Your desires of the flesh will deceive you every time. Remember the godly counsel from Proverbs.

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

Leaning to your own understanding is leaning into the schemes of the enemy. Stay alert!

Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. –1 Peter 5:8

You've got to constantly be renewing your mind, walking in the Spirit, putting on the Word of God. Our fellowship with God and worship is the very center of all good fruit and wise choices in our lives. Spirit-guidance brings fullness of joy (Psa 16:11). Check your misery level to see if you have fallen for the schemes of the enemy. He's a trickster. You can't trust him.

### **THE ENEMY'S DEFEAT**

Now we are going to see that in spite of the Gibeonites' craftiness, God still defeated them. Instead of being put to death, they were raised to life. They became servants for the Tabernacle. They were wood cutters and water carriers for the worship of Yahweh. Praise God, the Lord defeated me, not by putting me to death, but by raising me to life.

But still, Joshua and the leaders of Israel did wrong, because they did not seek the Lord.

---

## **2. THE POWER OF PRAYER (9:14-16)**

---

Now we see the power of prayer, and the devastation of prayerlessness. If you are not praying as a believer, walking in the Spirit, praying without ceasing, you may suddenly find yourself in the trap of the enemy.

Joshua and his men were completely taken by surprise by the Gibeonites. This was likely the most powerful of all seven-nation alliance in Canaan. They looked and sounded reasonable. So Joshua 'made peace with them and made a covenant with them, to let them live' (9:15). Let's read about it.

Joshua 9:14-16 | So the men took some of their provisions, but did not ask counsel from the Lord. <sup>15</sup>And Joshua made peace with them and made a covenant with them, to let them live, and the leaders of the congregation swore to them. <sup>16</sup>At the end of three days after they had made a covenant with them, they heard that they were their neighbors and that they lived among them.

### **TAKE TIME TO PRAY**

Had they taken time to "ask counsel from the Lord" they would have had a covering over them. Prayer is a covering.

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. –Psalm 91:1

Joshua made peace with the enemy because he didn't have that covering of prayer. For some reason, it did not occur to Joshua and the leaders of Israel to "ask counsel of the Lord" (9:14). The Lord's direction was available but was ignored. It was not that they were sloppy in their investigation, but they were alone in their decision. It wasn't that they didn't think but that they didn't pray. **They did not have because they did not ask** (Jas 4:2).<sup>4</sup>

Why did the enemy succeed (9:14-15)? The reason is simple: Joshua and the leaders of Israel were hasty and **didn't take time to consult the Lord**. They walked by sight and not by faith. After listening to the Gibeonites' speech and examining the evidence, Joshua and his leaders concluded that the men were telling the truth. The leaders of Israel took the "scientific approach" instead of the "spiritual approach." They depended on their own senses, examined the "facts," discussed the matter, and agreed in their conclusion. It was all very logical and convincing, but it was all wrong.

How we need to take time and consult the Lord. Had Joshua and his leaders paused to think and pray about what they saw, they would have concluded that the whole thing was a trick.

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him –James 1:5

### CONSULT THE WORD OF GOD

Joshua made peace with the enemy because he didn't consult the Lord. They had just read the entire Pentateuch at Shechem between Mount Ebal and Mount Gerizim. But that's not enough. They needed to consult the Lord again. That's what we need to do, over and over, day after day. You know the Word, but you need to consult him again and again. We need to seek him in his Word experiencing one level of glory to another level of glory. Daily, we need God's wisdom. Yesterday's power is not sufficient for this hour.

Your heart and flesh can and will deceive you, but is the truth.

God's Word will **show you the way!** "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Psalm 119:105).

The Word of God is **more important than food**. Job and Jesus agree. Said Job: "I have not departed from his commands, but have treasured his words more than daily food" (Job 23:12). Jesus said, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4; cf Deut 8:3).

God's Word **cleanses** us. That's what Jesus said, "Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you" (John 15:3). "Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth" (John 17:17).

God's Word can **convert your heart**. "You have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God" (1 Peter 1:23).

<sup>4</sup> Roger Ellsworth, *Opening up Joshua*, Opening Up Commentary (Leominster: Day One Publications, 2008), 85.

God's Word **cuts**. "For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12).

God's Word **grows us**. "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness" (2 Timothy 3:16).

God's Word **succeeds**. It will not return void. "So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it" (Isaiah 55:11).

God's Word **judges**. You will never get away with rejecting God's Word. "The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day" (John 12:48).

God's Word **sanctifies**. It will keep us from sin. "I have treasured your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you" (Psalm 119:11).

You can't risk not consulting the Lord. Look what happened to Joshua.

The blessed man's "delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. <sup>3</sup> He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers. –Psalm 1:2-3

Joshua would have been blessed had he consulted the Lord!

### BE SURE TO OBEY

Of course, when we seek God's will from God's Word, we have to be ready to obey. When Joshua consulted the Lord at Jericho, they were given some strange commands, to walk around the city and then the city walls would fall. But they obeyed, and God blessed. God's Word is not just for our mental acuity, but for to be put into action in our life.

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Psa 119:105).

When God shows you the way, you have to take courage and put God's Word to practice.

**Prayer is not enough.** Often, we pray, and keep on praying when we need to obey. Some of you are begging God for something, and you need to quit begging and rest in the Lord. You need to walk in faith.

**Bible knowledge is not enough.** We may think because we've renewed our mind with God's Word, that is enough. It's not enough to merely know the Word, we have to walk in the Word. We have to do the Word. The essence of obedience is walking in the Word by the Spirit. If you don't do that, you fail, like Joshua did. Get into the Word and walk in it.

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. <sup>23</sup> 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. <sup>24</sup> For he



looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. <sup>25</sup> But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing. —James 1:22-25

Are you blessed in your doing of the Word? Are you living it out? Or is it all stuck and stored up in the attic of your mind? Get the Word into your life. Live it out. Walk in the Spirit and in the Word.

Oh, had Joshua consulted the Lord, he could have avoided such a great failure. Instead, he compromised with the enemy! What could he do now? Well what can any of us do with our failures?

---

### 3. THE POWER OF REDEMPTION (9:17-27)

---

The people of Israel had made a huge mistake. Three days later, the leaders of Israel realized their folly. The Gibeonites were not from a far country at all! They were rather ‘their neighbors who dwell near’ to Israel (9:16). As such, they were under the same sentence of death as the rest of the Canaanites! So Joshua was in a dilemma! How could he carry out the sentence against the Gibeonites and also keep his word to spare them? Let’s read about it.

**Joshua 9:17-27** | And the people of Israel set out and reached their cities on **the third day**. Now their cities were Gibeon, Chephirah, Beeroth, and Kiriath-jearim. <sup>18</sup> But the people of Israel did not attack them, because the leaders of the congregation had sworn to them by the Lord, the God of Israel. Then all the congregation murmured against the leaders. <sup>19</sup> But all the leaders said to all the congregation, “We have sworn to them by the Lord, the God of Israel, and now we may not touch them. <sup>20</sup> This we will do to them: let them live, lest wrath be upon us, because of the oath that we swore to them.” <sup>21</sup> And the leaders said to them, “Let them live.” So they became cutters of wood and drawers of water for all the congregation, just as the leaders had said of them.

<sup>22</sup> Joshua summoned them, and he said to them, “Why did you deceive us, saying, ‘We are very far from you,’ when you dwell among us? <sup>23</sup> Now therefore you are cursed, and some of you shall never be anything but servants, cutters of wood and drawers of water for the house of my God.” <sup>24</sup> They answered Joshua, “Because it was told to your servants for a certainty that the Lord your God had commanded his servant Moses to give you all the land and to destroy all the inhabitants of the land from before you—so we feared greatly for our lives because of you and did this thing. <sup>25</sup> And now, behold, we are in your hand. Whatever seems good and right in your sight to do to us, do it.” <sup>26</sup> So he did this to them and delivered them out of the hand of the people of Israel, and they did not kill them. <sup>27</sup> But Joshua made them that day cutters of wood and drawers of water for the congregation and for the altar of the Lord, to this day, in the place that he should choose.

We see, that even in a great failure, God can redeem. He promises to “work all things together for good for those who love God” (Rom 8:28).

### *God Blessed Joshua*

Joshua acted with integrity. He repented. He honored his covenant with the Gibeonites, even though his own people complained (9:18). Joshua knew that to break the oath would dishonor the name of Yahweh before the pagan Gibeonites. Remember, they had sworn “by Yahweh the God of Israel” and any breach of such oath implies that Yahweh cannot be trusted (9:19-20). Hence the Gibeonites are to become woodcutters and water carriers for Israel’s sanctuary (9:21).<sup>5</sup> God turned this failure of Israel into a blessing. What a blessing for Joshua, but an even greater blessing for the Gibeonites!

### *God Blessed the Gibeonites*

Think about how God could redeem this. God blessed the Gibeonites. The Gibeonites left the coalition of seven nations and essentially surrendered to the God of Israel. The Gibeonites now get to come under the teaching and worship of Yahweh. Praise God.

Joshua did not let the Gibeonites continue as an independent nation, but rather made them servants (wood-cutters and water carriers) for the Tabernacle (9:23).<sup>6</sup> Instead of destroying them, God gave Joshua wisdom to make them servants of Israel at the house of worship. In a pretty amazing way, the Gibeonites surrendered to the God of Israel by surrendering to Joshua. They deceived Joshua, but they didn’t deceive the God “who is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (2 Pet 3:9).

### *God Blesses Us*

It’s incredible that God can turn this entire thing to Joshua’s good and God’s glory. And so it is with the believer today. You are “predestined to be conformed to the image of God’s dear Son” (Rom 8:29). Predestined. God will not waste your failure. You will not be conformed to this world, child of God, but you will be transformed. So remember to get up and keep going when you fall. Do as Joshua did, and walk in integrity. Confess and forsake your sins. And going forward in the future, stay on guard so that you don’t commit the same sins again. Let me give you some spiritual warfare advice.

### **YOU ARE REDEEMED FOR VICTORY**

You’ve got to be ready for satanic attack. You will win. You just have to put on the armor of God and walk in victory.

Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. <sup>12</sup> For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. –Ephesians 6:11-12

For one thing, it reminds us that Christians are in a spiritual war and that deceptiveness is the primary tactic of our enemy, the devil. Satan has his **strategies** and **plans** (Eph 6:11).

---

<sup>5</sup> Dale Ralph Davis, *Joshua: No Falling Words*, Focus on the Bible Commentary (Scotland: Christian Focus Publications, 2000), 77.

<sup>6</sup> Roger Ellsworth, *Opening up Joshua*, Opening Up Commentary (Leominster: Day One Publications, 2008), 85–86.

He is able to transform himself into “an angel of light” (2 Cor 11:14). Know this: once you declare your allegiance to the Lord, you have a target on your back. You can’t afford to not consult with the Lord.

### REDEEMED FOR WISDOM

Dear child of God, you are also redeemed for wisdom. Joshua didn’t consult the Lord, and he missed out. It led him to failure. Listen saint, you are the Temple of the Holy Spirit. In the Spirit you have incredible wisdom and revelation. Jesus said to Peter:

“Flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven” (Mt 16:17).

This passage reminds us of the importance of the people of God continually seeking the mind of God. There is nothing in this life that is so clear to your heart and mind that it precludes you from seeking the mind and face of God.

“Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually!” (1 Chron 16:11).

Human logic is not enough to make good decisions. We need to seek the wisdom of God. James says if you lack wisdom, consult the Lord, and the Lord will give you wisdom generously without reprimanding you (Jas 1:5). He loves to give his children wisdom. You will not see your situation correctly without wisdom and revelation from the Lord.

Paul prayed, “that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, <sup>18</sup>having the eyes of your hearts enlightened” (Eph 1:17-18).

### REDEEMED TO PERSEVERE

A final lesson for us has to do with living with our sins. Joshua failed, but God redeemed the situation. The Gibeonites went on to know and serve the Lord in the worship of the Tabernacle. Joshua learned a great lesson and showed his integrity by keeping his oath. God redeems us, and that means when we fall down, we get right back up and persevere.

The devil would have us believe that sin disqualifies us from doing anything for the Lord! He uses this argument because he knows the effectiveness of putting as many Christians as possible on the sidelines. None of us would serve the Lord if the standard were to be completely glorified. The truth is, when we fall we get back up again.

“The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, And He delights in his way. <sup>24</sup>Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; for the Lord upholds him with His hand” (Psa 37:23-24, NKJV).

God’s got you! We are weak, but God is strong, and he’s got you. You may fall, but you will not be utterly cast down. He has brought you out of the horrible pit and set your feet on the Rock, Christ Jesus (Psa 40:2).

### CONCLUSION

God’s people were double crossed. They didn’t know recognize their enemy because they didn’t seek the Lord. Yet, God brought good things out of it! You may have failed but keep looking to Jesus.

I look out here at you here at Living Hope. I know your testimonies. We can all say, “God came to save sinners, of whom I am chief” (1 Tim 1:15). Jesus didn’t come to save the righteous, but to call sinners to repentance (Lk 5:32).

I love your testimonies, dear saints. There have been times, we’ve been tricked and deceived by sin, but we learn from it. Don’t stay down when you’ve sinned. Get up and because God has great exploits for you. He wants you to expand his kingdom. He wants to use you in a mighty way!