

VICTORIOUS LIVING

DATE: SUNDAY, 11H OF JULY 2021 | DARING GREATLY SERIES: PART 4

JOSHUA 10:7-15

So Joshua marched up from Gilgal with his entire army, including all the best fighting men. The Lord said to Joshua, "Do not be afraid of them; I have given them into your hand. Not one of them will be able to withstand you."

After an all-night march from Gilgal, Joshua took them by surprise. The Lord threw them into confusion before Israel, so Joshua and the Israelites defeated them completely at Gibeon. Israel pursued them along the road going up to Beth Horon and cut them down all the way to Azekah and Makedah. As they fled before Israel on the road down from Beth Horon to Azekah, the Lord hurled large hailstones down on them, and more of them died from the hail than were killed by the swords of the Israelites. On the day the Lord gave the Amorites over to Israel, Joshua said to the Lord in the presence of Israel:

*"Sun, stand still over Gibeon,
and you, moon, over the Valley of Aijalon."*

*So the sun stood still,
and the moon stopped,
till the nation avenged itself on[b] its
enemies,*

as it is written in the Book of Jashar.

The sun stopped in the middle of the sky and delayed going down about a full day. There has never been a day like it before or since, a day when the Lord listened to a human being. Surely the Lord was fighting for Israel!

NOTES FOR LEADERS:

- We are uniting in prayer at 18h00 on Tuesday, the 12th of July. Join us online on our YouTube channel, CityHillChurch.TV.
- Please diarise our next prayer and leaders meeting on Tuesday, the 20th of July at 18h00. The meeting will take place online.

START TALKING

1. What new revelation of God did you get from this Sunday's message?
2. What are the enemies of strength and courage?

START THINKING

1. Read Joshua 10:12-14. How do these verses encourage you in your prayer life and in knowing and obeying God's Word?
2. If you've never fought in a war, the concept of the fact that we're in the middle of a spiritual battle can seem a little foreign. Dusty said that God guarantees victory, but He doesn't exclude us from the battle - we have a role to play. How do we stay 'engaged' in that role we have to play?

START SHARING

1. Read the promise God gave to in Joshua 10:8. When has God given you a promise from His Word? How did His promise change your outlook and the outcome of the circumstances/challenges you were facing?
2. Dusty gave us three keys to living victoriously: 1. Battle; 2. Jesus; 3. Yourself. Which of these do you find the easiest to understand and put into action? Which do you struggle the most with? How can we encourage you as a group?

START PRAYING

Pray for each other in the group. Ask each person for one practical way to pray for them to be strong and courageous. Continue to pray for them each day this week.

START DOING

The starting point of using our weapon of the "Sword" is to get into God's Word daily - meditating on it and memorising scripture. This week, look up scriptures on courage. Pick one and memorize it so that you can use it to fight fear and anxiety.

SUMMARY

OF SUNDAY'S MESSAGE

This Sunday, Dusty shared a powerful message from Joshua chapter 10 on victorious living.

After Achan's sin (chapter 7), the Gibeonites realise how powerful the Israelites have become, so they figure out how to trick Joshua into entering into a peace treaty with them. *The Israelites sampled their provisions but did not inquire of the Lord. Then Joshua made a treaty of peace with them to let them live, and the leaders of the assembly ratified it by oath.* Joshua 9:14. In chapter 10, we see that the king of Jerusalem learns of how powerful Israel has become and hears about their partnership with the Gibeonites, so he calls another four kings to form an alliance with him and attack Gibeon. The Gibeonites send a message to Joshua reminding him of their peace treaty and call on the Israelites to help them in battle...

So Joshua marched up from Gilgal with his entire army, including all the best fighting men. The Lord said to Joshua, "Do not be afraid of them; I have given them into your hand. Not one of them will be able to withstand you."

After an all-night march from Gilgal, Joshua took them by surprise. The Lord threw them into confusion before Israel, so Joshua and the Israelites defeated them completely at Gibeon. Israel pursued them along the road going up to Beth Horon and cut them down all the way to Azekah and Makkedah. As they fled before Israel on the road down from Beth Horon to Azekah, the Lord hurled large hailstones down on them, and more of them died from the hail than were killed by the swords of the Israelites.

On the day the Lord gave the Amorites over to Israel, Joshua said to the Lord in the presence of Israel: "Sun, stand still over Gibeon, and you, moon, over the Valley of Aijalon." So the sun stood still, and the moon stopped, till the nation avenged itself on [b] its enemies, as it is written in the Book of Jashar.

The sun stopped in the middle of the sky and delayed going down about a full day. There has never been a day like it before or since, a day when the Lord listened to a human being. Surely the Lord was fighting for Israel! Joshua 10:7-15.

A few parallels we can draw from chapter 10:

- This battle is a physical picture of the spiritual battle Jesus fought for us in the New Testament.
- These battles weren't about Israel winning. They were about God's commitment to destroying evil!
- In Joshua chapter 5, the angel of the Lord's army is there to remind us that this was God's battle and that Israel were just spectators/participants in God's battle.
- The Canaanite culture was incredibly morally corrupt (Leviticus 18) and they widely practiced child sacrifice (Deuteronomy 12:29:31). The Israelites to wiping out the Canaanites before they entered the promised land was about God wiping out evil. He didn't want the evil nation to influence Israel.
- We are corrupt like the Canaanites, and Jesus came to fight the battle of bondage of sin. Now we get to live in the "promised land".
- The name Joshua means "God saves". The Hebrew name for Jesus is Yeshoua, meaning "Jehovah is salvation".
- Jesus comes to earth as a modern-day Joshua, to save God's people from sin. To fight a battle, we were not able to fight and has victory over sin! this was the narrative over God's people then, and the same narrative over God's people (you and I) today!
- The promised land wasn't heaven, it resembles the relationship we have with God.

HOW DO WE LIVE IN VICTORY?

1. THE BATTLE

We are called to battle when we are saved but we are often caught on the back foot when devastation happens because we don't realise we're fighting a spiritual battle.

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the

powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground... Ephesians 6:10-13.

We need to be prepared for battle. We are contending in an evil world for salvation, truth, holiness, purity, kindness, love... We are fighting against our own fleshly desires. If you want to live victoriously, identify the battle you're in: addiction, corruption, sexual immorality, contending for the salvation of your spouse/children, sickness...

Joshua's battle was clear about the battle he needed to fight. God was his Commander in Chief, and he knew he needed to wipe out the Canaanites!

2. JESUS

God was at the centre of the battle Joshua was fighting. When the Israelites were obedient in Joshua 6, the walls of Jericho came down. When Achan was disobedient, they lost the battle at Ai.

When we focus on Jesus, and He becomes the centre of our lives, then we are armed and ready for battle.

When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross. Colossians 2:13-15

This battle is rigged if we have Jesus in our lives. He was victorious on the cross! The cross was the ultimate battle, and Jesus disempowered the devil of all his weapons! We are now in the best position to conquer!

These are spiritual battles and without Jesus, we cannot win. He has to be the Commanding Officer in our lives!

When we look at the story of Joshua, we see that it was God who spilt the Jordan River. He brought down the walls of Jericho. God defeated Ai when there was repentance and obedience. He threw the Canaanites into confusion and hurled down hailstones from the sky... God was the way and the reason to victory.

In the New Testament, scripture tells us that Jesus is only One. The only Way. The One Truth. The Bread of Life. One Victor. One Sacrifice. One Saviour. The only One whose very name make demons tremble. The One and only Jesus Christ!

Do you have a fresh revelation of who Christ is in your life? When He is your focus, there is no other option but victory because He has already won the battle. If you're not winning the battle, ask yourself, "Is Christ the Centre of my life?"

3. YOURSELF

We have a role to play in the battles and victories in our lives. The Israelites showed up to do their part - they had to march 40km from Gilgal to Gibeon to fight the battle. Just because we are saved doesn't mean we no longer fight. When we are saved, we are enrolled in the army of God, set on mission to go! God guarantees victory, but He doesn't exclude us from the battle. We have a role to play.

We see a posture of warfare through many scriptures in the Bible:

- Greater is he in me than the one in the world. 1 John 4:4
- More than conquers. Romans 8:37
- Watch and pray. Matthew 26:41.
- The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. 2 Corinthians 10:6
- Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. DO everything in love. 1 Corinthians 16:14

...belt of truth buckled - breastplate of righteousness - feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace - shield of faith - helmet of salvation - sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Ephesians 6:13-17

Our position is that of war - in Ephesians 6:13-17, Paul tells us to put on the armour of God.

What weapons do we have to fight these battles with?

- Faith - Not a single brick in the wall of Jericho moved until the 7th day of marching around the city.
- Love
- Prayer - The sun stopped when Joshua prayed - God listened to his prayers.
- Worship - It was at the trumpet sound that the walls of Jericho came down.
- The Word - a key weapon in our artillery.

Ephesians 6 tells us that the Word of God is a sword. From the Word comes faith, courage, power! When we spend time in the word, It increases our knowledge of the Commanding Officer, Jesus.

It is God-breathed and has the power to rebuke, correct, teach, and train in righteousness.

It will thoroughly equip us for all good works. Daily devotions in the Word will teach us how to use all our spiritual weapons. The Word increases faith, authenticates love, empowers prayer, weaponizes worship... all spiritual battles are overcome and won with the Sword! What a powerful weapon God has given us!

Joshua is given a divine mission, and the starting point comes In Joshua 1:8...
Keep this book of the law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. In other words... Keep this book of the law **continuously and permanently** on your lips; **contemplate and reflect** on it day and night so that you may be **thoroughly cautious and watchful** to do everything written in it. Then you will be **thriving and positively effective**.

When searched, loved and studied, this book is the most powerful weapon in a Christ-follower's artillery.

11 symbols the Bible uses to describe this weapon:

1. A fire to refine. Jeremiah 23:29
2. A hammer to convict. Jeremiah 23:29
3. A mirror to reflect the truth. James 1:23
4. A seed to multiply. 1 Peter 1:23
5. A laver to cleanse. Ephesians 5:26
6. A lamp to guide. Psalm 119:105
7. Rain and snow to refresh. Isaiah 55:10-11
8. A sword to cut. Ephesians 6:17; Hebrews 4:12
9. Gold to enrich Psalm 19:7-10
10. Power to increase and create faith. Romans 10:17
11. Food to nourish the soul. 1 Peter 2:2; Matthew 4:4; Psalm 19:10

In times of confusion, this Book gives us clarity. When we feel hopeless, it gives us Hope. At times when we struggle with depression and anxiety, it gives us courage and joy.

When Jesus was tempted in the desert, His response to every temptation from the devil was "it is written..." The devil knows the power of The Word and tries to manipulate it. Right back at the beginning of time in Genesis 3:1, the devil says to Eve, "did God really say, 'you must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" If the devil wants to disarm you, all he needs to do is cast doubt in your mind about the Bible and scripture and waters down its power.

The Bible is the ultimate weapon! Spend time daily studying it, and you will be victorious!