

Readings / Numbers chapter 13:1-2, 17-33, Numbers 14:1-19, Joshua chapter 1, 2, 5:13-15 and 6:1-27

1. How you and I respond to the coming challenges ahead will determine our own path as well as the path of this church. *Will we rely on the arm of flesh...that is our own strength or will we obey what the Lord has for us and move forward in His strength and timing even when there are giants before us? What is the Lord telling us in this question?*
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2. Failure to trust in God and in his promises will lead you into a spiritual retreat, and prevent you from the plans God has for you. Remember you are in a spiritual battle and enemy is always telling you to retreat, save yourself, this is too difficult, God will not help you, watch out for yourself, and it will be safer to do nothing. *Most of my life (Pastor Tom) I did not even know I was in a spiritual battle. How has being aware that you are in a spiritual battle changed the way you view worship and prayer? When did that change take place in your life?*
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3. By not trusting the Lord and not pressing into the Lord in prayer the Israelites made poor decisions and when they had finally changed their mind and said we will enter the land the opportunity before them was gone. The Lord would let them wander in the desert for 40 years. *How important is trusting in the Lord and how is that playing out in your life. Why does the Lord keep bringing this topic up to us?*
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In Joshua 1:3 you will notice that although the land has been given it still needs to be possessed. Title to it is the gift of God; possession of it is the result of an obedient walk. *What is this telling us in the world we live in...we need to possess the land? What does this have to do with our daily walk with Jesus?*

4. As the Israelites enter into the next part of their journey they have to put their faith into action. This time they trust the Lord. *What is holding you back from putting your total trust in the Lord? Will you move into the Promised Land or fall in the desert?*
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5. Jesus died for our sins so that we may die to sin...to die to our self and to live for him. *As we end what would living for Christ look like in your life? What would this look like in your life?*
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6. *What is the main message the Lord is giving you today?*
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“Going Deeper” An additional Bible study for February 22, 2015 sermon

Joshua 5:13—6:27: Jericho Falls

We fight many battles in life—financial, physical, emotional and spiritual. How can we be victorious in these struggles, especially when the odds against us seem overwhelming?

Conquering the Promised Land was an enormous task. Forty years earlier the Israelites had lamented, "The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size. . . . We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them" (Nu 13:32-33). Yet in spite of these obstacles, Joshua and the people of Israel now set out to conquer the first Canaanite stronghold—Jericho. As they do so, the Lord teaches them and us how to be victorious.

Warming Up to God

When have you felt that God was fighting your battles for you? Describe the circumstance. How did you feel?

Read Joshua 5:13-6:27

Discovering the Word

- How do you think the visit by the commander of the army of the Lord affected Joshua (5:13-15)? How does God’s intervention in your life affect you?

- In what ways do the Lord's instructions for the conquest of Jericho seem strange (6:1-5)? Has the Lord ever given you strange instructions...ones that seemed difficult or that the culture around you would think were odd?

- How do you think the Israelites felt during this seven-day spectacle (6:6-16)?

- What lessons was God teaching the Israelites during their seven days of marching? What lessons has the Lord taught you in the last six months?

- What did it mean for this city and its contents to be devoted to the Lord (6:17-25)?

- Why didn't God allow the Israelites to keep any of the spoils of war (6:19,24)?

Applying the Word

- How is the Lord preparing “Light of Christ” for an increased spiritual battle ahead of us? What does this time of preparation tell us about the Lord’s intervention in our life?

- How is our spiritual warfare today similar to and different from Israel's conquest of Jericho (see 2Co 10:3-5)?

- What spiritual battles are you currently fighting?

Responding in Prayer

Pray for victory for yourself and others you know who are fighting spiritual battles.