

“Joshua: Military Genius, Spiritual Giant”  
Joshua 6-8

All of life is infused with spiritual realities - our jobs, families, friendships, major decisions and even the daily annoyances. Too often we lose sight of this fundamental truth and find ourselves just going through the motions. Joshua's leadership of Israel in conquering the Promised Land reminds us of the critical principles involved in working out spiritual realities in our daily journey.

Joshua was a hero of the faith. But when he received his most difficult assignment at age 80, he still had fear.

This is why Joshua was chosen to lead. Willing to step out in faith even when afraid and do the hard thing. So God gave him an EXTREMELY hard calling.

Military genius: take questionable army into a harsh land against a stronger enemy...and he succeeded

Spiritual giant: Ultimately Joshua's calling was a spiritual battle

Principles of Spiritual Conquest. ***Spiritual Conquest Is:***

**I. Waged by supernatural means –Josh 5:13-15**

A. Victory was through God's power – Joshua 6:1-5

Rams horns not silver trumpets (used for assembly or war); Used rams horns called people to worship. Spiritual rather than military exercise.

Not victorious because they were better equipped, had more men and machinery; God was fighting

Heb. 11:30 “By faith the walls of Jericho fell”; not by catapults or battering rams

All of life is a spiritual exercise; school, marriage, relationships (not about my body or my clever conversation), job search (not about my resume)

Eventually Israelites would have to pick up sword and spear, but God was beginning their campaign by proving His unaided power.

B. Human effort seemed counterproductive – 6:3-4

1. Foolish to walk around walls – warriors/Canaanites perspective

Accomplished nothing; walls didn't gradually crumble

2. Seven times around (7 miles); army should rest

God intentionally wore them out

Imagine the ridicule after 7 days

Imagine the difficulty keeping silent; a generation whose parents had been such grumblers they forfeited the right to enter the promised land.

Accomplished only after brokenness

Physically exhausted, spiritually broken

ex - Watchman Nee; man drowning; good swimmer watched, waited until man was weak to save him; 2 Cor 12:9,10; Phil 3:7,8

There is a final lesson in the conquest of Jericho. The real battle about which we are reading is not with the Canaanites at all. It is with God's own people... All this blowing of trumpets, all of this numerical listings of sevens, were not really necessary to knock down a little wall. God was not frantically collecting His energy so that He could destroy Jericho. He could have just spoken and Jericho would have vaporized. The real battle of Jericho was with the human heart, not with the wall of a city. God was seeking to overcome the Israelites rather than simply to overcome the Canaanites.

—Paul E. Toms, *This Land Is Your Land*, p. 170, quoted in *Promised Land Living*, Sanders, p. 65

## **High point in Israel's history; expect that things can only get better**

Read 7:1-5

### **Second principle of Spiritual Conquest Is:**

#### **II. Repulsed by presumption – 7:1-5**

A. ONE was deceived by sin – 7:19-21

1. God is withholding His best

deceitfulness of sin exaggerates what you don't have, diminishes what you have

ex – Eve and Adam; God gave them the whole garden

Tragedy – God was going to give them the spoil at Ai – 8:1-2

2. God does not see

Jer. 23:23-24 - Can a man hide himself in hiding places

Heb. 4:13 - no creature hidden from His sight

Play on words – 7:1; 7:24; took the silver, taken by Joshua

ex – monkey trap; jar with fruit or coin in bottom

"Be sure your sins will find you out"

B. NO ONE sought God's instructions – 7:2-3

Create their own battle plan; "we're on a roll"

Without dependence upon God the smallest opposition is too much!

C. ALL suffered from presumption – 7:11; 7:5

Achan's greed

Community's self-assurance

***Third principle is that Spiritual Conquest Is:***

### **III. Revitalized by repentance**

A. ACTIVE. Don't remain in the past – Joshua 7:6-10

Repentance produced action not paralysis. Repent, and move on to next battle.

B. AGGRESSIVE. Be ruthless in your attitude toward sin – 7:11-15

Seems very severe; God always hates sin this much

When God is doing a great work justice is more immediate, not more severe

Ananias and Saphira, Acts 5

Sometimes God shows mercy; holds back; gives us time to repent

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

C. IMMEDIATE – 7:22

How do we deal with evil in our lives? Take our time? Half efforts?

Do you want God to do radical stuff in your life? You must be radical about sin

D. VIGILANT – 9:14-15

Gibeonites

Most vulnerable time is after victory

**Application**

God, let me see the true nature of Your work in my life

Teach me humble dependence

Sin? Repent

New territory? Give me courage and humble dependence.