

**HOW WILL YOU FINISH?**  
**JOSHUA...A Man Who Trusted God**  
**Numbers 13-14**

**Did Not Finish Well**

David      Lot  
Moses      Saul  
Aaron      Samson  
Solomon  
Eli  
Jonah

**Finished Well**

Daniel  
Joseph  
Elijah  
Abraham  
Joshua  
Caleb

After wandering for **40 years** in the desert...and following the death of **Moses** and **Aaron**...**Joshua** was commissioned to lead the **Israelites** to enter the **Promised Land**. God commanded him to ***be strong and courageous***...and in the life and leadership of **Joshua** we see the powerful story of how God ***fulfilled His promises***, and led the **Israelites** into the long-awaited ***land of milk and honey***.

***“No man will be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I have been with Moses, I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you. Be strong and courageous, for you shall give this people possession of the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. Only be strong and very courageous; be careful to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, so that you may have success wherever you go. This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”***

~Joshua 1:5-9

**Joshua learned two key truths...**

- **The faithfulness of God...in fulfilling His covenant promises.**

***“So the LORD gave Israel all the land...and they took possession of it and settled there. The LORD gave them rest on every side...The LORD handed all their enemies over to them. Not one of all the LORD's good promises to the house of Israel failed; everyone was fulfilled.”***

~ Joshua 21:43-45

While serving **Moses**, **Joshua** was an ***observant student***, learning much from the great leader. **Joshua** showed tremendous ***courage***, despite the huge responsibility assigned to him. He was a ***brilliant military commander***. But **Joshua prospered** because he ***trusted*** God with every aspect of his life. **Joshua** was a man of ***faith***. **Joshua** saw how God ***kept His covenant promise*** to give the land to **Israel**.

- **The importance of obedience to God.**

**Joshua** learned a key point of this lesson the hard way. Before battle, **Joshua** always consulted God. Unfortunately, he didn't do so when the people of **Gibeon deceived** him into entering a ***covenant...a peace treaty*** with **Israel**. God had ***forbidden*** **Israel** to make ***covenants*** or ***treaties*** with any people in **Canaan**. If **Joshua** had ***sought God's guidance*** first, he would not have made this mistake.

**I. GOD'S WAY vs. MAN'S WAY:**

**God's way...*the way of faith...trusting God...taking God at His word.***

**Joshua** was often besieged by other ***voices*** and ***opinions***, but he chose to ***follow God***, and he did it ***faithfully***. **Joshua heard** God...***obeyed*** God...and ***experienced*** God.

**Joshua** took *God's Word* and the *Law seriously*...and ordered the people of **Israel** to live by it as well.

Even though **Joshua** was *not perfect*, he proved that a *life of obedience* to God bears *great rewards*.

**Man's way**...*the way of logic, reasoning, understanding, and flesh*...the way of *feelings, emotions, and force* (man's strength). It's cost **Israel 40 years** in the *wilderness*.

*“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,” declares the Lord.”*

~Isaiah 55:8

## II. THE WAY OF FAITH:

*Trusting God “through” the valleys...through the trials, suffering, and testing.* The way of *faith* isn't always easy.

*“And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.”*

~Hebrews 11:6

The *ten spies* saw *giant men* and *great fortresses*, while **Joshua** and **Caleb** saw their enemies' *lack of protection* because God *was with the people* of **Israel**.

We are also faced with many battles that require *faith* in the midst of *giant complexities of life*. Just like **Joshua**, we have the ability with the *power of the Holy Spirit* to *see* our *situations* with God *on our side*. *“If God is for us, who can be against us?”* should be our battle cry each and every time. *Exercising faith* in God is *vital* for our *spiritual strength* in this fallen world.

*“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this*

*grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God. And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”*

~Romans 5:1-5

## III. THE WAY OF PATIENCE:

*God's timing. It's not always quick and easy.*

**Israel...400 years** in **Egypt**.

**70 years** in **Babylon**.

**1900 years** among the *nations*.

*“Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.”*

~James 1:2-4

*Space...is measured in light years. Light travels at 186,000 miles per second...that means light travels 5.88 trillion miles every year.*

*“Do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day.”*

~II Peter 3:8

## IV. THE WAY OF MISUNDERSTANDING:

*The way of faith is often misunderstood. It's not always the practical way.*

**Joshua**...March around **Jericho once a day for six days**, and on the *seventh day* march around it *seven times*.

Noah...Ark...When it had *never rained*.

Elisha and Naaman the leper...II Kings 5...“*Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored to you and you shall be clean.*”

#### V. THE WAY OF GREATEST SPIRITUAL GROWTH:

*God's best instead of settling for man's best. Every decision* is in reality a *spiritual decision*. Ie. Abraham and Lot. Lot let his *eye's decide* which land.

*“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.”*

~Ephesians 6:12

Joshua was told *seven times* to “*be strong and courageous*” from God, from Moses, and from *his officers*. Every battle was won in the *strength of the Lord* and *not by the hands of men*. As long as we try to win our battles in our *mental, physical, or emotional strength*...we will *lose*. Yet if we choose to recognize how *God gives us power* against our *spiritual enemies*, we would be *mighty* in battle.

*“... ‘Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,’ says the Lord of hosts.”*

~Zechariah 4:6

When we *battle* and *fight* in the Spirit *through prayer*, we will *demolish* and *destroy* our *enemies' influence* over our lives. We will *walk in victory*...we will *live the victorious Christian life!*

#### LESSONS WE CAN LEARN:

- The difference between FAITH and PRESUMPTION is knowing that God has spoken.

*When God speaks...what you do next show what you actually/really believe about God.*

- The key to finishing well and living the victorious Christian life is a CONTINUAL SURRENDERING to the Lordship of Christ.

Surrendering every moment of every day...like a servant to a master. *Hearing* God...*servicing* God...*obeying* God...*experiencing* God. Taking every thought captive. Dying to fleshly desires. Living and walking in victory over sin...victory over strongholds.

*“And He was saying to them all, ‘If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me’.”*

~Luke 9:23

- When we walk by FAITH...TRUSTING God...we will finish well.

Joshua *finished well*. No greater tribute could have been paid him than the fact that he was simply called...**the servant of God**. He was *faithful*.