

# *The Book Of* **JOSHUA**

## **JOSHUA AND ISRAEL DEFEAT JERICH0** *Joshua 6:1-27*

### **Introduction**

#### **The Battle of Jericho**

The most important military battle in the conquest of Canaan

- Once defeated Israel could press into the land and divide the north from the south
- A programme of divide and conquer would then follow
- The southern campaign followed by the northern campaign

Considering it is the most important battle in the conquest of the land

- It is perhaps surprising the battle is comprised of just two verses **Joshua 6:20-21**
- This is because the real battle was fought beforehand

Israel stood victorious at the end of the battle of Jericho

- It wasn't due to expert strategy, first class espionage or superior military strength
- It was because Israel were in full submission to God

This submission to God is seen in that:

- Israel had come to the verge of Jordan, at God's direction
- Israel had crossed the Jordan, at God's direction
- Israel had circumcised themselves, at God's direction
  
- Israel were in a place of complete surrender to the Lord
- Israel were operating in complete faith in the Lord
- Israel were about to operate in complete obedience to the Lord

This is what God wants of every believer

- God wants every believer to live a victorious Christian life
- As Israel were victorious, by operating in full submission to God
- So the believer can be victorious, by operating in full submission to God

### **The Story So Far**

#### **Israel: A Type Of The Believer**

Israel's deliverance out of the bondage of Egypt

- Believer's deliverance from the bondage of sin

Israel's passing through the Red Sea

- Believer's passing through the waters of baptism

Israel's experiences in the wilderness

- Believer's attempts to please God in their own flesh
- Believer's attempt to serve God in their own strength

Israel's passing over the Jordan river

- Believer's reckoning the old man to be dead
- Leaving the old life behind
- No longer walking after the flesh
- Starting to live and walk in the Spirit

Israel's progressive conquering of cities and fortresses in Canaan

- Believer's progressive victory over the strongholds of life / of the flesh

- Believer's progressive victory over the old man / nature

## Israel: Two Types of Believer

There were two types of believer

1. The Wilderness Believer
2. The Warrior Believer

### The Wilderness Believer

- Live and died in the wilderness
- They were saved from Egypt but never enter the promised land
- Never coming into the fullness for what God has for them
- They experienced sin, failure and defeat

### The Warrior Believer

- They crossed the Jordan, in faith, into the promised land
- Pressed into the fullness of what the Lord has for them
- That took up the sword and went to battle with the flesh of the land
- They overcome strongholds and gained victory after victory

## Corinthian Christians

### Corinth: Two Types of Believer

These two categories of believer are spoken of in **1 Corinthians 3:1-4**

1. The Wilderness Believer / The Carnal Believer
2. The Warrior Believer / The Spiritual Believer

### The Carnal Believer

Four times Paul uses the term "*carnal*" (Verse 1, 3x2, 4)

- This is the state of the young Christian
- The babe in Christ
- They are fit only for milk
- They are only able to digest a weak Christian diet

Despite being a Christian for many years

- They remain babes
- Never moving on to maturity
- Never becoming spiritual

### The Spiritual Believer

Once Paul uses the term "*spiritual*"

- This is the state of the mature Christian
- Not in years but in growth
- They are fit for solid food
- They are able to digest a diet consisting of the deeper things of the word and God

Those who belong to the category of the spiritual

- Are those who have surrendered their life
- To the power, leading and governing authority of the Holy Spirit

### Paul's Frustration

Paul wants to speak to the Corinthian believers

- About the deep things of God
- About spiritual matters

But he is unable to because

- They are carnal
- They "*were not able to receive it*"

Within the church of Jesus Christ there will always be two types of Christian

1. The carnal (the wilderness believer)
2. The spiritual (the warrior believer)

## Four Marks of the Carnal Believer

### Babes In Christ

A condition of protracted infancy

- Six-month year old is unable to walk, speak or eat solids – to be expected
- Three-year old unable to walk, speak or eat solids – a problem to be investigated

These are believers who have moved in faith toward Christ

- They have assurance of salvation
- They have begun a good work for Christ
- Yet something has stunted their growth
- It's not a lack of knowledge
- It's a lack of growth and maturity in their walk
- There is a sense of something wanting
- There lacks a sense of vibrancy of someone who is pressing on the upward call **Philippians 3:14**

### Hebrews 5:12

*For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk, and not solid food.*

A child cannot help themselves

- They are always keeping others occupied to serve him
- They are a little tyrant, needing the attention of the parent

A carnal Christian cannot help themselves

- They are always calling on the Pastor, their brothers and sisters in Christ to serve them
- They are always needing the attention of others

A child can do nothing to help others

- A grown person is to contribute to society in whatever measure they are able
- A child can make no such contribution to society

A carnal Christian can do little to help others

- They may participate in church activities
- But their contribution is largely physical and not spiritual

### Wilderness Believers Are Marked As Babes

This was the wilderness believers in the days of Moses

- They were saved from Egypt
- They lacked growth and maturity
- They need to be served every day by manna
- They needed the attention of Moses
- They murmured and complained all the time, like babes do

### Sin & Failure

Ruled by sinful conditions, such as “*envy, strife and divisions*”

We all wrestle with our sinful nature, with the flesh

- When a person consistently gives way to their temper
- When a person zealously pursues an activity to the neglect of all else
- When a person is given to gossip, division and dissension

They are being ruled by the flesh and the not the spirit

- They are carnal not spiritual

Besetting sin without any hope of victory is not the pattern the Lord laid down for the believer

- His plan is for a progressive victory over our flesh
- And a gradual submission to the power, leading and authority of the Holy Spirit in our lives
- If that is not your experience, you are carnal

Sin will not be fully dealt with in our life until we are translated with the saints

- We should be able to point to [recent] individual victories in areas of our life
- We should be able to look back and see the areas that once ruled us , that no longer do

The indwelling presence of God through the Holy Spirit provides

- Power to resist and conquer sin
- Leading under His guidance instead of the impulses of the flesh

The carnal life is one of continual sin and failure

### Wilderness Believers Are Marked With Sin & Failure

This was the wilderness believers in the days of Moses

- When Moses came down from mountain
- Israel were caught in idolatry and sin
- The rebellion of Korah saw Israel revolt against Moses leadership
- This sin resulted in the ground swallowing up many Israelites
- Israel failed to enter the promised land because they listened to the report of the ten spies

### Gifted & Unfruitful

There is a distinction between

- The gifts of the Holy Spirit
- The fruit of the Holy Spirit
  
- The gifts are to equip a person for service
- The fruit new nature manifested by the Holy Spirit in a person by; spiritual nature apart from the flesh

The Corinthians were

- Equipped with many spiritual gifts
- Not endowed with the spiritual fruit
- They manifested the works of the flesh

Paul speaks of the superiority of the fruit over the gifts in

#### **1 Corinthians 13:1**

*Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become as sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.*

- Gifts are given freely by the Holy Spirit
- Fruit is manifest as a result of walking in the Spirit / walking in maturity
  
- The spiritual Christian is not completely free from the flesh
- The carnal Christian is not completely devoid of the Spirit
- The question what is the dominant power in their life
- Their fleshly desires, impulses and drives ruling over them
- The Holy Spirit with His power, leading and authority pre-eminent in their life

### Wilderness Believers Are Marked With A Lack Of Fruit

This was the wilderness believers in the days of Moses

- There was no joy, peace and long-suffering by the believers in the wilderness
- There was dissensions, uncleanness, selfish ambitions, revels
- They displayed the marks of a carnal believer not a spiritual believer

### Unable To Receive Solid Food

A carnal believer

- May acquire a deep knowledge of the content of the Bible
- May be able to quote chapter and verse
- May hear spiritual teaching
- May accept it, even laud it
- But it makes no impression on their life and effects no change

When hardship and trial comes

- They are unable to see the hand of the Lord in the situation

- They are unable to apply the word to the circumstance of their life
- The knowledge has remained in their head and not been translated to the heart

Any attempt to live the Christian life, to execute the commands of scripture

- Are done in the flesh in their own human strength
- And not done in the power and anointing of the Holy Spirit

The crime of the modern church is

- The pastor knows his congregation is carnal
- So he reduces his message to milk to satisfy the masses
- Never seeks to elevate the people to a spiritual level

The result is weak, ineffective churches

- With sedentary Christians
- Never moving on in their walk with Christ
- Never reaching maturity or bearing fruit

Inability to receive the solid food

- Does not mark you as stupid or lacking intelligence
- It marks you as carnal

You can be a university lecturer, a medical practitioner, a politician, a business leader

- Yet be carnal

You can be a road sweep, a supermarket cashier, a bricklayer, unemployed

- Yet be spiritual

### **Wilderness Believers Are Marked With An Inability To Receive Solid Food**

This was the wilderness believers in the days of Moses

- They heard law spoken by God through Moses
- They swore to uphold the law
- But it never translated from the head to their heart
- When hardship came they despaired instead of hoping in God

### **Two Important Points**

Having taken the time to explain what are

- The marks of a wilderness believer / carnal Christian
- It is important to make two things abundantly clear

### **Security Of Salvation**

All the while the children of Israel were in the wilderness

- They experienced sin, failure and defeat
- They did not cease to be the children of God

All the while you are a Wilderness Christian

- You experience sin, failure and defeat
- You do not cease to be a child of God
- Your salvation is secure
- The love of the Father toward you is unchanged

### **Romans 8:38-39**

*For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

### **Leave The Wilderness**

The Lord does not want you stay in the wilderness

The Lord wants you to:

- Cross the Jordan

- Enter the promised land
- Experience victory over the areas of sin, failure and defeat in your life

Paul said:

**1 Corinthians 10:11**

*Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, on whom the ends of the ages have come.*

The events recorded in the Old Testament

- Have been preserved as examples for the believer
- They serve to be the source of instruction and exhortation to the believer

From the Old Testament narrative

- There is a principle or lesson to be learnt
- To be applied to the believer's life

The principles to be drawn from Joshua 6

- How to live victorious Christian life
- How to live as spiritual not carnal
- How to be a warrior believer and not a wilderness believer

## Joshua's Army

### Step 1: Be Filled With Holy Spirit

#### Joshua 6:1

#### The Problem

Jericho is picture of the flesh (besetting sins, the problems of life)

- It is seemingly impenetrable and insurmountable *"Securely shut up"*
- It was unforgiving, unyielding: *"none went out and none came in"*

The writer observes the seeming impregnable fortress of Jericho

- He saw the problem
- He saw the impossible job that lay before Israel

If we are to move from the carnal to the spiritual

- We must first look honestly at the problem
- And recognise that it is insurmountable for us
- It is too great for us to conquer

#### The Solution

The spiritual Christian knows they cannot live or operate without the daily filling of the Holy Spirit

- Daily they cry out for the Holy Spirit to indwell them and empower them to serve God
- Daily they recognise their innate weakness and inability to serve God apart from the Holy Spirit

The filling of the Holy Spirit is not merely

- To equip for an act of service such as preaching
- To aid in some great battle of temptation
- It is to be a way of life, to be sought daily

#### Romans 8:14

*For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are sons of God.*

- You may dismiss the filling of the Holy Spirit as unnecessary
- You may say, "I received the Holy Spirit when I was saved, why must I pray to be filled again?"
- This is unbelief, and unbelief kept the wilderness believer out of the promised land

Acknowledge the problem

- Ask God to fill you with His Holy Spirit
- Face it in His strength and power

## Step 2: Change Your Perspective

### Joshua 6:2

- Having seen the earthly perspective in verse 1
- We now see the heavenly perspective in verse 2

The Lord is speaking in past tense

- He sees the victory as being already won
- We need to see victory is already a finished work in Jesus Christ

### Earthly Perspective

The Wilderness Believer / The Carnal Christian

- They see the flooded banks of the Jordan
- They see the fortress of Jericho
- They see the folly of circumcision
- They see the innumerable foes that occupy the land

### Heavenly Perspective

The Warrior Believer / The Spiritual Christian

- They see that *“nothing will be impossible with God” Luke 1:37*
- They see with eyes of faith
- They see the victory is already won
- They see you need only step forward and claim that victory

### Carnal Strategy

The Wilderness Believer

- Formulates a strategy
- Develops a battle plan
- They position of battering ram to deal with their flesh
- They erect a siege ramp to overcome their sin
- They try to overcome insurmountable odds in their own strength
- I will count to ten before I react
- I will not expose myself to that influence

### Spiritual Strategy

The Warrior Believer

- Is circumcised in the heart
- They put themselves in a position where they are fully yielded to God
- Dependent on Him to defend and shield them
- They know the fortress is too big to scale
- The enemy too great to conquer by themselves
- So they submit to God knowing
- *“the battle is not yours but God's” 2 Chronicles 20:15*

## Step 3: Trust God's Plan

### Joshua 6:3-5

### God's Plan

For six days the company is to leave the camp

- The lead is to be taken by the priests with trumpets
- They are to be followed by priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant
- They are to be followed by the army

The company are to march around the city once

- The priests are to blow the trumpets
- The army is to remain silent
- Then they are to return to camp

On the seventh day the company is to march around the city seven times

- When Joshua gives the command to, "Shout!"
- Then the entire company will shout
- Then the wall will collapse
- The army can march in and kill the inhabitants

## The Two Responses

The Wilderness Christian

- Has there ever been a more illogical, non-sensical battle strategy as this?
- Any amount of reliance on human intellect would have dismissed this military action before it began

The Warrior Christian

May not understand the battle strategy of the Lord

- They recognise the voice and direction of the Lord
- They operate in obedience to the same voice and direction

### **Isaiah 55:8**

*"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," says the Lord*

### **Romans 1:17**

*The just shall live by faith.*

## Step 4: Step Out In Faith

### **Joshua 6:6-11**

After Joshua communicated God's plan to Israel

- They took up the trumpet, the ark and the sword
- They took a step of faith
- It is but one step to go from the carnal to the spiritual (a step of faith)
- It is but one step to go from a life ruled by the flesh to a life ruled by the spirit

That step is recognising

- Where you stand is the life of the old man
- Where you must be is the life of the new man

Israel had God's word and promise

- It only takes effect if it is mingled with faith
- Faith is born out in action

### **James 2:26**

*faith without works is dead*

The step of faith is

- Dismissing a life of defeat and wilderness wandering
- Committing to a life surrendered fully to God
- Trusting yourself fully to His direction and care

When you operate in faith

- You are walking in the Spirit
- You are surrendered to the will of God

## Step 5: Patience

### **Joshua 6:12-15**

The walls did not fall on the first day, or the second

- After a full six days the walls still remained standing
- The walls didn't fall on the first march round on the seventh day
- Victory was a while coming

## Wait For The Lord

The Warrior Believer waits for the Lord to bring victory

- Doesn't expect quick-fix solutions
- Plays the long-game when it comes to spiritual growth

### **Isaiah 40:31**

*But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.*

If you want to move forward in your walk with the Lord

- You need to wait for the Lord
- You need to develop patience

### **Ecclesiastes 3:11**

*He has made everything beautiful in his time*

## Instant Gratification

The Wilderness Christian wants instant gratification

- They see a problem; they formulate a plan; and execute a solution
- There is no waiting on the Lord
- There is no prayer for God to speak

They put together what they believe is the right strategy then ask God to bless their plans

## The Lord's Way

Joshua asked the Commander of the army of the Lord

- "Are you for us or for our adversaries?" **Joshua 5:13**
- He said, "No."

In other words – that's the wrong question

- It's not whether the Lord is on your side
- It's a question of are you on the Lord's side?

Will you do things God's way

- If God's way is not forthcoming
- Will you wait for the Lord to reveal His plan?

Israel had to march round Jericho thirteen times

- Israel had to be patient
- Patience led to victory

## Step 6: Speak Out In Faith

### **Joshua 6:16**

## Word of Faith

At the time of the shout

- The walls were still standing
- It was as shout of anticipation of victory
- It was a word spoken in faith

### **Romans 10:9**

*...if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.*

- Our salvation is act of faith in the heart mingled with confession from the mouth
- Progression in salvation is a continual act of faith in the heart mingled with confession from the mouth

To be a warrior believer, a spiritual believer

- You must continue to believe in the heart and confess with your mouth
- Talk to your brothers and sisters in Christ about the things the lord has spoken to you about

- Share with your brethren the insights the Holy Spirit has highlighted in His word to you

## Word Of Flesh

The wilderness believer, the carnal believer

- Does not operate in faith toward the word of God and the promises of God
- They listen to the voice of their own heart
- Instead of the voice of the Holy Spirit

They see the walls of Jericho

- But they live in defeat
- Never seeing that victory is possible

Their mouth remains closed

- The walls remain standing
- The carnal and immature believer continues in defeat

## Step 7: Give God The Glory

**Joshua 6:17-19**

### Glory In Victory

When the victory came, God was to be honoured

- The accursed things were to be untouched
- The gold and silver, the bronze and iron were to be consecrated to the Lord

The warrior believer / the spiritual believer

- Is sanctified to the Lord
- They are separated from the things of the flesh (the accursed things)
- They give God the glory for the victory (consecrate the gold, etc.)

The Warrior Believer	It's all about God
The Wilderness Believer	It's all about me

### The End of Self

Very often God will allow us to

- Come to the end of ourselves
- Come to the place where we are powerless
- Only then can we see it has to be by Him and Him alone

God has had to bring me to the place where I realise

- I am powerless to run a church
- I lack the wisdom, the strength, the know-how
- The only way this thing works is if He takes the reins

### **Zechariah 4:6**

*So he answered and said to me: "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' Says the LORD of hosts.*

The Wilderness Believer	Maintains control, is in the driving seat
The Warrior Believer	Is led by the Holy Spirit; surrenders control to God

When you live a surrendered life, a Spirit-led, Spirit-controlled life

- You don't take the glory
- You don't take the applause
- You give it all to Jesus

## Step 8: Die To Self

**Joshua 6:20-24**

Israel, "utterly destroyed all that was in the city"

- If Jericho is a picture of the flesh

- We have a picture of the flesh being crucified

It is entirely possible

- You desire to be free from the ugly fruit of the flesh
- You fail to take the axe to the root of the tree from which the fruit stems

Many carnal Christians employ a great deal of human energy

- Fighting back the impulses of the flesh
- Forcing back the fruit of the flesh
- But always they end in defeat because the axe has not been taken to the root

The root of the carnal life is self

- Living for your own goals, your own pleasures
- Living to satisfy your wants, your desires

This must end

- An axe must be cast to the root of self
- A resolve must be found to live for Christ alone

Not only does your sin need to be nailed to the cross

- You need to be nailed to the cross
- Your life must be crucified with Christ

### **Galatians 2:20**

*I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.*

Jesus bid his disciples, "Follow Me" **Matthew 4:19**

- The disciples left their boats and their nets
- The disciples left their tax booths and their income
- The disciples left their families and their homes
- They left their old way of life behind and followed their new Master

Their lives were now under the power and authority of Jesus

- They went where the Spirit guided
- They did as their Master instructed
- They lived on the Master's provision

The warrior believer, the spiritual believer leaves their old life behind

- They are filled with the Holy Spirit
- They go where the Spirit leads them
- They do as the Spirit instructs them
- With each step of obedience to the Spirits' command
- They crucify the flesh a little more
- They die a little more

## **Step 9: Make That Change**

### **Joshua 6:25-27**

Joshua spared the life of Rahab, in line with

- The promise of the two spies
- The faith she expressed in the scarlet cord

It's quite amazing that the walls of Jericho fell

- But the house of Rahab remained standing
- Even though it was part of the walls

Rahab recognised she could join the warrior believers

- It is possible to turn from the carnal to the spiritual
- To repent of the old nature and adopt the new nature

All too easily a them-and-us can be seen in the church of Jesus Christ

- A believer sees their pitiful carnal state
- They see their sin and failure
- They see their lack of fruit

A believer also sees their spiritual brother or sister in Christ

- They see their victory
- They see their fruit
- They see the operation of the Holy Spirit in their life

They resign themselves to the thought that's just the way it is

- Some are carnal like me
- Some are spiritual like them

They fail to recognise

- The way is open for them to be filled with the Holy Spirit
- The way is open for them to live in and walk in the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit brings conviction of sin

- In the first instance this causes the person to flee from sin and run to Christ for salvation
- In the second instance this brings awareness of individual corruption and carnality
- Should lead to repentance on many levels for many sins
- A seeking for victory in these many areas through the enabling of the Holy Spirit