

J O S H U A

Trusting God for what lies ahead



Faith's answers to life's questions about "What will happen now? What will happen next? What lies ahead?"

When Changes Come - Remember This

"Joshua" series - Week 1

Joshua 1:1-9

- ◆ **Note:** For the uncertain future Israel was about to face, God gave Joshua, and the nation of Israel, a promise that would defeat their fears and cause their faith to soar. It is the same promise God gives us today when we face uncertain times. We will see that promise from today's study in Joshua chapter 1.

Section 1 - God's workers change but God's work always goes on. (Joshua 1:1-2)

- ◆ **Note:** Here are all the different United States Presidents that have led our nation since my birth. Dwight Eisenhower (Republican); John F. Kennedy (Democrat); Lyndon B. Johnson (Democrat); Richard Nixon (Republican); Gerald Ford (Republican); Jimmy Carter (Democrat); Ronald Reagan (Republican); George H. W. Bush (Republican); Bill Clinton (Democrat); George W. Bush (Republican); Barack Obama (Democrat); Donald Trump (Republican); and Joe Biden (Democrat). Here's the question. Under which President or Presidents in office was the eternal work and plan of God prevented or stopped? Answer - none. Not a single new national leader, which in my lifetime included 7 Republicans and now 6 Democrats, ever stopped, changed, or prevented God's eternal work and plans.

- ◆ **Note:** Since 2020 we have been living in a different kind of world. As we begin 2021, we will be living with a different kind of national leadership. But again, here are the questions for us to ask and answer as people of God. Do we have the same God in 2021? Do we have the same King Jesus in 2021? Do we have the same Bible in 2021? Do we have the same promises of God to rely on in 2021? Our surroundings have changed in the last 14 months but nothing that really matters has really changed!

Section 2 - The promise of God's faithfulness, power, and presence. (Joshua 1:3-5)

- ◆ **Note:** Victory is assured for Israel not because Joshua is a great leader or because Israel is a great nation, but because God is a great God.

Section 3 - Conditions always come with promises. (Joshua 1:6-9)

Follow these 4 commands to experience spiritual success

Command #1 - Know God's Word (v. 7).

Command #2 - Talk about God's Word (v. 8a).

Command #3 - Think on God's Word (v. 8b).

Command #4 - Obey God's Word (v. 8c).

Truth #1 - Things change. Places change. People change. Careers change. Finances change. Leaders change. But God never changes. "I the Lord do not change." (Malachi 3:6).

Truth #2 - God knows exactly what we need to hear. We will hear it ... if we are listening.

Truth #3 - We do not have to fear our unknown future because we trust our future to a known God who promises to be with us.

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*Always Choose to Follow the Lord
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Joshua series - Week 8

Joshua 24:1-29; 31

Series Key Verse: Joshua 1:9: "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

Section #1 - Joshua recalls to Israel God's faithfulness and God stories! (Joshua 24:1-13)

- (1) Joshua recalls God's faithfulness to Israel's first forefathers (verses 2-4).
- (2) Joshua recalls God's faithfulness in bringing Israel out of Egypt (verses 5-7a).
- (3) Joshua recalls God's faithfulness in the desert (verses 7b-10).
- (4) Joshua recalls God's faithfulness to Israel in the land of Canaan (verses 11-13).

Section #2 - A challenge from Joshua to the people to faithfully serve the Lord. (Joshua 24:14-15)

Section #3 - The people make a commitment to faithfully serve the Lord. (Joshua 24:16-24)

Section #4 - Joshua passes on but his legacy lives on. (Joshua 24:25-29; 31)

Today's Take-Away Truths from God's Word

Truth #1 - Throughout this chapter we see again and again that Joshua wants the people to never forget they owe everything to God.

Truth #2 - The husband/father in a family is to be the spiritual leader of the family.

Truth #3 - Always choose to follow the Lord and you will never regret the choice.

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Stories in the Bible that Don't Seem to Fit

Joshua series - Week 2

Joshua 2:1-24

- ◆ **Note:** For the uncertain future Israel was about to face, God gave Joshua and the nation of Israel a promise that would defeat their fears and cause their faith to soar. It is the same promise God gives us today when we face uncertain times. Joshua 1:9: "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

Section #1 - Spies are sent by Joshua to check out Jericho. (Joshua 2:1)

Section #2 - God uses an unlikely person to hide His spies.
(Joshua 2:2-7)

Section #3 - A surprising convert from a sinful city.
(Joshua 2:8-14)

Section #4 - A symbol of shame becomes a symbol of salvation. (Joshua 2:15-21)

Section #5 - We have done our part and God will now do His part. (Joshua 2:22-24)

Today's Take-Away Truths from God's Word

Truth #1 - No one is beyond the reach of God's grace.

Truth #2 - God does not consult our past to determine our future.

Truth #3 - Just as God had a plan in bringing the spies to Rehab so she could trust in Him, God has plans today for bringing believers in the path of lost people who need Him.

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God's Work, God's Way, Gets God's Blessings

Joshua series - Week 3

Joshua 3:1-17

Key Text: Joshua 1:9: "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

- ◆ **Note:** Joshua chapter 3 tells the story of the crossing of the Jordan River. We may ask: Why does this particular river matter so much? The answer is that the Jordan River serves as a boundary marker. The people of God had to cross that river to enter the Promised Land. This chapter emphasizes a great truth: God's work must be done God's way in order to receive God's blessing. God will bless anyone who does His work His way. But blessings will be missed by those who think they have a better idea and do things their way.

Section #1 - Camping out and crossing over at the Jordan River.

(Joshua 3:1-2)

Section #2 - God will go before us and lead us.

(Joshua 3:3-4)

Section #3 - Hearts need to be clean before the hand of God moves.

(Joshua 3:5)

Section #4 - Joshua demonstrates faith in God first.

(Joshua 3:6-13)

Section #5 - God does it again! (Joshua 3:14-17)

Today's Take-Away Truths from God's Word

Truth #1 - Waiting time is never wasted time if we are waiting on the Lord.

Truth #2 - Sometimes, God has something to do in us before He can do something for us.

Truth #3 - In uncertain times we can always trust in our certain God.

JOSHUA

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When Things Seem Out of Control - Trust the One in Control

Joshua series - Week 4
Joshua 4:1-7; 5:13-15; 6:1-27

Key Text: Joshua 1:9: "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

Snapshot #1 - Always keep sharing the God-stories.
(Joshua 4:1-7)

Snapshot #2 - A messenger of the Lord with a message from the Lord.
(Joshua 5:13-15)

Snapshot #3 - When a plan is from God, don't question it - just follow it. (Joshua 6:1-14)

Snapshot #4 - The fall of the wall at Jericho. (Joshua 6:15-27)

Truth #1 - As a child of God, I am to take my commands from only one Commander - God.

Truth #2 - Joshua didn't delay in doing what God said. Our delays to obey God show that we aren't really trusting Him. Partial obedience is still disobedience. The path of disobedience is littered with excuses.

Truth #3 - When things seem out of control - trust the One in control.

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A Little Sin Can Cause A Lot of Trouble

Joshua series - Week 5

Joshua 7:1-26

Key Text: Joshua 1:9: "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

Section 1 - The secret sin of Achan - a sin that would not remain secret. (Joshua 7:1)

Section 2 - Uh-oh at Ai. (Joshua 7:2-5)

Section 3 - Joshua cries before the Lord in Israel's time of crisis. (Joshua 7:6-9)

Section 4 - The real reason for defeat - disobedience. (Joshua 7:10-12)

Section 5 - Instructions for judgment of the sin. (Joshua 7:13-15)

Section 6 - Achan's sin is confronted and confessed. (Joshua 7:19-21)

Section 7 - A pile of rocks would be a permanent reminder that for our good and for God's glory, God takes sin seriously. (Joshua 7:22-26)

Truth #1 - We never sin alone - our sin always hurts other people.

Truth #2 - It only takes one disobedient decision to start walking in disobedience.

Truth #3 - A believer is always building confidence either in himself or in the Lord.

Truth #4 - Our greatest disappointment when we spiritually stumble should be that we might cause shame on the name of our great God.

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When Things Seem Bad - They Aren't Always As They Seem

Joshua series - Week 6
Joshua 9:1-27

Key Text: Joshua 1:9: "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

Section 1 - Enemy kings come together against Israel.
(Joshua 9:1-2)

Section 2 - A daring deception. (Joshua 9:3-13)

Section 3 - A major mistake made - making a decision without seeking the Lord. (Joshua 9:14-15)

Section 4 - The deception of the Gibeonites is discovered and dealt with.
(Joshua 9:16-21)

Section 5 - Enemies of the Lord become servants of the Lord.
(Joshua 9:22-27)

Today's Take-Away Truths from God's Word

Truth #1 - Sometimes something bad can appear as something good. The devil has always been effective disguising something bad for us as something good for us (see Joshua 9:4; Genesis 3:4-5; and James 1:14-16).

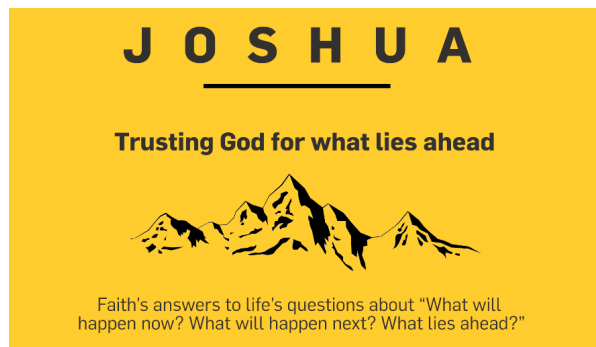
Truth #2 - We are never to be too busy or too self-confident to seek the counsel of Lord in all of life's matters (Joshua 9:14).

Truth #3 - Evil can be powerful but is no match for God (Joshua 9:27; 10:12-14).

Truth #4 - When things seem bad they aren't always as they seem because God is always at work behind the scenes (1 Chronicles 16:39-40; Nehemiah 3:7; 7:25).

Truth #5 - God will always keep His "oath," His promise to us forever!

Hebrews 6:17-18: God also bound himself with an oath, so that those who received the promise could be perfectly sure that He would never change his mind. So God has given both His promise and his oath. These two things are unchangeable because it is impossible for God to lie. Therefore, we who have fled to Him for refuge can have great confidence as we hold to the hope that lies before us.



Standing on the Promises of God

Joshua series - Week 7

Joshua 14:6-14

Key Text: *Joshua 1:9: "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."*

- ◆ **Note:** Today's Bible study is about a man who had faithfully served the Lord and continued to effectively serve the Lord even in his 80's and beyond. We might incorrectly think that the older we get, the less God can use us. But that would be a wrong assumption as we will see in our Bible study today from the 14th chapter of Joshua.

Section 1 - Caleb recalls to Joshua the promise that Moses recalled from God. (Joshua 14:6-9)

- ◆ **Note:** When we hear the term "wilderness wandering," it refers to the punishment that generation of Israelites received because of their disbelief, distrust, and disobedience to God. They had to wander in the wilderness for 40 years until that unbelieving generation died off, never stepping foot in the Promised Land. Everyone in that generation would die off in the wilderness, except Joshua and Caleb (see Deuteronomy 1:19-38).

Section 2 - Caleb is ready to claim the promise of God. (Joshua 14:10-12)

- ◆ **Note:** Though Caleb's AGE is older now, Caleb's SPIRIT is just as vigorous and energetic as it was over 45 years ago (verse 11).

Section 3 - The key to Caleb's success and the blessings he received from the Lord was his commitment to fully follow the Lord. (Joshua 14:13-14)

- ◆ **Note:** Caleb believed God even when others didn't. At Kadesh Barnea, it was Joshua and Caleb against the opinions of everyone else. We can see why Israel would be tempted to follow the doubters when they were told by the ten spies that it would be like giants fighting grasshoppers. Who wants to enter a battle thinking there is no way you can win? But God had said, "I promise to go with you and give you the land." And that changes everything because anyone plus God is a majority!

Today's Take-Away Truths from God's Word

Truth #1 - When a believer fully follows the Lord, that believer will continue to thrive even at 85!

Truth #2 - As we grow older, our bodies will advance in age, but our spirit can remain renewed. With God, even though we grow older on the outside, we can grow younger on the inside.

2 Corinthians 4:16: "Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day."

Truth #3 - Growing older should make us bolder.

Truth #4 - Satan will always try to get us to focus on our problem, not our Provider. He always wants us to see the size of the giants, not the size of our God.

Truth #5 - Let God's promises shine on your problems (Corrie ten Boom).

Truth #6 - Remembering God's promises is good, but trusting in God's promises is far better.

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