



When Changes Come

Trusting God with Your Tomorrows - Week 1

Joshua 1:1-9

Introduction: Today we are beginning an 8-week study about a person in the Bible who learned to trust God with his tomorrows. His name is Joshua. And each week from the book of Joshua, we will see how the stories of his faith journeys will encourage us to face our future with confidence knowing that we can trust our unknown tomorrows to our great and good, known God.

- ➔ **Note:** The Old Testament events were historical events, but they were not just events - they were examples for us today. God preserved these events in the Bible so we could learn from them. 1 Corinthians 10:11 tells us, "Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction..."
- ➔ **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 increase their faith. It is the same promise God gives us today when we face uncertain times. (Joshua 1:9)

Section 1 - When bad news comes. (Joshua 1:1-2)

- ➔ **Note:** Remember this when bad news comes: When problems and pain show up, God's help shows up too.

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 - Promises always come with conditions. (Joshua 1:6-8)

Four commands for experiencing spiritual success

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

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

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

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

Section 4 - The promise to Joshua and us. (Joshua 1:9)

- ➔ **Note:** God encourages Joshua one more time in verse 9 by repeating His same words to Joshua from verses 5 and 6. God repeats His previous words as an encouragement and as a reminder that victory in life does not depend on Joshua but on Joshua depending on God.

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

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.



Stories in the Bible that Don't Seem to Fit
Trusting God with Your Tomorrows - Week 2
Joshua 2:1-24

Introduction: Last week, we noticed the book of Joshua opens with bad news - the death of Moses. Moses, the long-time leader of the Israelites; the law-giver; and the miracle-maker has died. As we might imagine, questions came quickly. Probably questions like: *"What will happen now?"* Or *"What will happen next?"* Or *"What lies ahead?"* But behind every question they asked about this time of uncertainty was the biggest question, *"Can God really be trusted to take care of us in our tomorrows?"* For the uncertain future, God gave Joshua and the nation of Israel a promise that would defeat their fears and increase their faith. It is the same promise God gives us today when we face uncertain times - Joshua 1:9.

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

Section #2 - God will use unlikely people to accomplish His purposes.
(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 - When we have done our part, God will 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.

➔ **Note:** The fact Rahab was a pagan prostitute only magnifies the grace of God by demonstrating that anyone with a bad beginning can still find a place in God's family. Rahab stands as an example of hope to the broken, the bruised, and the messed up lives of men and women everywhere who look in the mirror and say, "There is no hope for me." For anyone who might feel that way, they can consider the fact that Rahab was a prostitute, but because she turned to God, she is in Heaven today.

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

➔ **Note:** If we continue to follow the genealogy of Jesus in Matthew, we will discover that Rahab the former prostitute became the great-great-great grandmother to David, the future King of Israel! (Matthew 1:5-6) And if we follow the genealogy further, we will discover that Rahab was also a part of the lineage of Jesus, the Savior of the world! (Matthew 1:5 and 16) Just a reminder of how God does not refer to 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.

➔ **Note:** Personally sharing our faith with family, friends, neighbors, coworkers, and others is God's number one plan for evangelism. Someone shared the good news of Jesus with us, right? The good news of Jesus that was shared with us is news too good not to share with others!



Doing Things God's Way Gets God's Blessings

Trusting God with Your Tomorrows - Week 3

Joshua 3:1-17

Introduction: Joshua and the nation of Israel were at a place in life where they were facing a very uncertain future. For the uncertain future Israel was about to face, God gave Joshua and the nation of Israel a promise that would help defeat their fears and increase their faith. It is the same promise God gives us today when we face uncertain times. **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 - Camping out and crossing over at the Jordan River.

(Joshua 3:1-2)

→ **Note this:** Waiting time is never wasted time if you are waiting on the Lord. We must remember that God has His purposes behind our times of waiting. One purpose God had in Israel's waiting three days before crossing the Jordan was so they could learn before starting their journey into the Promised Land — doing things God's way gets God's blessings.

Section #2 - God will go before us and lead us. (Joshua 3:3-4)

→ **Note this:** Here is a question worth asking. Why did Joshua put the Ark of the Covenant and the Levite priests first in line instead of Israel's military army, which would have made more sense? Because Joshua wanted the people to know that they were always to seek God first

when facing challenges. Whatever challenges they would face, they were to go to God first and put their trust in Him most.

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

(Joshua 3:5)

→ **Note this:** Before the Lord would do things **FOR** His people, there was something that needed to happen **IN** His people - they needed to purify themselves. Without a time of spiritual preparation, Israel would have never been ready to cross a mile-wide raging river into the Promised Land. Before God can do some things **FOR US**, there are sometimes things **IN US** that need to happen first - a clean mind, a clean heart, and a clean spirit.

Section #4 - Joshua demonstrates faith in God first.

(Joshua 3:6-13)

→ **Note this:** Like Joshua, God always wants to encourage us and help strengthen our faith. God will speak if we are listening. Don't miss hearing from God and missing the encouragement God wants to give you.

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

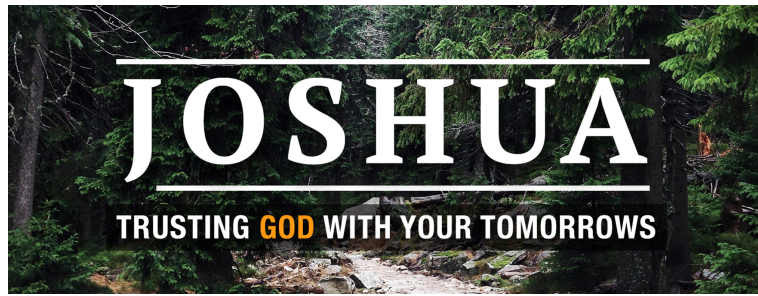
→ **Note this:** Humanly, if we were walking toward a flooding river, we would prefer the ground where we would be walking to be dry before we take a single step. But Israel needed to demonstrate and to know they could have full faith in God before going into the Promised Land. Anyone can trust God on dry ground. Anyone can trust God near a flooding river. But would you trust God enough to step into that river and walk across that river? We can, if we believe God can get us safely through any raging rivers we face in life.

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 He needs to do in us before He can do something for us.

Truth #3 - In uncertain times we can always count on God.



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

Trusting God with Your Tomorrows - Week 4
Joshua 4:1-7; 5:13-15; 6:1-27

Introduction: As we noted last week how crossing the JORDAN was important in the faith journey of Joshua and Israel, facing the city of JERICHO would also be an important faith moment. Just as Israel could not enter the Promised Land without crossing the Jordan River, Israel could go no further into the Promised Land without getting past the tall walled fortified city of Jericho.

Four Snapshots of Joshua's next faith journey
(Chapters 4-6)

Snapshot #1 - Israel made sure to 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)

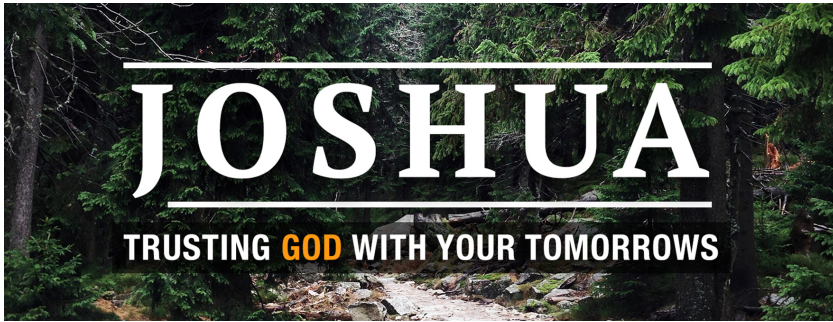
Snapshot #4 - The fall of the wall at Jericho.
(Joshua 6:15-27)

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

Truth #1 - As a child of God, I am to take my commands from one commander only - 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 who is in control.



A Little Sin Can Cause A Lot of Trouble

Trusting God with Your Tomorrows - Week 5

Joshua 7:1-26

Introduction: Last week from Joshua chapter 6, we saw one of the most well-known stories in the Bible - the story of Joshua at the battle of Jericho. The story in the very next chapter, chapter 7, includes another very important story. It is the story of Achan, or to be more precise, Achan's sin. Even though the two stories of Jericho and Achan are closely connected to each other, the story of Achan is hardly known. Perhaps it's because Joshua chapter 6 is about the thrill of victory but Joshua 7 is about the agony of defeat. Be that as it may, these two stories occur side-by-side, with the story of chapter 7 picking up where the story in chapter 6 concludes. It shows us the truth of how a little sin can cause a lot of trouble.

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 concealed sin is confronted.
(Joshua 7:19-21)

Section 7 - The story of Achan is a permanent reminder that God takes sin seriously. (Joshua 7:22-26)

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

Truth #1 - We never sin alone - our sin immediately or eventually will always hurt others.

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 the Lord.

Truth #4 - Our greatest concern when we stumble in sin should be that we cause shame on the name of our great God.



When Things Seem Bad -

They Aren't Always As They Seem

Trusting God with Your Tomorrows - Week 6

Joshua 8:1-2, 28; 9:1-27

Introduction: For the uncertain future of Joshua and Israel, God had given them a promise that would defeat their fears and increase their faith in Him. It is a promise they could always lean into and stand on. It is a promise that can also help us today when facing uncertain times and assure us that we can trust God with our tomorrows. 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 - Let's try Ai again.

(Joshua 8:1-2; 28-29)

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

Section 3 - A daring deception.

(Joshua 9:3-13)

Section 4 - A major mistake made by making a decision without first seeking the Lord. (Joshua 9:14-15)

Section 5 - The deception of the Gibeonites is discovered and dealt with. (Joshua 9:16-21)

Section 6 - Enemies of the Lord become servants of the Lord.
(Joshua 9:22-27)

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

Truth #1 - The devil has always been effective in disguising something bad for us as something good for us.
(Joshua 9:3-4)

Truth #2 - We should never be too busy or too self-confident to not seek the Lord in all of life's matters.
(Joshua 9:14)

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

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)



Standing on the Promises of God

Trusting God with Your Tomorrows - Week 7

Joshua 14:6-14

Introduction: Today's Bible study is about a man who had faithfully served the Lord and continued to effectively serve the Lord even in his 80s 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 this:** 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 (Deuteronomy 1:19-38).

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

→ **Note this:** Though Caleb's AGE is older now, Caleb's SPIRIT is just as vigorous and energetic as it was over 45 years ago (Joshua 14:11).

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

→ **Note this:** Caleb believed in the promise of God even when others didn't. 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." When we trust in the promises of God - that changes everything!

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).

Truth #3 - Growing older should make us bolder.

Truth #4 - Satan will always try to get us to focus on our problem, instead of 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 - What God promises He will provide - although not always on our time schedule.

Truth #7 - Remembering God's promises is good but trusting in God's promises is better.



Always Choose God

Trusting God with Your Tomorrows - Week 8

Joshua 24:1-32

Introduction: For the uncertain future Joshua and Israel were facing God gave a promise that would increase their faith and defeat their fears. It is the same promise God gives us today when we face uncertain times in our life. 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 Israel's great God stories!

(Joshua 24:1-10)

Section 2 - Joshua recalls God's great faithfulness to Israel upon entering the land of Canaan.

(Joshua 24:11-13)

Section 3 - The choice: if you are going to serve the Lord you need to serve Him only and completely.

(Joshua 24:14-15)

Section 4 - Israel responds with the right choice - we too will serve the Lord. (Joshua 24:16-21)

Section 5 - Joshua dies and is buried in the Promised Land. (Joshua 24:19-32)

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

Truth #1 - Joshua wanted the people to never forget they owed everything to God. (Joshua 24:1-13)

Truth #2 - We ought to do what Joshua did with the people of Israel - count our blessings and give all credit to the Lord. (Joshua 24:16-18)

Truth #3 - One of the most important things in life to do is to lead our children and grandchildren to love, trust, obey, and serve the Lord. (Joshua 24:15b)

Truth #4 - To serve the Lord with all faithfulness means there are no "do not disturb" signs in any of the rooms in my life. (Joshua 24:14a)

Truth #5 - Choosing the Lord doesn't happen by accident - it is a daily choice we make. (Joshua 24:23-24)