



WEEK 2
DAY 1

Last week we ended with Joshua at the end of his life telling the Israelites that “the Lord your God will fight for you just as He promised.” They just had to remember one thing; one thing! I love that not a long list, just one thing! What was it? (See Joshua 23:11 for a hint)

This week we are going to study some concepts straight out of Joshua, always with an eye on the New Testament, to see what we can apply directly to us. Now, one reason I’m using the Old Testament for our focal point is because it shows us the physical account of the spiritual reality. That is deep to me and as we go through this week we will be able to better define exactly what that means.

Today we are going to be in Joshua 1:1-11 for our text. Start reading in verse 1, but use 6-11 to make note of three types of things:

God told them to: What would happen: Any mention of time:

Joshua 1:6-11 Be strong and courageous (v. 6) Joshua would lead the people (v.6)

Now, let’s look for these same principles in the New Testament. Write them out and check them off in the section above:

God told them to: What would happen: Any mention of time:

Eph. 6:10

1 Cor. 16:13

God told them to:What would happen:Any mention of time:

John 15:5-10
 (This one is
 rich, I was
 able to check
 off a couple.)

Heb. 1:5-6

Do you see that God was the same in the Old Testament as He is now? His message never changes. That means that what they expected of God is what we can expect of God! Do we, though?

Last week our “punch lines” words were “Stand firm and you will see” and we talked about taking a minute and realizing who the enemy in our situation is, self or Satan. Thankfully, the way we start out fighting either one is the same.

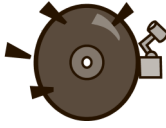
To “be strong and courageous” is the second “punch”. Why do you think that is?

I bet you guessed it, because if we are realizing that the fight is with our very own sin nature, that scares us. We automatically start thinking it’s hopeless, this is just who I am. If we realize it is Satan we are dealing with, it terrifies us. Here is the thing if we don’t do exactly what God told Joshua to do, we will not be able to be strong and courageous! No way, no how!

So what exactly did God tell Joshua to do? (Joshua 1:7-8).

Day 2 continued

Now don't let that phrase "Book of the Law" throw you. Simply put, we are in the book of Joshua so all that had been written was Genesis through Deuteronomy.



Meditate on the Word of God, which is where our strength and courage will come from.
What word can you meditate on today?



WEEK 2
DAY 2

Joshua is such a rich book! The first few chapters have always allowed God to speak to me loudly. It might be because I am so hard headed. Or, perhaps it is because in my early days I was so prone to sin. Where we are stopping today is a bit off the trail, but it is one of my most beloved stories. It may be familiar to you but I am praying that God will show us new wonders in it today!

Joshua 2:1-24, is the story of Rahab. We are going to take time today and read her story because it is so much of what we are talking about in this study! As you read the verses, identify

1. Whom she was fighting with.
2. Where had her courage and strength came from.
3. Any mention of time.

I keep asking you to make note of the time, that's because I want you to see that many times things aren't instant! That's usually what I want - instant results, and it doesn't seem to happen that way, does it? So, with whom do you think she was fighting?

If you said both self and Satan, I would agree with you. She had to have had a battle going on inside of herself about whether she should take the side of these men or the people of her country. And you know Satan would have been all over her because she was going to make a huge difference in the lives of people.

I love that her courage came from what she was hearing about God. See, she couldn't meditate on the Word of God, because she didn't have it. But she could hear what He was up to and think on that. That is why it is so important we tell people what God is doing in our lives!

The other thing I love about Rahab is that she didn't have it all together. My version of the Bible says she was a prostitute, other versions say innkeeper, but either way, she was a women in an awkward spot. The King of the land sent her a message and she had to decide which side she was on: This God who she didn't know or her King that she does know. She chooses God! It tickles me that even though she makes the right choice, she chooses the wrong words. Did you notice she lied?

Day 2 continued

We can say she did it for good reasons but the truth is she lied! Big whopping lies! Man, that just comforts me, because sometimes we just blow it. We may have the right intentions but we blow it. Now, I have no doubt that God had a heart to heart with her and she knows now that He could have made a way without her having to lie. But, still her story causes me to extend grace to others when they blow it. Because truthfully, we might blow it for the right reasons too at some point.

Do we know how Rahab ends up? Yes, we can see her in the genealogy of Christ. (Matthew 1:5) She is actually woven through several places in the Bible. But for our point today, we will just say that she is part of Christ's heritage. Even though she had only heard of God; she believed, she took courage, and she acted it on that belief. God saw her heart and took her into the family of God! He then blessed her by becoming a part of the lineage of His very own son.



That is the kind of stakes we are up against! Your life & my life have the ability to impact others and change their future for generations to come! What can you meditate on today from Rahab's testimony?



WEEK 2
DAY 3

Joshua has a word for us today. Oh, it may step all over your toes, just like it does mine. But, it is a key for gaining the victory! Just to stop and recap what have our two main punches been so far?

***Stand firm and we will see God fight for us!**

What does that mean to you?

***Be Strong and Courageous!**

Where does our strength come from?

Ok just dive in today. Short reading, huge impact. HUGE! I'm excited, you guys, because this is HUGE! Did I say HUGE yet?

Read Joshua 3:1-5. Oh my word, do you see it?

Just in case you missed it, here it is!

“Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do amazing things among you!”

Let's focus on the good part first, God is saying He will do amazing things among us. Could you use some amazing things of God in your life?

Yes, duh! So could I! Ok, so our next question is, how. Or why will God do amazing things for us?

If I were talking to myself here is what I would be saying:

OK, let me think on this, I'm standing firm knowing God says He will fight for me and I will see it. I'm getting my courage and strength from His Word and now He wants me to act on what I am seeing in His Word, then, He is going to start to do amazing things!

See, the word consecration, means “to declare or set apart.” Personally when I thought of the word consecration I thought of the part that says “set apart”. In my own life I have used that as a word to meditate on, it helps me to not take part in certain things, which is one obvious meaning. But, what about that “to declare” part? What do you think that is saying?

I looked up in the Old Testament the different instances that God said to consecrate something. Typically it involved someone doing something, like when they consecrated a priest, where they had a list of things they did. In other cases, they had a list of things they couldn't take part in. But when I looked up the word "consecrate" in the New Testament I found this:

It is consecrated by the word of God and prayer. (1 Timothy 4:5) Interesting, the word of God and prayer can consecrate. In context, Paul was telling Timothy that all food is ok to eat if it is consecrated. But as I sit here thinking this through, I realized that when we are taking in the Word of God and meditating on it, we are consecrating ourselves. See, legalism or religion tries to tell us we have to check off items or things on a list to be consecrated to God, just like they did in the Old Testament. Partly because God was demonstrating physically what was and is now happening spiritually.

As New Testament Christians, we are permanently "set apart" by God not by what we do, but by faith in Jesus Christ and we are sealed with the Holy Spirit. So, if we are already set apart, then our portion of the word consecration is "to declare it"!

Does that make sense? Just in case it doesn't, let me try again.

First, we have to stand firm and know we will see God fight for us. We have to know that in our heart. At the same time, we need to realize who we are fighting, self or Satan.

Then, when we name the enemy our natural response will be fear, so we have to meditate on God's word so that we will have courage. That is in our minds. We think on God's word, or ponder it.

Thirdly, as God's word sinks into our hearts, it begins to consecrate us to a new level. Since we are set apart by our faith in Christ, our portion of the process is to start to declare what is truth. What is God willing to do?

Amazing things!

Now, I shared with you that I am fighting for purity. I know God wants to fight for that because He is pure! So as I have meditated on what He says in His word on purity, I have pondered it. I have turned it over and over in my mind. But now it is time for it to become something I declare with my mouth! So, in my house I am saying out loud, "God I know that just by my behavior they can be won over. I know that if they see the purity in me, they will notice it. Not only that, but you will use it to draw them to you! But here's the thing, I need help to become pure enough that they can see. Show me where I'm not pure and how to take steps to become purer."

I am saying that out loud! Do you know why? Because some of my lack of purity is "self" and a great way to get your flesh to start obeying in the big areas is to make your mouth speak the truth!

Day 3 continued

Now it's your turn. What truth can you declare today? Right now. Out loud. Maybe even loudly. Do you know why it's so hard to say the words out loud? Because they have power! You will be making your "self" become a little smaller and God becomes bigger. You will also throw Satan for a loop because He **knows** God is just waiting for us to take Him at His word and start asking for Him to be who He is!



Speak it loudly& you will see amazing things! I'm speaking that as I type. Consecrate us, Lord by Your words. Let us see you do amazing things!



WEEK 2
DAY 4

Are we having fun or what? God has some big things He wants to accomplish in our lives. Big things like some security that is tied to Him, some love in our homes, how about some peace. And how about some people that need to see Jesus at work in our lives and checking out what He is all about?

I can vividly remember the first time that “declaring out loud” began to take hold in my heart. Notice I said, “began”, it took some time before I started realizing how effective it was. But the very first time was when Katie was about five. She started having nightmares. Not scary dreams, big time nightmares. She woke us up night after night. I was at my wit’s end. At the time I was reading a book by Stormie O’martian. As I read the book, she talked about praying out loud over your house and anointing it with oil. Now, that was radical to me! In fact, I almost put the book away because that was just crazy talk!

Praying went on in your head, and that anointing with oil was for super Christian people. It quite possibly had to be a man, too.

But, in my heart I heard God whisper, “I want you to do that.” By this time I had learned it isn’t a great thing to argue with God, but my current method was to try to put Him off. So I said “God, you know I have never even seen a bottle of anointing oil but I’m pretty sure it is a special thing. Now, if you provide it, I’ll do it.”

Did you see that sly trick, I said yes, but I put what I thought was a condition that God wouldn’t be able to make happen. I wrote that sentence out, because obviously we don’t think that way rationally, but that is the truth of it, isn’t it?

So the nightmares kept on, and on. I finished the book and decided to go buy a new book to read. I found something to read and as I was checking out, right at the cash register, was a display of ANOINTING OIL! Yes, you read that correctly, they sell it still!

I wanted to pass out. As my hand touched the bottle I wish I could tell you I was saying something super spiritual like ‘thank you God for providing this to me’. But alas, I was thinking, ‘no way. Maybe you have to show some kind of spiritual ID to buy it!’

But the man behind the counter sold it to me. I remember it was in a brown bag, very small and I was so glad because I was afraid someone would see me with it.

I came home and sat it on the table. Smelled it. Looked at it. Pondered it. Listened for God. Nothing but silence.

I went and pulled the book off the shelf, and re-read the chapter for directions. Not many there. Pray, rub some on the area, listen for God and pray. Oh yea, all that praying is supposed to be out loud.

Day 4 continued

I did it. Not well. Not happily. Not with much faith. Feeling totally stupid. But I did it. Katie, to this day, has **never** had nightmares like that again. Never. Months went by before I told Chad because I thought he would think I was strange. He does, but he had thought that for years so he was ok with the out loud praying and the oil. I still have that same bottle of oil. God so far hasn't told me to do that again, but if He does, I will still feel weird, but I will have more faith this time! The "declaring out loud" part He has used over and over in my life.

That's the thing about God, He is going to ask us to do some things that seem strange, but if He is the one telling us to do it and it lines up with His written Word, we need to be willing to go ahead and take a chance on what He says, because it is worth it.

There is one more part to the story about Katie, but I want us to go to Joshua first. We are going to look at what happened to the children of Israel when they allowed sin in the camp.

Pull out the major point of these verses:

Joshua 7:1 Achan took (stole) some of the devoted things. God was angry.

Joshua 7: 2-5

Joshua 7:6-9

Joshua 7:10-12

Joshua 7:13

Joshua 7:19-21

Joshua 7:22-23

Joshua 7:24-26

That story is hard to read. He died for his sin, and his family died with him. Sometimes we just don't know what to make of things like this. We love when we see the promises of God and start acting on them.

But, what do we do with the anger of God in the Old Testament?

Do you remember when I said the Old Testament show us the physical reality of what is happening spiritually? This is a perfect example. Physically this man and his family died. Dead.

When Jesus died for us, He satisfied the righteous anger of God, and that enables us to live under grace, if we have accepted Him. But spiritually what we saw in Joshua still happens. Read James 1:15 and note what the end result of sin is:

Death. Anytime there is sin involved there is death. I can remember a stressful time in my life where sin grew and trust died. Loved died. Can you see how that can happen? Spiritually those things (trust and love) died, our physical bodies were still there, but those feelings were dead!

Now if you are feeling a bit downcast, don't because you know what our God can do? Raise the dead! Yes, He can. Can I even be so bold as to say He is an expert at it? What area has sin brought death to in your life? Ask God to breath new life into it!

Back to Katie's story, when I was walking around feeling sheepish, praying out loud, but very softly. I noticed something on her shelf, a movie with witches. Now it was a kid's movie, and the witches were "good," but still. I picked it up and I threw it away. Sometimes we have things in our house that are causing us to slip up. Maybe causing someone else to slip up. God can show you what you need to do because it may not match exactly with what He asks someone else to do.

Day 4 continued

I feel like we have been all over the place today so let's try to bring this day together. We saw in Joshua that when we start winning, if we aren't careful, we can allow sin in the camp. That will bring death. No ifs, ands, or buts. We have to get the sin out and then ask God to bring back to life what our sin has killed.



What is God showing you that needs to be removed? Do you have an area that has died because of sin? If so, ask God to breath life back into it!



WEEK 2 DAY 5

We are going back to Joshua 3:5 today because I missed something that God wants us to think on.

Consecrate yourselves because tomorrow the LORD will do amazing things among you.

I focused all of our attention on the “consecrate” side of it and just glossed over the “amazing things” part. I looked in a different translation of the Bible and it said “wonders”. I was feeling all smiley because no matter which word you use it just makes you smile amazing things, wonders, ☺.

Then God asked me, *what do you picture that as? In this season of you life Jenny, what do you picture that as?*

I wanted to go back and tell Him what it had been in the past. It was amazing how you worked out XYZ. But He said “*No, child NOW!*”

I decided to look the word up in the original Hebrew. It is ‘pala’, and it means exactly what you would think amazing means. Marvelous, surpassing, extraordinary. But it also means to be beyond one’s power, to be difficult to do, to be difficult to understand.

Now, I’m thinking! I’m pulling this apart, changing the words a little.

Consecrate yourself so I (the Lord) can do the difficult thing among you; The thing that’s hard to understand.

See God wants to get extremely personal with us. In my fight for purity, He is showing me some changes to make. But He wants me to articulate what I want Him to do. That’s His part, the difficult part! My part is to obey using His strength, and let Him do the hard part on His own.

What I am after is two things. First, girls who won’t cry themselves to sleep because they thought some guy loved them. When he didn’t. Purity will protect them from a host of things.

Secondly, purity will protect me. My heart’s desire is to see God work in my life and yours. If I don’t keep myself pure I will miss out on what God is doing.

As I have been writing I just noticed, purity protects. Do this today with God, let Him ask you the same question...

What do you want out of this? Fight for _____.

He has a watch word or phrase for you today, write it out, ponder it out, pray it out! “Purity Protects” is my watch phrase for today. What is yours?

