

Armed for Battle 5

The Fall of Jericho – Joshua 6

Introduction - When the wall is in front of you

We have walked with Israel
from wilderness
into promise
into preparation.

They crossed the Jordan (Joshua 3).
They restored covenant (Joshua 5:2–9).
They encountered the Commander (Joshua 5:13–15).

Now the first battle stands before them.

Jericho.
Fortified. Closed. Immovable.

“Now Jericho was tightly shut up because of the Israelites” (Joshua 6:1).

Why are we surprised when there is intense resistance to the very thing God has promised us?

Hebrews 11:30 declares:

“By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the people had marched around them for seven days.”

1. The Principle of Divine Strategy

God’s battles must be fought God’s way

God said:

“See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands” (Joshua 6:2).

**God speaks from completion
while we stand in process.**

Isaiah 55:8–9 reminds us:

“My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways.”

And Proverbs 14:12 warns:

“There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.”

Then God gives the strategy:

Joshua 6:3-5 (NIV)

March around the city once with all the armed men. Do this for six days. Have seven priests carry trumpets of rams’ horns in front of the ark. On the seventh day, march around the city seven times, with the priests blowing the trumpets. When you hear them sound a long blast on the trumpets, have the whole army give a loud shout; then the wall of the city will collapse and the army will go up, everyone straight in.”

Because God is **dismantling their dependence on human strength.**

Psalm 127:1:

“Unless the LORD builds the house, they labour in vain who build it.”

Example: Gideon

Judges 7:1-8 (NIV)

*Early in the morning, Jerub-Baal (that is, Gideon) and all his men camped at the spring of Harod. The camp of Midian was north of them in the valley near the hill of Moreh. **The LORD said to Gideon, “You have too many men. I cannot deliver Midian into their hands, or Israel would boast against me, ‘My own strength has saved me.’** Now announce to the army, ‘Anyone who trembles with fear may turn back and leave Mount Gilead.’ ” So twenty-two thousand men left, while ten thousand remained. But the LORD said to Gideon, “There are still too many men. Take them down to the water, and I will thin them out for you there. If I say, ‘This one*

*shall go with you,' he shall go; but if I say, 'This one shall not go with you,' he shall not go." So Gideon took the men down to the water. There the LORD told him, "Separate those who lap the water with their tongues as a dog laps from those who kneel down to drink." Three hundred of them drank from cupped hands, lapping like dogs. All the rest got down on their knees to drink. **The LORD said to Gideon, "With the three hundred men that lapped I will save you and give the Midianites into your hands. Let all the others go home."** So Gideon sent the rest of the Israelites home but kept the three hundred, who took over the provisions and trumpets of the others.*

Judges 7:19-22 (NIV)

Gideon and the hundred men with him reached the edge of the camp at the beginning of the middle watch, just after they had changed the guard. They blew their trumpets and broke the jars that were in their hands. The three companies blew the trumpets and smashed the jars. Grasping the torches in their left hands and holding in their right hands the trumpets they were to blow, they shouted, "A sword for the LORD and for Gideon!" While each man held his position around the camp, all the Midianites ran, crying out as they fled. When the three hundred trumpets sounded, the LORD caused the men throughout the camp to turn on each other with their swords. The army fled to Beth Shittah toward Zererah as far as the border of Abel Meholah near Tabbath.

**God reduced strength
so glory could not be shared.**

Christological Depth

1 Corinthians 1:25 (NIV)

For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

Colossians 2:13-15 (NIV)

When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

The cross looked weak.

But it was heaven's strategy.

2. The Principle of Faith-Filled Obedience

Obedience before evidence

Joshua 6:6-15 (NIV)

So Joshua son of Nun called the priests and said to them, "Take up the ark of the covenant of the LORD and have seven priests carry trumpets in front of it." And he ordered the army, "Advance ! March around the city, with an armed guard going ahead of the ark of the LORD." When Joshua had spoken to the people, the seven priests carrying the seven trumpets before the LORD went forward, blowing their trumpets, and the ark of the LORD's covenant followed them. The armed guard marched ahead of the priests who blew the trumpets, and the rear guard followed the ark. All this time the trumpets were sounding. But Joshua had commanded the army, "Do not give a war cry, do not raise your voices, do not say a word until the day I tell you to shout. Then shout!" So he had the ark of the LORD carried around the city, circling it once. Then the army returned to camp and spent the night there. Joshua got up early the next morning and the priests took up the ark of the LORD. The seven priests carrying the seven trumpets went forward, marching before the ark of the LORD and blowing the trumpets. The armed men went ahead of them and the rear guard followed the ark of the LORD, while the trumpets kept sounding. So on the second day they marched around the city once and returned to the camp. They did this for six days.

On the seventh day, they got up at daybreak and marched around the city seven times in the same manner, except that on that day they circled the city seven times.

Hebrews 11:30:

“By faith the walls of Jericho fell...”

Galatians 6:9:

“Let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.”

Psalm 46:10:

“Be still, and know that I am God.”

Delayed visibility

does not mean denied victory.

Example: Elijah

1 Kings 18:41-44 (NIV)

And Elijah said to Ahab, “Go, eat and drink, for there is the sound of a heavy rain.” So Ahab went off to eat and drink, but Elijah climbed to the top of Carmel, bent down to the ground and put his face between his knees. “Go and look toward the sea,” he told his servant. And he went up and looked. “There is nothing there,” he said. Seven times Elijah said, “Go back.” The seventh time the servant reported, “A cloud as small as a man’s hand is rising from the sea.”

Breakthrough is often cumulative obedience meeting divine timing.

Christological Depth

Philippians 2:6-11 (NIV)

*Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;
rather, he made himself nothing
by taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.
And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself*

***by becoming obedient to death —
even death on a cross!***

*Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,
that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.*

Hebrews 5:7-9 (AMP)

In the days of His earthly life, Jesus offered up both [specific] petitions and [urgent] supplications [for that which He needed] with fervent crying and tears to the One who was [always] able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His reverent submission toward God [His sinlessness and His unfailing determination to do the Father's will]. Although He was a Son [who had never been disobedient to the Father], He learned [active, special] obedience through what He suffered. And having been made perfect [uniquely equipped and prepared as Savior and retaining His integrity amid opposition], He became the source of eternal salvation [an eternal inheritance] to all those who obey Him,...

On Good Friday, nothing looked victorious.

Yet obedience was securing resurrection and our eternal salvation.

3. The Principle of Worshipful Faith

Worship before victory:

Joshua 6:15-16 (NIV)

On the seventh day, they got up at daybreak and marched around the city seven times in the same manner, except that on that day they circled the city seven times. The seventh time around, when the priests sounded the trumpet blast, Joshua commanded the army, "Shout! For the LORD has given you the city!"

Joshua 6:20 (NIV)

When the trumpets sounded, the army shouted, and at the sound of the trumpet, when the men gave a loud shout, the wall collapsed; so everyone charged straight in, and they took the city.

Psalms 149:6-9 (NIV)

*May the praise of God be in their mouths
and a double-edged sword in their hands,
to inflict vengeance on the nations
and punishment on the peoples,
to bind their kings with fetters,
their nobles with shackles of iron,
to carry out the sentence written against them—
this is the glory of all his faithful people.
Praise the LORD.*

Example: Paul and Silas

Acts 16:25-26 (NIV)

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone's chains came loose.

Christological Depth

Hebrews 13:15 (AMP)

Through Him, therefore, let us at all times offer up to God a sacrifice of praise, which is the fruit of lips that thankfully acknowledge and confess and glorify His name.

Revelation 5:8-13 (NIV)

And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God's people. And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests

to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.” Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. In a loud voice they were saying: “Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honour and glory and praise!” Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying: “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honour and glory and power, for ever and ever!”

**We worship not because we see victory —
but because Christ has already triumphed.**

4. The Principle of God-Dependent Victory

Joshua 6:20 (NIV)

When the trumpets sounded, the army shouted, and at the sound of the trumpet, when the men gave a loud shout, the wall collapsed; so everyone charged straight in, and they took the city.

Zechariah 4:6 (NIV)

So he 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 Almighty.

2 Corinthians 10:3-4 (NIV)

For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.

Example: David

1 Samuel 17:45-47 (NIV)

David said to the Philistine, “You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the LORD will deliver you into my hands, and I’ll strike you down and cut off your head. This very day I will give the carcasses of

*the Philistine army to the birds and the wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. **All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD's, and he will give all of you into our hands.***

Christological Depth

Hebrews 2:14-15 (NLT)

*Because God's children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could he die, and only **by dying could he break the power of the devil, who had the power of death.** Only in this way could he set free all who have lived their lives as slaves to the fear of dying.*

Romans 8:35-37 (NLT)

Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? ... No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.

Conclusion – A People who Trust God

Altar Moment

Let's just become quiet before the Lord for a moment.

No pressure.

No hype.

Just honesty before Him.

Ask the Holy Spirit to gently show you:

1. Where is my Jericho?

What stands before you right now that feels resistant or immovable?

A situation.

A battle.

A burden you've been carrying.

Just acknowledge it before Him.

2. Am I willing to keep walking in obedience?

Even if nothing seems to be changing yet?

Some of you are on day three.

Some on day five.

Some feel like you are on day six.

And the temptation is to stop walking.

But the Lord is saying:

Don't stop before the seventh day.

3. Has worship left my battle?

Have you been striving?

Carrying pressure?

Trying to force outcomes?

God may be inviting you back
into worshipful trust.

Because some walls do not fall through striving.

They fall through surrendered faith.

4. Am I carrying the outcome myself?

Trying to secure victory?

Control timing?

Hold everything together?

Today may be the moment
to release that weight.

Victory belongs to the Lord.

Response:

If you sense the Holy Spirit
inviting you into deeper trust...

Just open your hands before Him
right where you are.

A simple posture of surrender.

You don't have to come forward.
You don't have to move.

Just open your hands.

This is alignment.

Closing Prayer

Lord,

Today we stand before You
as a people who want to trust You fully.

Some of us are standing before walls
that feel immovable.

Some are weary from walking and waiting.

Some are carrying outcomes
we were never meant to carry.

Teach us to trust You.

Teach us to obey
even when we do not see results.

Teach us to worship
while the wall still stands.

Teach us to release control
and rest in Your sovereignty.

Form in us hearts
that depend on You completely.

And as You did at Jericho,
bring down every wall
in Your timing
and in Your way.

So that when victory comes,
it will be unmistakable:

The battle belonged to the Lord.

We surrender the battle.
We surrender the outcome.
We surrender the timing.

Fight for us.
Lead us.
Be glorified in us.

In Jesus' name,
Amen.