

Spiritual Troubleshooting

Joshua 7:13-24 (NIV)

¹³ “Get up! Command the people to purify themselves in preparation for tomorrow. For this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: Hidden among you, O Israel, are things set apart for the Lord. You will never defeat your enemies until you remove these things from among you.

¹⁴ “In the morning you must present yourselves by tribes, and the Lord will point out the tribe to which the guilty man belongs. That tribe must come forward with its clans, and the Lord will point out the guilty clan. That clan will then come forward, and the Lord will point out the guilty family. Finally, each member of the guilty family must come forward one by one.

¹⁵ The one who has stolen what was set apart for destruction will himself be burned with fire, along with everything he has, for he has broken the covenant of the Lord and has done a horrible thing in Israel.”

¹⁶ Early the next morning Joshua brought the tribes of Israel before the Lord, and the tribe of Judah was singled out.

¹⁷ Then the clans of Judah came forward, and the clan of Zerah was singled out. Then the families of Zerah came forward, and the family of Zimri was singled out.

¹⁸ Every member of Zimri’s family was brought forward person by person, and Achan was singled out.

¹⁹ Then Joshua said to Achan, “My son, give glory to the Lord, the God of Israel, by telling the truth. Make your confession and tell me what you have done. Don’t hide it from me.”

²⁰ Achan replied, “It is true! I have sinned against the Lord, the God of Israel.

²¹ Among the plunder I saw a beautiful robe from Babylon, 200 silver coins, and a bar of gold weighing more than a pound. I wanted them so much that I took them. They are hidden in the ground beneath my tent, with the silver buried deeper than the rest.”

²² So Joshua sent some men to make a search. They ran to the tent and found the stolen goods hidden there, just as Achan had said, with the silver buried beneath the rest.

²³ They took the things from the tent and brought them to Joshua and all the Israelites. Then they laid them on the ground in the presence of the Lord.

²⁴ Then Joshua and all the Israelites took Achan, the silver, the robe, the bar of gold, his sons, daughters, cattle, donkeys, sheep, goats, tent, and everything he had, and they brought them to the valley of Achor.

²⁵ Then Joshua said to Achan, “Why have you brought trouble on us? The Lord will now bring trouble on you.” And all the Israelites stoned Achan and his family and burned their bodies.

²⁶ They piled a great heap of stones over Achan, which remains to this day. That is why the place has been called the Valley of Trouble ever since. So the Lord was no longer angry.

Tyndale House Publishers, [Holy Bible: New Living Translation](#) (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2015), Jos 7:16–26.

Joshua chapter 7 is the story of life and this passage is so typical of most of us. One minute we can be living in victory—the next in defeat. The distance between a great victory and a great defeat is only one step, and often only a short one at that.

Joshua and the Israelites had won a series of victories. They crossed the Jordan, saw the walls of Jericho fall and now they are facing a little place to conquer called Ai.

Ai is so small that the Israelites don’t even need to send all their troops. This should have been an easy victory for them. However, the Israelites go into battle and they are defeated.

- Men have died (7:5)
- The Israelites are fearful (7:5)
- Joshua questions God (7:12)
- God threatens to abandon them unless they remove forbidden things (7:11-12)

Troubleshooting Definition:

Troubleshooting is **a systematic approach to solving a problem.**

- **Identify the problem.**
 - **Establish a theory of probable cause.**
 - **Test the theory to determine the cause.**
 - **Establish a plan of action to resolve the problem and implement the solution.**
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God's Troubleshooting Process:

- Get up - 7:10, 13
 - Search - 7:16-18
 - Achan (Trouble) is discovered (7:18-19)
 - Take Courageous Action (7:22-25)
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Lessons From Achan's Sin

- **Selfishness and wrong desires give birth to sin. (7:20-21, Ja.1:14-15)**

James 1:14-15 (NLT)

¹⁴ Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away.

¹⁵ These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death.

- **Selfishness can go undetected until it is revealed through an opportunity.**
- **Selfishness corrupts and is destructive.**

Tyndale House Publishers, [Holy Bible: New Living Translation](#) (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2015), Jas 1:14–15.

Altar Call: