

When we think of the conquest of Joshua and the Israelites, we think that this is a war between Israel and the Canaanites, but that is not entirely true.

The true war is between God and the Canaanites.... (Sexual immorality and Sacrificing Children)

When Joshua was facing Jericho he was approached by the Angel of the LORD. Joshua asked Him, whose side are you on, ours or the enemies’.

The Angel of the LORD said neither.

Why? Because this battle is the Lord’s battle, not ours. The fact is, we cannot fight this battle without the Full Armor of God.



THE INSTRUCTIONS:

God told Joshua that when he came into the land, to get rid of everyone and everything.

Joshua conquered Jericho and then lost a small battle with Ai.

This battle was lost because a man named Achan had coveted an idol, took it, and hid it. Joshua is commanded to destroy the idol and Achan for his sin.

After Joshua does that he conquers Ai and camps in Gilgal. As he is camping there. The Gibeonites who only lived 15-20 miles away come to make a covenant with Israel.

They came with flattering lips and the heart of deception....(Story of Gibeonites)

God has given each of us promises, and many of these promises are conditional.

The enemy - your flesh, the demonic, and so forth - wants to rob you of these promises.

From the inside, like Achan,

or from the outside, like the Gibeonites.

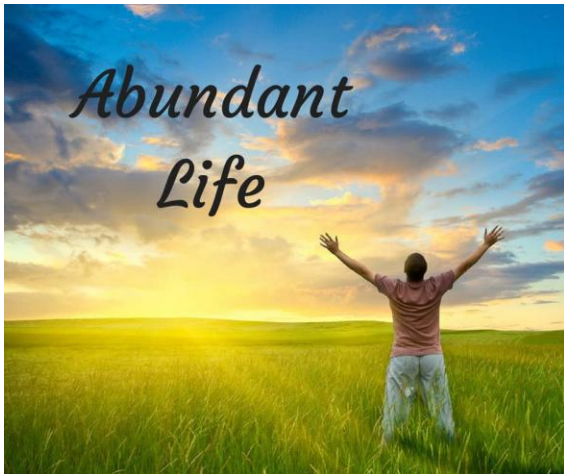
John 10:10 warns us and then tells us,

“The **thief does not come but** to steal, kill, and destroy;



I have come so that you can have life and have it more abundantly.”

Περισσός - perissos - From G4012 (in the sense of beyond); superabundant (in quantity) or superior (in quality); by implication, excessive.



THE BATTLES:

Joshua ends up conquering over 31 kings. With such a huge campaign and victory, there were a lot of things that were left undone.

This morning, I want to talk about three things we can learn from the Book of Joshua that can keep us from achieving complete victory in our lives.

1. Procrastination — Knowing the Promise but Failing to Act

Joshua 18:1-3 Now the whole congregation of the children of Israel assembled together at Shiloh, and set up the tabernacle of meeting there. And the land was subdued before them.

(2) But there remained among the children of Israel **seven tribes which had not yet received their inheritance.** (3) Then Joshua said to the children of Israel: **"How long will you neglect to go and possess the land which the LORD God of your fathers has given you?"**

Seven tribes had still not received their inheritance. The land was available, but they had not possessed it.

They were already where God had brought them, but they had become slack about completing the task.

We fail to achieve everything God has for us when:

- A) We know what God has called us to do, but we **keep putting it off**.
- B) We have opportunities to grow spiritually, **but we delay**.
- C) We know there are things we need to change, but we keep telling ourselves, **"Someday."**

Sometimes the greatest obstacle is not the devil, opposition, or a lack of opportunity. Sometimes it is our own unwillingness to take the next step.

Hebrews 12:1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside **every weight**, and **the sin** which so easily **ensnares us**, (standing around) and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

2. Insecurity — Seeing the Obstacles Instead of God's Ability

Joshua 17:14-18 Then the children of Joseph spoke to Joshua, saying, "Why have you given us only one lot and one share to inherit, since **we are a great people**, inasmuch as the LORD has blessed us until now?"

(15) So Joshua answered them, "**If you are a great people, then** go up to the forest country and clear a place for yourself there in the land of the Perizzites and the giants, since the mountains of Ephraim are too confined for you."

(16) But the children of Joseph said, "The mountain country is **not enough for us**; and all the Canaanites who dwell in the land of the valley **have chariots of iron**, both those who are of Beth Shean and its towns and those who are of the Valley of Jezreel."

(17) And Joshua spoke to the house of Joseph—to Ephraim and Manasseh—saying, "**You are a great people and have great**

power; you shall not have only one lot, (18) but the mountain country shall be yours. Although it is wooded, **you shall cut it down, and its **farthest extent shall be yours;** for **you shall drive out the Canaanites, though they have iron chariots and are strong."****

The problem was not that the obstacles were imaginary; the Canaanites really did have iron chariots. The cities really were strong. The hill country really did require work to clear.

Faith does not mean pretending obstacles do not exist. Faith means refusing to let obstacles have the final word when God has given you a promise and a responsibility.

Insecurity hinders victory when:

- A) We compare ourselves with other people and **feel inadequate.**
- B) We assume we cannot succeed because the assignment **looks too difficult.**
- C) We focus on our limitations instead of developing what **God has given us.**

Romans 8:37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

3. Compromise — Accepting Less Than What God Commanded

Joshua 17:12-13 Yet the children of Manasseh **could not drive out** the inhabitants of those cities, but the Canaanites were **determined** to dwell in that land.

(13) And **it happened**, when the children of Israel **grew strong**,

that they put the Canaanites **to forced labor**, but **did not** utterly drive them out.

At first, Manasseh could not drive out the inhabitants. Later, when Israel became strong enough, they still did not completely remove them. Instead, they subjected them to forced labor or tribute.

They moved from being unable to drive them out to being unwilling to finish the job because

their needs and wants **became greater** than God's mission.

Compromise can happen when we become comfortable with something God has called us to confront.

Compromise hinders victory when:

- A) We **tolerate habits** we should be putting away.
- B) We **make peace** with attitudes that damage our spiritual lives.
- C) We **excuse disobedience** because changing would be inconvenient.

James 1:6-8 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. (7) For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; (8) he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

And this incomplete conquest would become a serious problem later. Judges 2:1–3 records God's rebuke because Israel had failed to drive out the inhabitants and had made compromises with them.

Caleb is our example

Joshua 14:6-14 Then the children of Judah came to Joshua in Gilgal. And **Caleb** the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite said to him:

"You know the word which the LORD said to Moses the man of God **concerning you and me in Kadesh Barnea.**

(7) **I was forty years old** when Moses the servant of the LORD sent me from Kadesh Barnea to spy out the land, and I brought back word to him as it was **in my heart.**

(8) Nevertheless my brethren who went up with me made the heart of the people melt, but I **wholly followed** the LORD my God.

(9) So Moses swore on that day, saying, 'Surely the land where your foot has trodden shall be

your inheritance and your children's forever,
because you have wholly followed the LORD
my God.'

(10) And now, behold, the LORD has kept me
alive, as He said, these forty-five years, ever
since the LORD spoke this word to Moses while
Israel wandered in the wilderness; and now,
here I am this day, **eighty-five years old.**

(No Compromise)

(11) As yet **I am as strong** this day as on the
day that Moses sent me; just as my strength was
then, so now is my strength for war, both for
going out and for coming in.

(No Insecurity)

(12) Now therefore, **give me this mountain** of
which the LORD spoke in that day; for you
heard in that day how the Anakim were there,
and that the cities were great and fortified. It
may be that the LORD will be with me, **and I**
shall be able to drive them out as the LORD
said."

(No Procrastination)

(13) And Joshua blessed him, and gave Hebron to Caleb the son of Jephunneh as an inheritance. (14) Hebron therefore became the inheritance of Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite to this day, because he wholly followed the LORD God of Israel.

What has God already put in front of you that you keep postponing?

The fact is.... Caleb acted.

Don't stop at the cross....

Hebrews 6:1-3 Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, **not laying again** the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, (2) of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. (3) And this we will do if God permits.