

## Joshua Lesson 7 – Conquest Begins (Joshua 6 Introduction)

### Introduction

“You are but a poor soldier of Christ if you think you can overcome without fighting, and suppose you can have the crown without the conflict.”

— *John Chrysostom, Syrian preacher and martyr*

The Christian life is a continual conflict between the people of God and the forces of evil. Just as Joshua and Israel faced the armies of Canaan, believers today face the world, the flesh, and the devil.

### I. The Reality of Spiritual Warfare

- The enemies of God are \_\_\_\_\_ active. The world, the flesh, and Satan are united against the believer (Ephesians 2:1–3).
- Scripture describes the unbeliever as “dead in trespasses and sins” and under the sway of “the ruler of the power of the air.”
- War between God and Satan began in Genesis 3:15, when God declared enmity between the serpent and the woman’s offspring.
- The war will end in Revelation 19:11–21, when Christ returns as the conquering King.

#### Key Truth:

God’s people cannot live as if the battle doesn’t exist. Peace with the world \_\_\_\_\_ means war with God (James 4:4).

### II. The Meaning of Conquest

- Many struggle with the concept of \_\_\_\_\_ in Scripture, but the Bible’s main theme is God’s warfare against sin and Satan.
- The conquest of Canaan was not human aggression; it was divine judgment and redemption in action.
- The cross reveals the militant side of Christian faith.
  - At the cross, Christ won the \_\_\_\_\_ over sin, death, and the devil (Colossians 2:13–15).
  - What looked like defeat became triumph—He disarmed the rulers and authorities and triumphed over them in Him.

### III. The Shepherd Who Fights

- A good shepherd must protect his flock. Sometimes that means to \_\_\_\_\_ against the wolf (Acts 20:28–29).
- Pastors and believers must be alert and discerning—guarding truth, warning against error, and confronting evil.
- The call to follow Christ is also a call to defend His truth (2 Timothy 4:1–5).

### IV. The Nature of the Battle

- Our battle is not against flesh and blood but against spiritual powers in heavenly realms (Ephesians 6:10–12).
- The weapons of our warfare are spiritual—truth, righteousness, faith, salvation, the Word, and prayer.
- Satan often uses human agents to oppose the church, but our enemy is spiritual, not physical (2 Corinthians 10:3–5).
- In the army of God, there are no \_\_\_\_\_ soldiers.
  - Jesus said, “He who is not with Me is against Me” (Matthew 12:30).
  - To stand idle in spiritual warfare is to surrender by default.

### V. The Believer's Call to Arms

- Paul frequently used military imagery to describe the Christian life:
  - Ephesians 6:10 – “Put on the full armor of God.”
  - 2 Timothy 2:3–4 – Endure hardship as a good soldier of Christ.
  - Romans 13:12 – Put on the armor of light.
  - 1 Thessalonians 5:8 – Put on faith and love as a breastplate.
- The battle requires discipline, endurance, and focus—every soldier must please the One who enlisted him.

## VI. Lessons from the Battle of Jericho

The fall of Jericho illustrates three principles of spiritual conflict and victory:

1. **We Fight \_\_\_\_\_ Victory, Not For Victory**
  - Christ has already won the decisive battle at Calvary.
  - Believers fight in the strength of His finished work (1 Corinthians 15:57).
2. **We Overcome the Enemy by Faith**
  - The walls fell by faith, not by force (Hebrews 11:30).
  - Faith obeys even when the method seems foolish—God's power is displayed through trust and obedience.
3. **We Obey God's Commands and Give Him the Glory**
  - Israel's obedience brought victory, but God received the glory.
  - True conquest ends in worship, not pride.

## VII. Application and Reflection

- **Spiritual reality:** There is no victory without struggle.
- **Spiritual dependence:** Victory belongs to the Lord alone.
- **Spiritual discipline:** Obedience and faith are the believer's primary weapons.
- **Spiritual focus:** All glory must go to Christ, our Commander and King.

## Summary

- The book of Joshua teaches that the Christian life is a life of faith, obedience, and warfare.
- Christ has conquered sin and death; believers now fight from His victory.
- Jericho's walls remind us: victory is certain when we trust and obey.

## Answer Key

ALWAYS  
WARFARE  
VICTORY  
FIGHT  
NEUTRAL  
FROM