

## FAITH IS PASSING THROUGH STUDY GUIDE

Read Hebrews 11.29-30. Moses passed through the Red Sea because he had a revelation of authority, Joshua passed through the walls of Jericho because he has a revelation of the praise shout. If you understand the revelation of our authority in Christ, and the revelation of how to shout and praise God, you will never have a barrier that can stop you from doing all that God tells you to do. You will survive and thrive in any battle. You will cross over when there is no way to cross over. How – by faith!

So, we will look at both of these situations and get the important revelation from the account and apply it to our life. This is not an exhaustive look at Moses and the Red Sea crossing, or Jericho, but us looking at what we need to know to live the faith life.

Read Exodus 14.1-8. Have you ever escaped from a situation and it still comes after you, even after you won? Moses got free from Pharaoh, got liberated and it was a genuine liberation from God, but then Pharaoh came after him again.

I have seen people get genuinely healed, then a few weeks later, the symptoms come back. I have seen people genuinely released from financial need, or mental affliction, and then the thing comes back. YOU NEED TO KNOW HOW TO DEAL WITH THAT. By faith! By believing God's Word!

Now, notice that although most English texts say "The Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart", by now we should know that the Lord does not harden hearts, Jesus does not go around hardening hearts, and we know Jesus is the image of God, if you have seen Jesus you have seen the Father.

Jesus doesn't make people sick, doesn't make people hungry, doesn't condemn people in His fiery wrath, doesn't call down natural disasters like famine and earthquakes to punish His people. He heals the sick and feeds the hungry and sets people free from sin and rebukes the storms. And if you have seen Him, you have seen the Father.

If you read this verse in Rotherham's translation, it says "Then Yahweh let the heart of Pharaoh wax hard", Helen Spurrell's translation reads "Jehovah PERMITTED Pharaoh's heart to be hardened". We have to realize that God is the Father of lights, and every good gift comes from Him (James 1.17), and Satan is the one who has come to steal, kill and destroy (John 10.10). But the truth is that if you push God away hard enough, He will let you go. He will give you permission to choose death, but He did not create the death and He did not mess with your heart to make you so stupid to choose death, you did that yourself. We have to understand the idioms of the Hebrew culture and the language to understand what is being said.

When I started teaching, I had to learn the language of the students, they used words in ways I did not understand at first. I graduated high school in 1994, so it's not that long, - just 12 years but

everything had changed with language. If you take Hebrew literally and assume you understand the idiom when the language is 3000 years old, you might make a mistake. But we do not have to learn Hebrew, we can compare Scripture with Scripture and see that God does not harden hearts, God is not the destroyer.

For example, 2 Chron 13.15-16 in most English translations says “God smote Jeroboam”, if we read that at face value, we assume God is the smiter, and then we pray to God to smite our enemies and smash their teeth in, and we sometimes act like Jesus and sometimes act like the smiter.

No, God does not actively smite, He simply removes His supernatural protection that He protects us with. When Joshua lost at Ai – God said “you were accursed, because I was not with you, and I will not be with you anymore, except you destroy the accursed from among you” (Josh 7.12). Being cursed is not a tangible thing, it is the absence of blessing, an absence of the presence and power of God. Most good Bible dictionaries and commentaries will show this, but thankfully the Bible also interprets itself.

Another example is in Ezekiel 14.9 which says that if a prophet is deceived when he speaks, that the Lord has lied to that prophet. Now if you accept that verse at face value, it contradicts Hebrews 6.18 which says it is impossible for God to lie. Titus 1.2 tells us God cannot lie. God is not a deceiver; the Hebrew language is just God taking responsibility for it happening. God is letting us know that false prophet has walked away from God, and God has let them.

Read Luke 9.55. We know that the son of Man is not come to destroy. God loved and God loves the world and created a way for people not to perish, God is not the destroyer, He is the one saving us from destruction. Jesus only destroyed one thing – the works of the devil (1 John 3.8). Let us not think that God will start making people’s hearts hard. That is simply not His nature.

Read Exodus 14.9-10. They prayed but that wasn’t enough. Frantic prayer is not enough – it’s a good start in an emergency but it is not enough to get you over to the other side.

Read Exodus 14.11-12. You can see their prayer was not in faith, they were a total mess with no faith. But they still got across, because although they did not have faith, they did have a pastor. They did not like their pastor, they didn’t think he could lead them, they did not want him around but they were not stupid enough to leave the church!

You see, it was Moses who split the sea and led the people through together. The guy who stayed at home, worshipping God in His own way– that person is not getting across.

You want to cross through your problems, you need to have a pastor. You need a leader. You will not be able to find one that is perfect, you will only find one that lets you down and winds you up, one that offends you from time to time, but without the man the Lord gave the stick to, you are not crossing over.

Read Exodus 14.13-14. Those verses are very beautiful, I have seen Exodus 14.14 on fridge magnets, all over social media, but the truth is that this verse out of context is rubbish. Moses said the Lord will fight our battles and we should stand still. But Moses was wrong to say it.

Read Exodus 14.15. See how the Lord corrected Moses – do not tell the people to stand still, tell the people to advance. Tell the people we are going over, to get lands we not have before, to get houses we did not build, to get harvests we did not sow for, a land flowing with milk and honey.

Read Exodus 14.16. Moses was saying the Lord will fight for you, but the Lord was saying – No Moses, that is not the truth, you have the stick, you have to move forward in faith, you have to move your hand, you have to divide the sea. You have to do it. This is our first key for crossing over – stop begging the Lord to fight for you, the Lord will not fight your battles.

If you are sick, start commanding that sickness to leave your BODY. If you are poor, start asking GOD for WISDOM and start aggressively giving. YOU HAVE THE SEED IN YOUR HAND. Stop begging GOD to fight your battles, and start fighting.

WE LET THE STONE FLY – GOD guides it to its target. We stretch out the stick, and God splits the sea. We lay hands on the sick, they recover through the power and grace of God. We give, and God gives back to us, pressed down, shaken together, running over shall men give into your bosom.

YOU HAVE TO REALIZE YOUR AUTHORITY. Moses had a stick, you have a voice. SPEAK TO THE MOUNTAIN. God will not move your mountain for you. HE WILL NOT. You have to make a move, you have to say something, you have to speak to the mountain, speak to the tree, speak to the cancer, speak to the failing organ, speak to the pain, speak to the situation, speak to the obstacle. SPEAK AND IT WILL BE DONE FOR YOU.

Stop telling people GOD WILL FIGHT YOUR BATTLES and TELL PEOPLE TO ADVANCE. That is true leadership. Then stretch out your hand, believe with them, and realize WHO YOU ARE.

Read Exodus 14.21-22. This is the Lord's will for your life, you are going through. BUT YOU NEED TO REALIZE IT IS ON YOU – IT IS UP TO YOU! You have to do something.

A generation later, they finally made it, and they came into their PROMISED LAND. But the first city they came to had giant walls around it.

Read Joshua 6.1-2. Notice the land was given to Joshua's hand. Again, the guy staying at home worshipping in his home is NOT GETTING THROUGH THAT WALL. God wants you TO GET THROUGH THE WALL. God wants to GET YOU IN.

Read Joshua 6.3-10. The key here is the shout of praise. The key to getting through is TO SHOUT IT IS DONE BEFORE YOU SEE IT IS DONE. It's a shout of faith, it's a praise of faith, it's a shout of praise! And one of the keys to the SHOUT OF PRAISE IS SHUT UP UNTIL YOU ARE READY. What do I mean: you run into a WALL – right, there seems no way forward. You are not in the place to start praising God – your heart and mind are just not there, you cannot even FAKE IT UNTIL YOU MAKE IT. The LEAST YOU CAN DO is SHUT UP.

Don't be like the ISRAELITES – moan against God, against MOSES, against the food, against the drink, against EVERYTHING. IF YOU CANNOT SAY THE TRUTH OF THE WORD – shut up! These guys were habitual moaners, and JOSHUA was taking them FORWARD. So, his first instruction – SHUT UP. Just shut up. Stop the moaning, the worrying, the telling everyone how bad it is.

If everyone shuts up, you cannot listen either. No more listening to moaning and gossip. Someone came to me once, such and such slags you off for an hour every time we meet, every week. No one would slag any of you off for one hour to me, I would shut that down – SHUT UP! You want to learn to PRAISE GOD, really really praise God, LEARN TO SHUT YOUR MOUTH.

Read Joshua 6.11. Notice the people followed the ark. This is part of the shout of praise – follow the presence of the Lord, let the Lord led you.

Read Joshua 6.12. PEOPLE CARRY THE PRESENCE. Any attempt to follow the PRESENCE OF THE LORD away from people is THE WRONG WAY. You have missed God! GET UP, GET OUT OF BED AND GET TO BE WITH THE PEOPLE OF GOD!

The people with MOSES got through the RED SEA, the people with JOSHUA got through the WALLS OF JERICHO. You need someone to get with.

Read Joshua 6.13. You have to SHUT UP AND LET THE PRIESTS MAKE SOME NOISE. Listen to the WORD – get in the app and listen again and again, be here on SUNDAY, listen AGAIN AND AGAIN. Go to living church, shut your mouth and listen. THERE IS A TIME TO SPEAK AND A TIME TO REFRAIN FROM SPEAKING, and if you cannot PRAISE GOD IT IS DONE, you can only moan at people, SHUT YOUR MOUTH and get in place to LISTEN. The presence of God is with the priests of God. If you think the Lord led you to stay at home on Sunday, you are deluded. If you think the Lord led you away from the trumpets of the priests, you are deluded.

YOU NEED TO HEAR THE TRUMPET. YOU HAVE TO HEAR THE TRUMPET – it is what gets you ready to SHOUT! TRUMPETS IN THE NEW COVENANT ARE IMAGES OF VOICES – do a BIBLE search of voice and trumpet, and you will see this.

Read Joshua 6.14. REPEAT, SHUT UP, AND LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD PREACHED, day after day after day! Just keep doing it.

Read Joshua 6.15. Then, when you are ready, shout. How do you know you are ready? The Israelites were ready on the Sabbath day, the day of rest. When you shut up and listen and listen, and then you start to REST. You stop worrying, you stop being scared. PEACE AND REST start to fill your mind. You will never get this rest without SHUTTING UP and LEARNING TO LISTEN TO THE TRUMPETS OF THE PRIESTS.

I see it so many times, and its so important: our life THROWS US UP WALLS – GOD wants us TO GO SMASH THEM DOWN. HE WANTS US ON THE OTHER SIDE. HE WANTS US IN THE LAND OF PROMISES. HE wants us to FULFILL OUR DESTINY. HE WANTS US TO WALK IN OUR DREAMS!

The big key is to SHUT UP. But people won't notice me if I be quiet, I will be left outside, I will not make it. Listen to the TRUMPETS – it won't help, I've listened to the WORD BEFORE, that preacher is good but no one is that good, but you need to LISTEN AND LISTEN AND LISTEN, and SHUT UP – don't discuss the TRUMPET NOISE WITH THE PERSON NEXT TO YOU, DON'T TELL THAT GUY how badly the trumpeter treated you, DON'T TELL SOMEONE HOW YOU PREFER THE HARP, that trumpet is just loud and making a noise. SHUT UP AND LISTEN. Then the next day, shut up and listen.

THEN when that PEACE STARTS TO INFECT YOU, TO BLESS YOU, TO BRING YOU TO REST. When the WORD starts to fill your heart and mind, when you realize that GOD IS BIGGER THAN THE WALL.

Read Joshua 6.16. In the middle of the trumpet sound, shout. Why shout? Because you already have it. It is yours, when it is time to shout, you shout, you praise the Lord it is done. You shout for victory, you shout for JOY, you shout and shout and shout.

Read ZEPH 3.14. We need to shout a shout of triumph. We are going through.



## FAITH IS PASSING THROUGH STUDY GUIDE QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever got free from a situation and then it came back again to attack you?
2. Ben says prayer is not enough to get you to the other side. Have you ever prayed and then immediately acted out of faith?
3. Is there a time in your life you did not really have faith for a situation to cross over, but your pastor helped you walk through to freedom?
4. Why did the Lord correct Moses when Moses said “the Lord will fight for you”, what should Moses have said?
5. Have you ever had a situation which only got solved when you let the stone fly?
6. What must we do before we shout the shout of praise?
7. Why must we shut up, what kind of things must we stop saying to get to that place of faith?
8. We have to follow the priests with the trumpets, even if it seems like we are going in circles. How will that truth affect your behaviour?
9. What about this message inspired you or challenged you the most?