

Faith That Takes Session 2 – Action Required

I. Introduction/Review

A. Matthew 11:12 (NKJV) – *And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.*

Matthew 11:12 (GWT) – *From the time of John the Baptizer until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful people have been seizing it.*

Matthew 11:12 (AFV) – *For from the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven is taken with a great struggle, and the zealous ones lay hold on it.*

B. Faith that Takes

1. Everything in the Kingdom of God must be received by faith.
 2. Receive = Take = to seize/lay hold of/to claim for oneself/to take by force.
 3. Two Works of Faith
 - a. To receive/take from the Lord that which he has freely provided.
 - b. To take/by force from the enemy that which he is attempting to prevent me from receiving.
- C. James 2:17 (NKJV)** – *Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.*

James 2:17 (NIV) – *In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.*

Pastor Patty – Faith without works is FRUITLESS

1. Faith Inspires Action
2. Faith without works cannot be called real faith.
3. Faith with no action = dead faith or a so-called faith that doesn't get any results.
4. The great examples of faith in the Bible are always accompanied with corresponding action.

D. Bible Examples

Throughout scripture the great people of faith always had corresponding action/No one did anything great without ACTION!

1. Faith that Takes is an aggressive, active faith.
2. Aggressive – pursuing one's aims and interests FORCEFULLY.
 - Making an all-out effort to win or succeed.
 - Vigorously energetic and forceful.
 - Boldly assertive and forward – pushy.
3. Faith That Takes = an aggressive faith that is out to win or succeed, an energetic faith, a forceful faith, a bold faith, an assertive and pushy faith when it comes to the enemy.
This is the faith that takes the kingdom by force.
4. All the great example of the people of faith in the Bible demonstrated this "Faith that Takes" characteristic.
5. Last Week – Jonathan's aggressive faith turns the battle.

II. The Example of the battle of Jericho.

A. The Significance of the battle of Jericho

1. This was the entrance to the promised land.

2. This was the place where the first generation lost their battle.
They lost their blessing by failing to have “Faith that Takes”.

B. God’s Instruction for the battle

1. God often gave specific instruction for a battle.
2. The instructions for taking Jericho

Joshua 6:1-5 (NKJV) – ¹Now Jericho was securely shut up because of the children of Israel; none went out, and none came in. ²And the LORD said to Joshua: “See! I have given Jericho into your hand, its king, and the mighty men of valor. ³**You shall march** around the city, all you men of war; you shall go all around the city once. This you shall do six days. ⁴And seven priests shall bear seven trumpets of rams’ horns before the ark. But the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, **and the priests shall blow the trumpets.** ⁵It shall come to pass, when they make a long blast with the ram’s horn, and when you hear the sound of the trumpet, **that all the people shall shout** with a **great shout**; then the wall of the city will fall down flat. And the people shall go up every man straight before him.”

- a. Notice, God gave very specific instructions for winning the battle.
- b. Notice – ACTION REQUIRED
Faith alone wasn’t enough, faith had to be mixed with corresponding action/obedience.

Joshua 6:20 (NKJV) – **So the people shouted** when the priests blew the trumpets. And it happened when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and **the people shouted with a great shout**, that the wall fell down flat. Then **the people went up** into the city, every man straight before him, and **they took the city**

- c. When did the victory come?
 - *After the people had marched.*
 - *When the people shouted.*

- *When the people went up into the city.*
- *When the people ACTED upon their faith.*
- *If they had not acted upon their faith they would have been no different than the generation before.*

C. Personal observation from scripture regarding this victory.

1. **Hebrews 11:30 (NKJV)** – *By faith the walls of Jericho fell down **after** they were encircled for seven days.*

Hebrews 11:30 (NIV) – *By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the army had marched around them for seven days.*

Hebrews 11:30 (CEV) – *God's people had faith, and when they had walked around the city of Jericho for seven days, its walls fell down.*

- a. The people had faith, but the walls did not fall until AFTER they had marched.
 - b. Faith alone wasn't enough – ACTION REQUIRED
2. When did the Lord give Joshua the Instructions for this battle?
 - a. In Joshua 6:2 the Bible says, "The Lord said to Joshua".
 - b. The previous chapter gives some greater revelation on Joshua's encounter with the Lord when he received this instruction. *Most of the time this information is disregarded.*
 3. **Joshua 5:13-15 NKJV** – ¹³*And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, a Man stood opposite him with His sword drawn in His hand. And Joshua went to Him and said to Him, "Are You for us or for our adversaries?" ¹⁴So He said, "No, but as Commander of the army of the LORD I have now come." And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped, and said to Him, "What does my Lord say to His servant?" ¹⁵Then the Commander of the LORD's army said to Joshua, "Take your sandal off your foot, for the place where you stand is holy." And Joshua did so.*

- a. A Man = Who is this man?
- b. The Commander of the Army of the Lord.
- c. He is no ordinary man.
- d. He is not an angel.
Angels never demanded worship.
- e. Remove your shoes for the place where you are standing is holy vs 15 – *Familiar? The same thing GOD said to Moses.*
- f. He is the “Captain of the Lord’s Army”.
- g. Who is the captain of the Lord’s army?

Revelations 19:11-16 (NKJV) – ¹¹*Then I saw heaven opened, and a white horse was standing there. Its rider was named Faithful and True, for he judges fairly and wages a righteous war. ¹²His eyes were like flames of fire, and on his head were many crowns. A name was written on him that no one understood except himself. ¹³He wore a robe dipped in blood, and his title was the Word of God. ¹⁴The armies of heaven, dressed in the finest of pure white linen, followed him on white horses. ¹⁵From his mouth came a sharp sword to strike down the nations. He will rule them with an iron rod. He will release the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty, like juice flowing from a winepress. ¹⁶On his robe at his thigh^[a] was written this title: King of all kings and Lord of all lords*

- h. He is JESUS!
- i. He reveals himself to Joshua with instructions for the battle.
- j. He is PRESENT before the battle ever occurs.
- k. The Captain of the Lord’s army is already on the scene prior to the battle of Jericho.
- l. He is READY to move/act/destroy the enemy.
- m. He is the one responsible for bringing the walls down.
- n. BUT HE DOES NOTHING until the walls have been encompassed for 7 days in obedience.

III. Closing Point:

- A. God is already on the scene.**
- B. God is set and prepared to move.**
- C. The armies of heaven are standing at attention ready to act.**
- D. They can do nothing until you ACT by faith! Faith to Take!**
- E. Send them into action/ by your actions of faith!**