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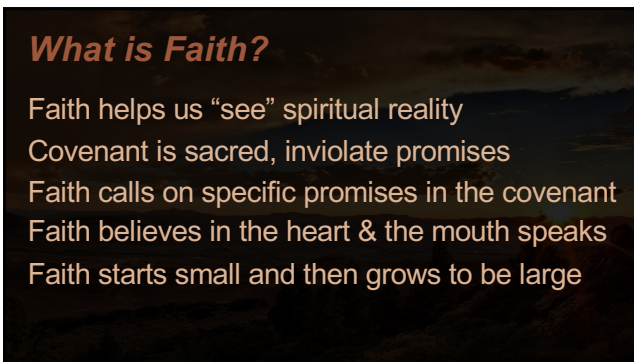
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**What is Faith?**

Promises enable us to live a supernatural life  
Faith is the only way to please God  
Faith Feeds on the Word  
Faith speaks the Word  
God Honors Our Covenants with Others  
Faith in God's Instructions

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**What is Faith?**

Faith Built by Remembering  
Faith in God's Sovereignty  
Faith in God's Plan  
Faith in What matters  
Faith in Prayer and Fasting

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**Joshua 8**

**A Christian is one who is completely  
fearless, continually cheerful and  
constantly in trouble.**  
- Ray Steadman

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**Joshua 8**

1 And the Lord said to Joshua, "Do not fear and do not be dismayed. Take all the fighting men with you, and arise, go up to Ai. See, I have given into your hand the king of Ai, and his people, his city, and his land.

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**Joshua 8**

2 And you shall do to Ai and its king as you did to Jericho and its king. Only its spoil and its livestock you shall take as plunder for yourselves. Lay an ambush against the city, behind it."

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**Battles East of the Jordan**

Battles	Spoil
Battle with Sihon (Amorite) Numbers 21: 21-31	Cities Occupied Spoil taken
Battle with Og (Amorite) Numbers 21:32-35	60 Cities Occupied Spoil Taken

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*Battles West of the Jordan*

Battles	Spoil
Battle of Jericho Joshua 6	City Destroyed No spoil taken
Battle of Ai Joshua 8	City Destroyed Spoil Taken

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*All the Fighting Men Get a Share*

The Lord would have all the warriors to share in the spoil of Ai.

For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor. No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly. - Psalm 84:11

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*Attraction of Sin and Compromise*

\$ 2,500 – 100 oz of Silver @ \$25 / oz  
\$40,000 -- 20 oz of Gold @ \$2,000 / oz  
\$ 1,000 – Babylonian Designer Robe  
\$43,500

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**Lessons from 1<sup>st</sup> Battle of Ai**

Joshua's error was he didn't seek the Lord's guidance on the Ai battle plan. The Lord would have revealed to him the problem with hidden devoted things and the unique battle plan to take this small city. Joshua instead consulted the experts and his own understanding.

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**Complacency**

Self-satisfaction especially when accompanied by unawareness of actual dangers or deficiencies

Complacency is the opposite of newness, freshness, and aliveness that comes from the awe of God.

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**Proverbs 1:32**

For the simple are killed by their turning away, and the complacency of fools destroys them;

Shalvâh, shal-vaw'; security (genuine or false);—abundance, peace, prosperity, quietness.

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**Ai Battle Plans**

1 <sup>st</sup> Battle	2 <sup>nd</sup> Battle
Did not seek the Lord	Seek the Lord
Recycled Battle Plan	Unique Battle Plan
Listen to the Experts	Listen to the Lord
3,000 troops	40,000 troops
Frontal assault	Ruse, Ambush, Assault
Lost with 36 killed	Victory - no casualties

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**Joshua 8**

3 So Joshua and all the fighting men arose to go up to Ai. And Joshua chose 30,000 mighty men of valor and sent them out by night. 4 And he commanded them, "Behold, you shall lie in ambush against the city, behind it. Do not go very far from the city, but all of you remain ready.

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**Joshua 8**

5 And I and all the people who are with me will approach the city. And when they come out against us just as before, we shall flee before them. 6 And they will come out after us, until we have drawn them away from the city. For they will say, 'They are fleeing from us, just as before.' So we will flee before them.

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**Joshua 8**

7 Then you shall rise up from the ambush and seize the city, for the Lord your God will give it into your hand. 8 And as soon as you have taken the city, you shall set the city on fire. You shall do according to the word of the Lord. See, I have commanded you.”

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**Defeat Appeared Brilliant to the Enemy**

The battle plan that the Lord gave Joshua brought a great victory but it also made the earlier defeat in the 1<sup>st</sup> battle appear to be a brilliant military tactic to deceive the enemy into over-confidence in the 2<sup>nd</sup> battle such that every man left the city defenseless to pursue Israel.

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**Isaiah 61:3**

to grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified.

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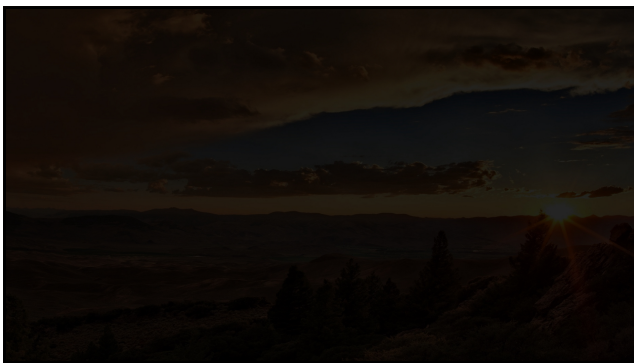
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### One Action Away From Total Victory

“Always remember, you are just one “hearing” away from Faith, just one “knowing” away from Peace, and just one “action” away from total Victory.”

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<b>Spiritual Disciplines</b>	<b>Inward</b>	<i>Cultivate our heart and mind toward Christ</i>
		<b>Meditation</b>
		<b>Prayer</b>
		<b>Fasting</b>
		<b>Study</b>
	<b>Outward</b>	<i>Cultivate our appetites toward the way of Christ</i>
		<b>Simplicity</b>
		<b>Solitude</b>
		<b>Submission</b>
	<b>Corporate</b>	<i>Cultivate our affections toward the way of Christ</i>
		<b>Confession</b>
		<b>Guidance</b>
	<b>Celebration</b>	

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<b>Inward Disciplines</b>	<b>Meditation</b>	<i>Ability to hear God's voice and obey his word.</i>
	<b>Prayer</b>	<i>Prayer is ongoing dialogue with the Father about what we and God are doing together.</i>
	<b>Fasting</b>	<i>Fasting is the voluntary denial of an otherwise normal function for the sake of intense spiritual activity.</i>
	<b>Study</b>	<i>Process through which we bring the mind to conform to the order of whatever we are concentrating upon</i>

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**Outward Disciplines**

**Simplicity** *Inward reality of single-eyed focus on God that results in an outward lifestyle free from clutter*

**Solitude** *Creating an open, empty space for God that undercuts all the false support systems we use to shore up our lives*

**Submission** *Ability to lay down the everlasting burden of needing to get our own way.*

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**Corporate Disciplines**

**Confession** *Confession is the grace through which the sins and sorrows of the past are forgiven.*

**Guidance** *Guidance is the experience of knowing the theocratic rule of God over our lives.*

**Celebration** *Celebration is being, as Augustine said, "an alleluia from head to foot!"*

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**Goals of Fasting**

1. Guidance: Revelation or Wisdom
2. Healing / Health
3. Victory Over Obstacles
4. Freedom From Besetting Sin
5. Focus and Power in Prayer
6. Increase in God's Favor

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### Don'ts of Fasting

1. Don't fast as a religious exercise – It's a heart attitude
2. Don't fast without taking extra time to pray
3. Don't fast without a change in your normal schedule
4. Don't try to fast above your ability

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### Do Fast

1. Do fast so your prayers become a cry to God.
2. Do fast to hear the voice of God clearly.
3. Do fast to give what you have to God.
4. Do fast to become a servant of righteousness.
5. Do fast to reveal true heart issues
6. Do fast to position yourself for God's favor.

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### Tools of Fasting

1. Notebook
2. Bible
3. Solitary Location
4. Instrumental Music
5. Listen

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### Fasting Advice

1. End A Fast Gradually With Soups, Fruits and Vegetables
2. Coffee Drinkers Take Caution
3. Everyone Should Consider Fasting all types of media (TV, Video Games, Internet, Movies, etc)
4. Use The Time Gained By Not Eating to Read, Pray, Meditate, Praise

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### Word of Warning

Some people might have **medical reasons** (pregnant mother, diabetic, anorexic / bulimia) that **will not allow them participate in a food abstinence fast**. You can participate in this fast by giving up favorite foods or activity (TV, Video Games, etc) without the need to abstain from all food.

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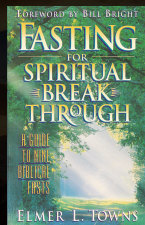
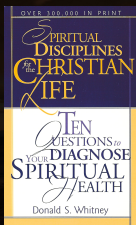
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### Resources on Spiritual Disciplines




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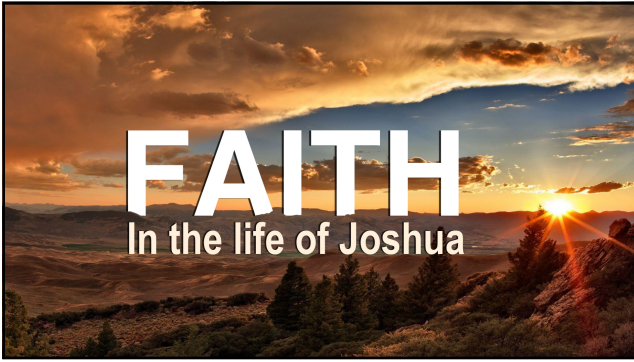
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