

#### 4 Principles For Spiritual Victory - Brother Jacob 1-20-13

**Joshua 5:13-6:17:** <sup>13</sup> Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, “Are you for us or for our enemies?” <sup>14</sup> “Neither,” he replied, “but as commander of the army of the LORD I have now come.” Then Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence, and asked him, “What message does my Lord<sup>[e]</sup> have for his servant?” <sup>15</sup> The commander of the LORD’s army replied, “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy.” And Joshua did so. <sup>6</sup> Now the gates of Jericho were securely barred because of the Israelites. No one went out and no one came in. <sup>2</sup> Then the LORD said to Joshua, “See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands, along with its king and its fighting men. <sup>3</sup> March around the city once with all the armed men. Do this for six days. <sup>4</sup> Have seven priests carry trumpets of rams’ horns in front of the ark. On the seventh day, march around the city seven times, with the priests blowing the trumpets. <sup>5</sup> When you hear them sound a long blast on the trumpets, have the whole army give a loud shout; then the wall of the city will collapse and the army will go up, everyone straight in.” <sup>6</sup> So Joshua son of Nun called the priests and said to them, “Take up the ark of the covenant of the LORD and have seven priests carry trumpets in front of it.” <sup>7</sup> And he ordered the army, “Advance! March around the city, with an armed guard going ahead of the ark of the LORD.” <sup>8</sup> When Joshua had spoken to the people, the seven priests carrying the seven trumpets before the LORD went forward, blowing their trumpets, and the ark of the LORD’s covenant followed them. <sup>9</sup> The armed guard marched ahead of the priests who blew the trumpets, and the rear guard followed the ark. All this time the trumpets were sounding. <sup>10</sup> But Joshua had commanded the army, “Do not give a war cry, do not raise your voices, do not say a word until the day I tell you to shout. Then shout!” <sup>11</sup> So he had the ark of the LORD carried around the city, circling it once. Then the army returned to camp and spent the night there. <sup>12</sup> Joshua got up early the next morning and the priests took up the ark of the LORD. <sup>13</sup> The seven priests carrying the seven trumpets went forward, marching before the ark of the LORD and blowing the trumpets. The armed men went ahead of them and the rear guard followed the ark of the LORD, while the trumpets kept sounding. <sup>14</sup> So on the second day they marched around the city once and returned to the camp. They did this for six days. <sup>15</sup> On the seventh day, they got up at daybreak and marched around the city seven times in the same manner, except that on that day they circled the city seven times. <sup>16</sup> The seventh time around, when the priests sounded the trumpet blast, Joshua commanded the army, “Shout! For the LORD has given you the city! <sup>17</sup> The city and all that is in it are to be devoted<sup>[f]</sup> to the LORD. Only Rahab the prostitute and all who are with her in her house shall be spared, because she hid the spies we sent.

This past Sunday at the 11:00 service, Elder Jacob gave us 4 principles for spiritual victory. Elder Jacob illustrated these principles based on the account of Joshua and the battle of Jericho. Just before going into Jericho, Joshua had been asked to circumcise the 2<sup>nd</sup> generation of the children of Israel as commanded by the Lord. Joshua was probably going about devising a plan when He encountered the Lord in Joshua 5:13 – This was no ordinary man – the commander of the Lord’s army. If he was an angel he was not to be worshipped. He accepted Joshua’s worship, so this was the Lord Himself!

When God comes into the seen, He does not come to take sides. He comes to take over the whole situation with a new plan and a new scheme. He comes to give us a new set of rules on how you are to live or how you are to move forward! The question should be on us, am I on the Lord’s side or am I on the opposite side? In our many battles we should be asking am I on the Lord’s side, where do I stand with the Lord!

In the battle we will be about to engage in, the Lord will give us a new set of instructions → then the battle will belong to the Lord! The Lord was going to be fighting for the Israelites in this battle for Jericho. Elder Jacob shared these 4 principles for spiritual victory.

1. **The battle is won by remembering who is in charge:** When we encounter the Lord, we must recognize that He is the Lord, He is the one in charge. The battle will be won by knowing who is in charge and that is our salvation! We must relinquish ourselves and give it up to God. Jericho was fortified, but People knew that the

children of Israel were unstoppable with the Lord on their side. The people of Jericho knew this, Rahab knew this, that is why she made the deal. The commander of the Lord gives Joshua the instructions as the capturing of Jericho was already done – the battle has already been won.

2. **We must know that God's methods are not man's methods, but God's methods are always right:** The walls of Jericho were big, high and wide. God fought the battle for Jericho. Joshua followed the instructions because God said so. Their marching and shouting did not knock the walls down, it was God who caused the walls to fall. 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 4:7 – the excellence of the power of God can be experienced, so that we know that it is not us that did it!
3. **The best way to hear from God is to be quiet:** (Joshua 6:10) Sometimes we need to be still and listen to God's voice! There are so many other voices competing for our hearing, but we must be sensitive enough to hear God's voice that is telling us what we need to do. Exodus 14:14 & Psalm 10:11. Make sure you do it the Lord's way, follow the instructions, remain silent when you are supposed to, don't go around the city more than once, when God did not say so! The best time to hear from God is when you are silent and when you are taking in God's word so when it is time to shout you will have the strength to shout.
4. **Victory will be ours if we do not quit:** Stay in there, do not give up. The children of Israel did not give up, they kept doing the Lord's plan on the 7<sup>th</sup> day without giving up! The Lord is able, we must not give up, we must stay in there! Joy comes in the morning. Even though the darkness has been so deep, daylight is coming in the morning! Hebrews 11:30 – by faith the walls of Jericho fell....We've come too far to go back, we must determine in us that the Lord will bring us through this. Some people have not had prayers answered because they stopped 1 round short of their own Jericho. Don't stop, we must stay in it. We must keep going, staying in the battle.

In our situations, let's give it up to the Lord! We must stay in there and the Lord will bring us through! It's our victory if we do not quit! Winners never quit and quitters never win! Survey your Jericho and give it up to Him today – take off the sandals of your feet and give it up to Him as holy! Ask God to take over your situation! He will lead us!!!

### **Questions for Edification**

**Question 1)** What does it look like to walk victoriously in Christ?

**Question 2)** What do you take away from Joshua's actions in the battle of Jericho?

**Question 3)** How do you not give in to the world's methods and plans and be assured that we are seeking and obeying God's plans for victory?

**Question 4)** What are your methods to be silent and listen and hear from God?

**Question 5)** How can we be assured of our victory even when it doesn't look victorious in the natural world?

**Question 6)** What can you apply to your own life from this passage?