

Faith is the Victory

Overview of Joshua, Judges, Ruth

➤ = next PowerPoint slide

➤ Intro:

- **review last quarter's bible class material:** Overview of Joshua, Judges, Ruth
- **different approach** this time: review thematically – **faith**
 - **1 Jn. 5** (our victory is faith) “and this is the **victory** that has overcome the world--our **faith**”
 - **illus.: song #576**, Faith Is The Victory – chorus: faith is the victory that overcomes the world

➤ Have the faith to **courageously trust God!** – **illus.: Joshua, Rahab**

- **Josh. 1:1-2, 6-9** **Joshua faithfully took courage and led Israel**, obey God, lead into the promise land, in battle as one who was not a trained military leader, leading an untrained military, defeating by humanly stupid tactics – **God commanded - make way prosperous**
 - **Heb. 11:30** (faith, courage, walls fell) “By **faith** the **walls of Jericho fell down** after they were **encircled for seven days.**”

- - **Josh. 2, 6** **Rahab was courageous**, hid spies knowing that she would be tortured if caught, putting scarlet cord out prescribed window, telling family and bringing into house to save them although she is again risking her life, stayed in her house on the wall when the walls fell, went with the Israelite spies when they came to get her, lived as an Israelite (bore Boaz, genealogy of Christ)
 - **Heb. 11:31** “By **faith** the harlot **Rahab did not perish** with those who did not believe. . . .”

➤ - **lessons for Christians:**

- **saying: be a leader** – all Christians lead by example – you are either leading the immoral to righteousness or participating with the immoral in sin
- **saying: lead by diligently doing the Lord's work**
 - church needs faithful leaders – Israel faithful as long as Joshua's generation lived, but then fell away and served Baal
- **saying: lead by fighting in the Lord's army**
 - **2 Tim. 2:3-4** soldier of Christ, endure, not entangle in worldly affairs
 - **Eph. 6:10-11** “Finally, my brethren, **be strong in the Lord** and in the **power of His might**. Put on the **whole armor of God**, that you may be able to **stand against the wiles of the devil.**”
 - **Rom. 8:37** “Yet in all these things we are **more than conquerors** through Him who loved us.”

- **Have the faith to come out of the world of sin – obey God and be saved! – illus.: Rahab, Moab, Achan**
 - **Josh. 6; Ru. 1** Rahab came out of Jericho (repented, saved), **Ruth who came out of Moab** with her mother-in-law blessings (repented, saved)
 - **both blessed to be in the lineage of Christ** (Rahab bore Boaz, who married Ruth, who bore Obed, King David's grandfather)
 - **lesson for Christians:**
- **Heb. 13:12-14** **we must go outside the camp** (world, sin) to be with Christ, be in His lineage, son of Abraham and brother of Christ
- **Josh. 7** **must repent** – **Achan's sin**, repentance and confession even if it was after being confronted by Joshua
 - **result of sin far reaching:** Israel lost battle and men died because of Achan's sin
 - **lessons for Christians:**
 - **have the courage to repent and confess** your sins
 - **Acts 17:30** “. . . God is now declaring to men that **all people everywhere should repent**,”
 - **Ja. 5:16** “Therefore, **confess your sins to one another**, and **pray** for one another”
 - **result of sin far reaching:** sin sometimes results in disease of person committing and effects others (unborn babies, dependant children, spouse, brethren, etc.) – **stoned Achan and family**
 - **result of repentance far reaching:** Israel won second battle against Ai
 - **repentance and obedience of 1 person can result in many** people following their example and being saved through obedience to God – **Ruth, Rahab**

- **Have the faith to be holy in all your behavior (conduct)**
 - **Ruth, choosing** to live in poverty with the children of God rather than return to the wealth of her father and Moabite gods, not chasing after men to get married and have an enriched life
 - **Ru. 3:11 good reputation** with everyone in Bethlehem, blessed by God (linage of Christ)

- - **Israel was a holy nation; therefore, had to be holy in everything they did**
 - **Ex. 19:5-6** obey God, kingdom of priests and a holy nation

- - **lessons for Christians – from 1 Peter:**
 - **must be holy**
 - **1 Pet. 1:15-16; 2:9** we must be holy in everything, royal priesthood and holy nation
 - **holy:** represents the sanctity of deity, therefore, anyone in a right relationship with God

- - **how to remain holy – as a Christian**
 - **1 Pet. 1:13-14** how are Christians to keep themselves holy?
 - **vs. 13 preparation** of your mind – **Bible**
 - **Heb. 5:13-14** because of practice, senses trained to discern good and evil
 - **vs. 13** be **sober and alert** at all times – **ready to obey in every situation and at any cost**
 - **1 Pet. 5:6-9** humble, cast anxiety on God, alert, devil
 - **vs. 13 fix hope** on salvation – **when Christ returns and is revealed**
 - **Col. 3:1-4** seeking things above, mind on things above, revealed with Christ in glory when He returns
 - **vs. 14** as an **obedient** child – **converted to become like a child, humble, obedient, seeking to please**
 - **Eph. 5:1-2** as beloved children, in love, as Christ loved us and sacrificed Himself for us

- - **as a holy child of God**
 - **1 Pet. 1:3-4** born again, living hope, inheritance, imperishable and undefiled, not fade, reserved in heaven
 - **1 Pet. 1:5** protected by power of God, through faith
 - **1 Pet. 1:22** obedience, truth, purified your soul
 - **1 Pet. 1:23** born again, imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God

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- **summary: – lessons on faith from Joshua, Judges, Ruth**
 - courageously trust God
 - come out of the world of God, obey God to be saved
 - be holy in all your behavior (conduct)
- **inv.: be holy / be saved**
 - Faith is the Victory, faith obey Jesus and baptized, victorious over sin and death

intro Part II: PP review last quarter Bible class material, review part one

➤ **Have the faith to rely on the strength that comes from God**

- **Judg. 13-16 Samson**, Spirit of Lord upon Him, had superhuman strength to kill wild animals with his hands, to pull up city gates and carry them long distances, to kill his enemies in battle
 - **relied on the strength God gave him**, even after he was betrayed by Delilah and captured by the Philistines he relied on God's strength to bring down Dagon's temple and kill the Philistines
 - **failed when didn't have God's strength** - revealed secret to Delilah and man shaved his 7 locks

➤ **- lessons for Christians:**

- **we must rely on the spiritual strength God gives us** – not on our own strength

- **Eph. 1:18-19; 6:10** be strong on the Lord

➤ **- How are we strong in the Lord?**

- **Eph. 3:14-20** how. . . – Eph. 6:10-18 put on whole armor of God – Rom. 1:16; 1 Th. 2:13 gospel

➤ **- result of being strong in the Lord**

- **Col. 1:9-13** pleasing, fruitful, increase in knowledge, steadfast and patient, joyous, saved in Christ's kingdom

- **Have the faith to obey God in the difficult things you must do in life**
 - **Ru. 1** Ruth chose to go with Naomi and live in poverty with children of God, rather than return to live with her father and serve Moabite god in comfort and wealth – **make God #1 (Mk. 12:30)**

- **- Judg. 11 Jephthah vowed to give God the 1st thing that came out of his house**, if God gave him the victory over the Ammonites, **obviously obeyed – Heb. 11:32 an example of faith – keep vows, promises**
 - **daughter, whom was to be sacrificed as a result of the vow - told her father to keep the vow** (point discussed whether actually sacrificed her or not) (Judg. 11)

- **- Judg. 4-5 Barak (commander of the army when Deborah was judge), wrongfully put conditions on his obedience to God then obeyed – don't put conditions of obedience upon God or others**
 - **Barak was not glorified for his work in the Lord - the glory was given to someone else** (a woman drove a tent peg into Sisera's temple) – **but he was a notable man of faith (Heb. 11:32)**

- **- What are some difficult things we must do in life?**
 - **obey the simple plan of salvation – faith is the victory**
 - **1 Cor. 1:18-19, 21** wise / foolish
 - **1 Pet. 3:20-21** be like Noah
 - **Acts 26:28** not like Agrippa who was almost persuaded, thought Paul was mad
 - **1 Cor. 4:6a** worship the simple way God has commanded - no additions or subtractions (Rev. 22:18-19)
 - **fear only God, not man – faith is the victory – Rahab / Barak**
 - **Matt. 10:28** fear the one who can kill both soul and body in hell, not man who can only kill the body)
 - **attitude** toward others, esp. those who try to hinder us from obeying God
 - **confidence** to do the right thing, overcome peer pressure
 - **die with courageous confidence – faith is the victory – Jephthah's daughter**
 - **2 Tim. 4:7-8** fought the good fight, finished the course, kept the faith, crown of righteousness laid up
 - **terminal illness / near death / occasion to give your life in exchange for another:** certain of salvation, entrusting soul to God, entrusting care of loved ones to God

- **Have the faith to fight your battles God's way, not man's way!**
 - **Judg. 6-8 Gideon**, 32,000 men reduced to 300 who were divided into 3 companies, attacked the Midianites in the middle of the night, blew trumpets and broke pitchers with torches inside – **walls of Jericho**
 - **- How do we fight our battles today?**
 - **1 Pet. 3:15** sanctifying Christ as Lord in our hearts
 - **1 Pet. 4:16** right attitude while fighting – not ashamed
 - **- Col. 4:6** gracious speech, seasoned with salt
 - **Eph. 4:16** speaking the truth in love
 - **illus.: Jephthah** (Judg. 11:12-22), told them the truth regarding their possession of the land, did not back down, wasn't afraid to go to war if they pushed the issue
 - **- Rom. 12:18-21** kill them with kindness, fight evil with good
 - **Matt. 5:43-48** love enemies, pray for those who persecute you, be perfect as Father in heaven
 - **- Eph. 6:10-11** by putting in the whole armor of God
 - truth, righteousness, gospel, faith, word of God, prayer
 - **- 1 Pet. 3:13-14** by being zealous for good works - busy working – **rf. vs. 15**
 - **- Phil. 4:4-9** by rejoicing while steadfast in prayer and thinking holy thoughts
 - **1 Th. 5:16-18** rejoice always, pray all the time, in everything give thanks
 - **1 Pet. 5:6-9** humble, cast anxiety on God, be sober and alert, resist the devil firm in faith, God exalt
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- **Inv.**
 - **summary: – lessons on faith from Joshua, Judges, Ruth**
 - courageously trust God
 - come out of the world of God, obey God to be saved
 - be holy in all your behavior (conduct)
 - rely on the strength that comes from God
 - obey God in the difficult things you must do in life
 - fight your battles God's way, not man's way
 - **- Faith to enter the promise land**
 - **Rom. 10:17** “So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.”
 - **1 Jn. 5** (our victory is faith) “and this is the victory that has overcome the world--our faith”
 - **illus.: song #576**, Faith Is The Victory – chorus: faith is the victory that overcomes the world
 - **inv.:** Faith is the Victory, faith obey Jesus and baptized, victorious over sin and death