

HEROES OF FAITH

Part Eight: Joshua's Pleasing Conquest

Text: Heb. 11:30, Josh. 6:1-16, 20

- Four characteristics of Joshua's _____, God-pleasing faith:

I. JOSHUA'S PLEASING _____

- Joshua was careful to do _____ God told him to do, with no additions, no subtractions, no delays, and no cutting corners.

- Contrast: Two men who didn't please God with obedient faith:

- King _____ (partial obedience).
- King _____ (creative obedience).

- Application: We also win victories by doing what God says to do (Josh. 1:8).

II. JOSHUA'S PLEASING _____

- Contrast: The people of Israel didn't patiently persevere in the _____; therefore, they didn't get to go into the land or win great victories by faith.

- The armies of Israel under Joshua had learned faithful endurance:

- They didn't become intimidated and run away.
- They didn't get tired, give up, and go home.
- They didn't _____ to fight.
- They didn't _____ and complain.
- They didn't grow impatient.

- Application: One of the biggest tests of faith is the test of _____; one of the main purposes of trials is to produce patience; and one of the biggest proofs of mature faith is that we respond with patience when tested.

- Patience = faith applied over _____. Often what we need is not a larger but a _____, more elastic faith.
- We get that stretchier faith by patiently enduring trials (Jas. 1:2-4).

III. JOSHUA'S PLEASING _____

- God designed a battle plan that made it clear to Israel their victory was all _____, not them; and Joshua demonstrated a humble response to God's leadership.

- Application: If you want to win faith victories in your life, never forget that any _____ you achieve is all God and none of you. Faith and humility are both _____ for grace (Prov. 16:18, Jas. 4:6, 2 Cor. 2:15-16).

IV. JOSHUA'S PLEASING _____

- The seven-day procession around the city was more of a _____ celebration than a military operation:
 - "Ram's horn" = " _____ " because rams' horns were typically used to announce religious feasts and other celebrations.
 - Trumpets blowing before the Ark joyfully announced the _____ of God in the midst of the armies of Israel.
 - The great shout on day seven was a _____ shout.
 - At the exact moment they shouted out their praise to God, the walls fell down.
- Application: Don't underestimate the _____ of praise (which takes faith).
 - God's Word is the sword of the Spirit, and one very effective way to apply that sword in the spiritual conflict and to win victories of faith is to praise God (Ps. 149:5-9).
 - "High praises" = probably using the _____ itself to praise the Lord.
 - In the Old Testament, the people of Israel often walked into battle praising God; but today, we wield those praises in the realm of spiritual warfare (Ps. 8:2, Matt. 21:16).
- Illustration (Acts 16:12-40): Paul and Silas in the Philippian _____ chose to praise God in the midst of suffering and won a great victory as a result.

CONCLUSION

- Now you understand the victorious faith of Joshua and Israel.
- Question: Does your faith exhibit these same four characteristics?
 - Do you have an obedient, persevering, humble, praising faith?