

The **WORSHIP** of God

(Joshua 5:13-15; 6:1-27)

READ Joshua 5:13-15 40yrs; Moses dead; Ark crossed Jordan; Joshua new leader; *Prom. la Jericho*
“Now it came about when Joshua was by Jericho, he raised his eyes and looked, and behold, a man was standing 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 enemies?” ¹⁴ He said, “No; rather I have come now *as* captain of the army of the Lord.” And Joshua fell on his face to the ground, and bowed down, and said to him, “What has my lord to say to his servant?” ¹⁵ And the captain of the Lord’s army said to Joshua, “Remove your sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy.” And he did so.”

Joshua 6:1-27 double wall system; outer wall -30-45’ high; 6 feet thick; upper wall/houses
Now Jericho was tightly shut because of the sons of Israel; no one went out and no one came in. ² But the **Lord** said to Joshua, “See, I have handed Jericho over to you, with its king *and* the valiant warriors. ³ And you shall march around the city, all the men of war circling the city once. You shall do so for six days. ⁴ Also seven priests shall carry seven trumpets of rams’ horns in front of the ark; then on the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets.⁵ It shall be that when they make a long blast with the ram’s horn, and when you hear the sound of the trumpet, all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city will fall down ^[a]flat, and the people shall go up, everyone ^[b]straight ahead.”

Principles of Worship: (A Theology of Worship)

1. **Worship is foremost a heart posture.** Who owns your heart? Posture is that of humility (*humus*/dirt=LOW/bowing); surrender and dependence = awe (reverence), gratitude, & JOY
Worship, then is our declaration that we are NOT God, but we need God.
2. **Worship is the supernatural response to God’s Worth, Holiness, and GLORY.** The spirit fills us to lead us in right worship (1 Cor. 12:3; Eph. 5:18-19). **Worship is a lifestyle in *all* that we do everyday.** *Not* just a Sunday am practice. But every moment
3. **Worship is the personal/corporate expression that we *new* have Life & UNION in Christ:**
4. **Worship is guided by Truth, not emotions** –WORD: what will give God the most glory?
John 4:24 “*But a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth, for the Father is seeking such as these to worship Him. God is Spirit, and His worshipers must worship Him in spirit and in truth.*”
5. **Worship is warfare against hell and the powers of darkness.** Worship is a weapon God has placed in the hands of His people to push back darkness and declare victory in Jesus.
 - Victory over my own soul bc Jesus bought me (redeemed me)
 - Victory over my sin, bc Jesus conquered sin on the cross
 - Victory over my future bc Jesus conquered death and has secured for me eternal life in Him.**-Worship is war in my personal life** (a declaration of war against my rights, comforts, pride, unbelief, and complaining spirit).
-Worship is war corporately declaring that satan is defeated; that his world system of fear, abuse & destruction have *no* power over the church (God’s children); it is a declaration that Christ’s resurrection still has power to overcome all spiritual darkness to rescue lost souls. **HOPE**

Worship as war (Joshua)

*God commanded Israelites to conquer Canaan; Jericho was to be destroyed; Israel was to act as God's judgment for a people/generations who had rejected YHWH since the days of Noah.

=Instead of sending in Israel's warriors or sieging the town to starve them out; God commanded that praise would defeat God's enemies; that worship would conquer evil.

1. Worship is war and declares to all that God Is the True Warrior

Joshua 6:2 "The LORD said to Joshua, 'See, I have handed Jericho over to you with its King and valiant warriors...'"

The battle was already won **before** Israel ever marched. God did not say, "Go win the city."

He said, "*I have given it to you.*" Israel's marching and worship did *not* earn victory.

Rather, Israel's obedience to worship expressed faith in the victory God had *already* promised.

***The battle was the Lord's; He is the TRUE warrior.** Throughout Scripture this becomes a repeated theme:

-Exodus 15:3 "Then Moses and the sons of Israel sang this song to the Lord, ^[a]saying:

"^[b]I will sing to the Lord, for He is highly exalted; The horse and its rider He has hurled into the sea ² ^[c]The Lord is my strength and song, And He has become my salvation; This is my God, and I will praise Him; My father's God, and I will exalt Him. ³ **The Lord is a warrior; The Lord is His name.**" (Dt. 20:4; Psalm 24; Romans 8:37; Colossians 2:15)

-**Worship is war** because in worship we declare that I am Not; But He is! We declare that He is sovereign and He is in control =*NOT* me; We *declare* that we need Him & that He *alone* is able!

-**Worship is war** because in worship we *submit* to God's Lordship; Christ's Kingship of our heart

***Application** Every act of worship proclaims: "The battle belongs to the Lord."

Darkness hates worship because worship enthrones God in our hearts rather than our fears.

When believers worship in suffering, anxiety, temptation, or spiritual attack, they are declaring:

"My circumstances do not determine who reigns—God does."

2. Worship is war as an Act of Faith before we ever see Results.

-In worship, we declare we TRUST God; We trust; pray; praise; hope; sing & wait on God's hand

³ **And you shall march around the city, all the men of war circling the city once. What now? Do what?? Don't fight? no turrets; no catapults; no angry grimaces?? Just march, pray, worship????**

Israel marched for six days. Nothing happened. No cracks. No falling bricks. No signs. Just

silence. ****Imagine the ridicule from Jericho's walls.** By day 6 =hurling rocks; laughing, relaxed

Yet every lap around the city was another declaration: "God said it. We believe Him."

Hebrews 11:30 "By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for 7 days."

Notice: The walls did not fall because Israel shouted. **They fell because they believed.**

=The shout was simply the outward expression of faith that they believed God for who He is!

-**Worship is war** because in worship we declare that we **TRUST** God *bc* He is trustworthy; He has proved Himself over & over; His promises are True; His Word is true; His faithfulness is true

***Application** Our hearts tend to faint when "Nothing is happening." =Faith says, God is working even when I cannot see Him. **I trust His heart even when I cannot see His hand!**

FAITH is worship; we worship through our faith. Worship is war because we die to our fear & our circumstances AND we declare we TRUST God. **YOU? What is causing you fear, doubt, distraction**

3. **Worship is war by reorienting our heart and eyes from Obstacles to God's Presence**

The centerpiece of the procession was not Joshua. Not the soldiers. It was the Ark of the Covenant.

Vs. 6: So Joshua the son of Nun called the priests and said to them, "Take up the ark of the covenant, and have seven priests carry seven trumpets of rams' horns in front of the ark of the Lord." ⁷ Then ^[a]he said to the people, "Go forward and march around the city, and the armed men shall go on ahead of the ark of the Lord." = The Ark represented God's covenant presence.

-Israel literally marched with God's presence at the center. The message was unmistakable:

"We are not circling Jericho. We are following God."

The focus wasn't: "Look how big the walls are." The focus was: "Look Who walks with us."

-Every battle begins with where our eyes are fixed:

Psalm 121 "I will raise my eyes to the mountains; From where will my help come?

² My help *comes* from the Lord, Who made heaven and earth. ³ He will not allow your foot to slip; He who watches over you will not slumber.⁴ Behold, He who watches over Israel

Will neither slumber nor sleep. ⁵ The Lord is your ^[a]protector; The Lord is your shade on your right hand. ⁶ The sun will not ^[b]beat down on you by day, Nor the moon by night.

⁷ The Lord will ^[c]protect you from all evil; He will keep your soul. ⁸ The Lord will ^[d]guard your going out and your coming in From this time and forever."

-**Worship is war** because it is a battle-cry that shifts attention from the size of the enemy to the greatness of God. *What enemy are you facing in your life?*

-When we sing and worship God, we are fixing our eyes on God's greatness & and desiring His presence.

-**Worship is war** because it Pushes Back darkness & denies Fear by Magnifying God's Greatness Jericho was terrifying. Massive walls. Experienced soldiers. A seemingly impossible obstacle. Yet God gave Israel an unusual battle strategy. Why? Because fear is defeated not merely by courage. **Fear is defeated by a greater vision of God.**

=This is why Scripture continually connects worship and fearlessness. (Psalm 27; Isaiah 6)

-**Worship Is war** because it denies **self** & declares to the spiritual forces of the universe that YOU *belong* to God; they can never have you or **defeat** you; that you are revealing the **lies** that have been spread that somehow we deserve glory on our own terms; and that you are **denying** satan the one thing he desires most = to ROB God of His glory. *Satan is the ult. glory thief!!*

=Every time believers worship Christ alone, they refuse Satan's oldest temptation. *Self-exaltation*

-**Worship is war** because it denies the devil what he desperately seeks -his own glory;

***Application:** The more clearly we see God's throne, the smaller earthly kingdoms appear.

-Obedient Worship Defeats our Human Pride every time.

***What's the point of this passage in Joshua??**

Not that Israel is great; not that their military prowess and might are great; not even that their worship is great; their faith is great; their obedience is great...*NO* = the point of Joshua 6 is that **GOD is GREAT!!!!** He is to be glorified!!

- Joshua reminds us that our worship is warfare because it is our daily battle in worship to kill self, sin, temptation, pride, deception, apathy, unbelief, lies, and to choose **JOY** bc we have HIM!

*Worship is war and the choice weapon of this spiritual warfare is **PRAISE**; a heart yielded to the presence of God; to the power of God; to the GLORY of God!

The church gathers every Sunday for warfare. This is not a puny, weak, effeminate task for women and children. Warfare is needed of all of us. Warfare is demanded for the survival of our souls in this dark world. Our worship, our warfare needs to train our hearts weekly and train our children, the next generation -the necessity, the power, and the glory in our worship.

2 Cor. 10:3-5 "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not wage battle according to the flesh, ⁴for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but ^[a]divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. ⁵ *We are* destroying arguments and all arrogance raised against the knowledge of God, and *we are* taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ" -this is worship. **WAR!**

Worship is war because it points all of earth, heaven, humans, angels, the living and the dead toward Christ's **FINAL victory!!! Our warfare worship proclaims "King Jesus has already won."

-Our worship NOW points forward to the ultimate exaltation of Christ and His worship around the throne (Revelation 4-5); Our worship is a joyful expectation of His triumphant return (Revelation 19). = **Every Sunday worship service is rehearsal for that final victory.**

"Worship is warfare because every song of faith, every prayer of surrender, every act of obedience, and every declaration of God's greatness *confronts* the kingdom of darkness with the unchanging reality that Jesus Christ is King. Worship does not manipulate God's power—it magnifies God's supremacy, strengthens His people, and announces to a watching world seen and unseen that the victory belongs to the Lord."

Ways we worship The Lord daily:

1) Worship through **Trusting** God - "Concerning Abraham: "No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. That is why his faith was "counted to him as righteousness." Romans 12:20

2) Worship through **Obeying** God - "In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." Matthew 5:16

3) Worship through Bearing Spiritual **Fruit** - "By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples." John 15:8

4) Worship through Being **content** & grateful with life - "Praise the Lord! Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!" Psalm 106:1

- "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." 1 Thess. 5:18

5) Worship through **Suffering** For Christ - "If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name." 1 Peter 4:15-16

- "This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God." John 12:33

Community Group Questions

1. DO you agree with the statement that Worship is war? That our worship is an act of spiritual warfare for both our soul and the watching world?
2. Why do you think God met Joshua before the battle instead of simply giving him military instructions? In what ways are you tempted to seek God's help more than God's presence?
3. Why is humility essential before engaging in spiritual warfare? How can familiarity with God sometimes diminish our sense of awe? What practices help cultivate a greater awareness of God's holiness?
4. How do you think the Israelites initially reacted to God's instructions to not engage militarily but through marching and worshipping? Share a time when obedience to God didn't seem to make sense but later proved faithful.
5. Where is God asking you to trust Him even when you cannot yet see the outcome? What "walls" (fear, sin, anxiety, broken relationships, discouragement, addiction, uncertainty, etc.) seem impossible in your life?
6. How does Christ's finished work on the cross give you hope even before circumstances change?
7. As a group, how can we pray specifically for one another to trust God in these battles?