

Trust His Word

Joshua 10:6-14

This Week's Focus

At the onset of the Book of Joshua, God challenged Joshua three times to “be strong and courageous.” He had been charged with the enormous task of leading God’s people into the promised land, a task met with fierce opposition. Taking the promised land would require tremendous strength and courage, as well as trust in and obedience to God. The nations around Israel did not trust in the Lord and this led them to be controlled by their fears.

In contrast to these nations, we will see that Joshua’s active trust in and obedience to God freed him from being controlled by his fears. Likewise, when we actively trust God’s Word, we can engage in the mission He has given us without fear.

Joshua 10:6-14

Begin by reading the passage through two times.

6 Then the men of Gibeon sent word to Joshua in the camp at Gilgal: "Don't abandon your servants. Come quickly and save us! Help us, for all the Amorite kings living in the hill country have joined forces against us." **7** So Joshua and his whole military force, including all the fighting men, came from Gilgal. **8** The LORD said to Joshua, "Do not be afraid of them, for I have handed them over to you. Not one of them will be able to stand against you." **9** So Joshua caught them by surprise, after marching all night from Gilgal. **10** The LORD threw them into confusion before Israel. He defeated them in a great slaughter at Gibeon, chased them through the ascent of Beth-horon, and struck them down as far as Azekah and Makkedah. **11** As they fled before Israel, the LORD threw large hailstones on them from the sky along the descent of Beth-horon all the way to Azekah, and they died. More of them died from the hail than the Israelites killed with the sword. **12** On the day the LORD gave the Amorites over to the Israelites, Joshua spoke to the LORD in the presence of Israel: "Sun, stand still over Gibeon, and the moon, over the Valley of Aijalon." **13** And the sun stood still and the moon stopped until the nation took vengeance on its enemies. Isn't this written in the Book of Jashar? So the sun stopped in the middle of the sky and delayed its setting almost a full day. **14** There has been no day like it before or since, when the LORD listened to the voice of a man, because the LORD fought for Israel.

Share about a time when you missed an opportunity to do something great because you were afraid.

How can we stop from letting our fears control us? Explain.

Joshua 10:1-5

What motivated the king of Jerusalem to join forces with four other kings in attacking Gibeon? What was he hoping to accomplish?

How does the description of the inhabitants of Gibeon in verse 2 compare with their actions in Joshua 9:3-15? What was the king of Jerusalem afraid of?

The City of David

Joshua 10 gives the backstory of what is perhaps the most important city in the Bible, Jerusalem, the city of David and the location of Christ's crucifixion. Prior to Joshua conquering the city, it was controlled by the Canaanites. It would be lost again in the period of the judges only to be later conquered by king David who would make it the capital of Israel (2 Sam. 5:6-12).

Joshua 10:6-11

How did the men of Gibeon respond to the coalition of kings who were plotting to attack them (v. 6)? What was motivating them?

How did Joshua respond to their cry for help (vv. 7-8)? What does this tell us about Joshua?

What did God promise Joshua (v. 8)? What does this tell us about Him?

How did Joshua respond to God's promise (v. 9)? What did God do as a result (vv. 10-11)?

Joshua 10:12-14

Why is it important to see that Joshua prayed this big, outlandish prayer in front of the people of Israel? What does it indicate about his faith?

Notice, too, that Joshua continued to fight. Why do you think he did this?

Central Truth

When we actively trust God's Word, we can engage in the mission He has given us without fear.

✓ Now What?

In what areas of life are you letting fear control you? What would it look like for you to actively trust God in those areas?

What in your life keeps you from trusting God and His Word? How can you overcome these distractions?

What battle are you facing in which you need to take hold of the victory God has already given you in Christ?

How does trusting in God free us from fear? What actions do you need to take to trust God at school, in your activities, and at home?

Personal Challenge

Dwell: Read Psalm 46. Where did the psalmist turn in his time of trouble? What can you learn from his prayer? How should the promises of God in this prayer give you strength in your day-to-day life? Set aside some time to meditate on the truths of this Psalm, particularly how God's infinite power and certain promises empower you to live on mission for Him.

Memorize: Joshua 1:7

Pray: Thank God for His promises and His Word which empower us to live without fear. Ask Him to help you lean on the promises in His Word, and to trust in the power He promises to provide as you seek to live on mission for Him. Ask Him to help you have the heart of Joshua, who was unswervingly focused on the mission God had given him.

Keep on Digging

Read the following verses, as well as the surrounding context verses if time allows. Journal what each verse tells you about God and what it tells you about your fears. Then journal a prayer to God asking Him to help you look to Him for the strength necessary to overcome your fears and live for His glory.

- Deuteronomy 31:6
- Psalm 118:6-7
- Isaiah 41:10
- Luke 12:22-26
- Philippians 4:6-7
- 1 John 4:18