

**Study of Joshua: The Power Of God’s Promises**

**The Power of God’s Promises**

***“and ye know in all your hearts and in all your souls, that not one thing hath failed of all the good things which the Lord your God spake concerning you; all are come to pass unto you, and not one thing hath failed thereof.”* Joshua 23:14**

**Based on the Life Guide Bible study guide by Donald Baker**

**WHAT YOU WILL FIND IN THIS STUDY GUIDE**

**This study guide reviews the 24 chapters of the book of Joshua, highlighting the fulfillment of God’s promise made to Abraham: “To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates” (Genesis 15:18)**

**I Background Info on the Book of Joshua**

**II Our Challenge Today**

**III Suggested Tips To Get The Most Out of This Study**

**IV Weekly Discussion Material**

**Week 5 (October 6): Defeat, Confession & Victory (Joshua Ch. 7-8)**

**This lesson shows the effects of one person’s sin on an entire community and**

**the cleansing effect of confession**

**Week 6 (October 13): Deceived (Joshua Ch. 9)**

**This lesson shows how Joshua and the children of Israel were deceived and**

**the results of that deception**

**Week 7 (October 20): Learning To Trust God (Joshua Ch. 10-12)**

**This lesson reveals how in spite of all their victories, Joshua and the children**

**of Israel still needed to be reassured that God was with them**

**Week 8 (October 27 ): Attitudes Which Help Us Grow (Joshua Ch. 13-19)**

**This lesson reveals the reason why Israel failed to posses all that God**

**promised them**

**JOSHUA: THE POWER OF GOD’S PROMISES**

**BACKGROUND INFO**

**On The Book Of Joshua**

**Jensen’s Survey of the Old Testament; by Irving L. Jensen**

**Adventuring Through the Bible; by Dr. Ray C. Stedmund**

**SCRIPTURE: *“and ye know in all your hearts and in all your souls, that not one thing hath failed of all the***

***good things which the Lord your God spake concerning you; all are come to pass unto you,***

***and not one thing hath failed thereof.”*** Joshua 23:14

**The book of Joshua is the first of the twelve historical books of the Bible. Although the author is not explicitly identified, many scholars agree that it was written by an eyewitness of the events, that the bulk of it was written by one author, and that one person is Joshua. It is considered a climax of progressive history as well as a commencement to a new experience for Israel.**

The book of Joshua is a book of promise and of victory, depicting how God fulfilled the promise made to Moses concerning the children of Israel when He delivered them out of Egypt. This book gives a glimpse of how God worked through His people, sometimes in spite of their flaws and shortcomings, to accomplish major victories.

Sometimes referred to as the book of “conquest”, Joshua is a book about a land (Canaan) promised by God, and a people (Israel), God’s chosen ones, and the obstacles they overcame to claim their victory. Joshua records the conquest of the land and the division of its territories to the tribes of Israel.

Joshua, whose original name was Hoshea, which means **“salvation”,** is the central or prominent person of the book. During the wilderness journey His name was changed, by Moses, to Joshua, which means “**Jehovah is salvation**”.

Joshua was a young man when Moses appointed him as one of the ministers or attendants during the wilderness journey. At the end of Moses’ time God chose Joshua to be Moses’ successor and Moses transferred the mantle of leadership to him.

Joshua feared God and believed God; he obeyed God and glorified God. He was thought of as a great ruler, commanding the respect of all his followers, maintaining order and discipline, putting the worship of God central in the nations’ government, and encouraging his people to press on to claim God’s best.

Joshua, described as a humble man who thought highly of others and most gloriously of God, was a great military leader, who used his God-given traits of wisdom, confidence, courage, and a spirit of challenge to guide his army in strategies that consistently led to triumph.

The book of Joshua reveals much about the person and work of God. Three attributes of God that are especially prominent in the book of Joshua are: God’s Holiness, Faithfulness, and Saving Grace.

Joshua reports the essential details of four major tasks or experiences of Israel in occupying the promised land: Preparation, Conquest, Allocating the land, and Consecration.

The close of the book of Joshua shows the commencement of Israel’s life in Canaan to be one of peace, joy, wealth, power, and victory; typifying a saved soul wholly surrendered to God. Israel’s dwelling in the Promised Land of Canaan is a vivid depiction of the Christian living in intimate relationship to Christ and being filled with His joy. The Christian’s rest is a peace that comes out of victory over the enemy through the power and help of God.

**OUR CHALLENGE TODAY**

**The Christian life is not only a matter of “being called out of a wilderness”, it is also a matter of “entering into an inheritance” (the land of promise).**

The most well-known account in the book of Joshua is the battle of Jericho where “the walls came tumbling down”. What is your Jericho? Have you encountered anything in life that seemed to be an insuperable obstacle? Something that seemed to mock you, baffle you, and defeat you or made you feel powerless to overcome? In the book of Joshua we see God’s pattern for victory, we see Israel’s errors, and we see Israel’s triumphs.

The major problem for Christians today is that many are content with being brought out of bondage (accept Christ)- but never quite get around to entering into the Promised Land. We have faith to leave Egypt, but somewhere along the way we falter (get stuck) in the wilderness. We fail to lay hold of the faith that takes us over the Jordan and into the Land of Promise and claim our victory.

The story of the siege of Jericho is symbolic of the world’s assault on the Christian and of Jesus Christ’s enabling victory over the world. Following the victory experienced in Jericho, however, is a contrasting story of Israel’s defeat in Ai. The story of Ai is symbolic of fleshly sin- its subtly and its seemingly insignificance. The story of Ai demonstrates what happens when we allow sin to enter into the camp unchecked- uncontrollable tempers, lusts, arrogance, and evil thoughts prevail. Failure to conquer the lusts of the flesh can produce tragic, disastrous defeat.

As Joshua ages (**Joshua 13:1**), he is reminded by God that there are still very large areas of land to be conquered. Joshua faces a peril that we all will or have faced: the temptation to stop short of complete victory. Too many Christians back off, stop short, or settle for less than what God promised. We convince ourselves by saying “why go any further?; we have already accomplished so much. Just let me rest”. The fact is that until the war is over and God calls us to a place of rest, we must continue to march on to see the battle through to the end or else we will lose ground and the battle will be lost.

The Holy Spirit empowers all believers to experience victory. However, claiming our victory can be compared to claiming a package from UPS, Fed-Ex, or the US Postal Service. The package may be delivered to a predetermined location, but unless we are in the right position (location) to receive it, we cannot claim what is ours. God has already given His people the victory, but we must be in the right position before we can claim what is ours.

It is not enough just to hear God’s word, though, we must be doers of God’s word in order to truly please God and be victorious. This cannot be accomplished on our own, but only like Joshua and the children of Israel, when we submit our will to the Will of God, are we able to remain faithful to God and claim the victory.

God did not promise the children of Israel that they would not encounter obstacles, nor does He promise us today. He does, however, promise to walk with us every step of the way. When we honor God, He, in return, reveals the promise to us and we experience victory.

We have gained a lot, however, God is still calling qualified leaders like Joshua to urge His people to persevere to possess the land yet to be possessed. God is still warning us against an attitude of compromise and exhorting us to make a choice of whom we will serve (**Joshua 24:15**). Not only is God calling for qualified leaders, He is also calling for us to be properly trained, equipped, and have a solid plan, and obedience to execute the plan. Joshua serves as an example of perseverance to complete the mission given by God.

God never changes; He is the same God yesterday, today, and forever. He led Joshua and the children of Israel into the Promised Land then, and He stands ready to lead us, if we are willing to follow Him, into our Promised Land.

**The study of the book of Joshua details the preparation, conquest, allocation of land and the consecration of the people in possessing what God promised them.**

**GETTING THE MOST OUT OF THIS STUDY**

**Studying requires more than just reading. It requires spending time meditating on and examining what has been read against what we currently know or believe. For Christians, studying requires another, more crucial aspect in the process. It requires that we examine what we have read against what we currently know or believe compared to the Word of God. Without that last (and most crucial) stage of the process we would be lost in our own understanding (or misunderstanding).**

**In order to gain the most from this study, participants are encouraged to follow these suggested steps:**

**\*Come prepared; read through study materials prior to each lesson**

**\*Read scripture passages (use bible translation that helps you understand)**

**\*Pray; ask God to reveal to you areas that need to be developed or**

**strengthened in your life**

**\*Meditate; take time to listen to the Holy Spirit’s response to your prayer**

**\*Write down what God has given you; answer the questions in the study guide**

**\*Allow the Holy Spirit to begin changing those areas in your life that do not**

**reflect God’s plan for your life**

**\*Share in the discussion as the Spirit leads you; sharing your experiences**

**could help bring clarity to someone else who may be experiencing a similar**

**situation**

**MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY**

**JOSHUA: THE POWER OF GOD’S PROMISES**

***“for thus saith the Lord God of Israel, There is an accursed thing in the midst of thee, O Israel: thou canst not stand before thine enemies, until ye take away the accursed thing from among you.”*  Joshua 7:13**

**WEEK V**

**DEFEAT, CONFESSION & VICTORY (7-8)**

**KEY SCRIPTURE**

Joshua 7:13

**LEARNING GOALS**

**\*Understand the importance of seeking God in all areas of our lives**

**\*To consider the seriousness and consequences of sin**

**\* To understand the importance of surrendering to God what is due**

**\*To understand the relationship between confessing sin and being victorious over your enemy**

**MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY**

**JOSHUA: THE POWER OF GOD’S PROMISES**

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**WEEK V**

**DEFEAT, CONFESSION & VICTORY (Ch. 7-8)**

**VICTORY VS DEFEAT**

***DEFEAT DEFINED:*** to win a victory over (someone) in a battle or other contest; overcome or beat.

Victory and defeat can be synonymous if you are the one on the winning side. However, as in the case of the Israelites, when they came against the city of Ai (the first time) they were not on the winning side; they suffered defeat by the city of Ai due to sin and disobedience.

Success can lead to complacency. Complacency can lead to defeat.

***COMPLACENCY DEFINED***:**a feeling of quiet pleasure or security, often while unaware of some potential**

**danger, defect, or the like;**

self-satisfaction or smug satisfaction with an existing situation, condition, etc.,

accompanied by awareness of actual dangers or deficiencies.

When we become complacent we assume that the status quo will remain the same. Change occurs all around us. Unless we continue to grow and increase our understanding and our skills, we will fall behind.

Defeat can also be caused by being overconfident in one’s abilities. As Christians, when we feel confident and in control we tend to take our focus off God who is our ultimate provider, sustainer, and strength and we begin to rely on our own strength.

***CONFIDENCE DEFINED:*** the state of feeling certain about the truth of something.

a feeling of self-assurance arising from one's appreciation of one's own abilities or qualities.

The word confidence is derived from the Latin word “fidere”, which means “to trust”. Having confidence or trust in the wrong thing can be just as dangerous as being complacent.

Having confidence is not necessarily a bad thing. But when we become so confident in our own abilities and we forget about relying on God, our confidence becomes sin.

The children of Israel had tasted success; they had defeated the people of Jericho. They thought that just because the city of Ai was smaller it would be less of an opponent to them and thus easier to defeat; they did not rely on God for direction.

Furthermore, the children of Israel disobeyed God’s instructions about taking anything from the city of Jericho. Because of one person’s disobedience, the children of Israel failed to defeat the city of Ai. Whether due to complacency or being overconfident in themselves, the end result for the children of Israel was defeat.

**1) Reflect on the effects of sin on your life. What consequences have you suffered as a result?**

**2) Imagine trudging back to camp with the defeated Israelites (Joshua 7:1-5). What would have been**

**going through your mind?**

**3) What are Joshua’s concerns after this defeat (v. 6-9)?**

Joshua experienced a huge let down. After defeating Jericho he probably felt invincible. When his men

were defeated at Ai he became concerned that all of their enemies would hear about this defeat and

come after them to destroy them. Joshua accused the Lord of failing Israel and jeopardizing his

reputation.

**4) How do God’s concerns differ from Joshua’s (v. 10-15)?**

God had given his people a command concerning how they were to treat the inhabitants and the property

they encountered in Jericho (**Joshua 6:17-19**).

God was more concerned with “why” the children of Israel were unsuccessful in their attack

against the city of Ai.

**CONSEQUENCES OF SIN**

Sin separates us from God. God is holy and therefore cannot tolerate sin. Although God is a loving, merciful, and forgiving God, He warns us that there are consequences when we disobey His commands.

***CONSEQUENCE DEFINED:*** a result or effect of an action or condition.

***SIN DEFINED*:** purposely disobeying the rules of God

Israel had sinned. God was concerned that someone in the camp had disobeyed His command; they had

dishonored the covenant with Him. This disobedience brought a curse upon the entire camp.

**5) If you had been Achan, how would you have felt as your tribe, your clan, your family and finally you**

**yourself were presented before God (v. 14-22)?**

A lot of times when we sin we may think that no one sees our sin and therefore it is okay. God sees and

knows all that we do. We may be able to hide our sins (for a time) from people, but we can never hide

them from God.

**6) Joshua urged Achan to “give glory to the Lord” by admitting his crime (v. 19). How does confession**

**glorify God?**

Sin causes fear, doubt, defeat, and sometimes death (either physical or spiritual).

By confessing his crime Achan was admitting that he had disobeyed God and failed the Israelites.By

acknowledging our wrong, we admit that God is the one who is “*just”* in making the rules and that it is

our responsibility to obey God (**II Chronicles 7:14).**

**7) Achan was stoned because he had brought disaster on the Israelites (v. 25). How do you feel about**

**Achan’s stoning? Was it just or not? Explain.**

Although it seems harsh to us today, that was what God required during that time. Sin was considered

contagious. Stoning Achan was necessary because of Achan’s disobedience to God. If the people had

not addressed Achan’s sin, they all would have continued to bare the curse of it.

**8) Thirty-six Israelite warriors had already died because of Achan’s sin. How might our sins affect**

**others?**

Our sins can affect those close to us or connected to us just as Achan’s sin affected his family and all

who were connected to him.

**9) Looking throughout the passage, what differences do you see between the second attack on Ai and the**

**first attack (Joshua 8:1-19)?**

The Israelites were in covenant with God.God had instructed them not to keep any of the items

from Jericho.

In the first attack on Ai, there was no indication that Joshua consulted with God prior to sending the men

to fight against Ai. Achan disobeyed God by keeping spoils from their conquest of Jericho, which

brought a curse on the camp. The curse brought on by Achan’s sin kept the Israelites from defeating

their enemy.

In their second attack on Ai God promised the children of Israel beforehand that He would deliver the

city into their hand. God gave Joshua specific instructions as to how they were to approach the city to

attack it. God allowed them to keep the spoils from this victory.

**CONFESSION OF SIN**

***CONFESS DEFINED:*** admit or state that one has committed a crime or is at fault in some way.

For the believer, confession holds two distinct theological senses: the acknowledging or confessing of faith (in God, Christ, or a particular doctrine), and the acknowledging or confessing of sins before God.

Although God already knew that the sin had occurred, He required His people to publicly confess the sin that had entered into their camp. **James 5:16** Public confession of sin is important especially when the sin affects others.

Once Achan confessed his sin and the children of Israel dealt with it God forgave them and they were able to experience defeat “over” their enemies instead of “by” their enemies.

**10) If you had been an Israelite, what thoughts would have come to mind each time you saw the rock piles**

**mentioned in 7:26 and 8:29?**

**11) Why did Joshua build the altar on Mount Ebal (v. 30-31)?**

Joshua did as Moses did; he built an altar to offer burnt offerings and sacrifice peace offerings. Joshua

then wrote on the stones a copy of the law of Moses, in the presence of the children of Israel. Afterward

Joshua read all the words of the law, the blessings and cursings, according to all that is written in the

book of the law.

**12) What impact would the reading of the law have had on the Israelites (v. 32-35)?**

It was a reminder of God’s covenant and commandments with His people and the results of obedience

and disobedience to God

**13) What reminders can help keep us from sinning?**

God has given us His written word with instructions, reminders, and warnings on how to live holy.The Holy Spirit convicts us when we do something that is against God’s commands. When we pray and submit to the Holy Spirit we are able to avoid sin and the consequences of sin.

The cross is also a reminder of the price Jesus paid to redeem us from our sins.

Baptism is a symbolism that our sins have been washed away. We should remember our commitment to

God that we are no longer the same when we are baptized.

**CONCLUSION**

Each of us has a decision to make every day; to choose to be on the Lord’s side or to choose our own way. Many times we choose our own way because we become distracted by all the worldly pleasures of life. We may not always see how indulging in worldly pleasures can keep us from obtaining the victory God promises us.

Just as God was specific in His instructions to the children of Israel, He is specific in His instructions to His people today **(Matthew 6:33).** It isn’t that God does not want His people to have nice things, but He knows the influence those things can have on His people if they are not careful.When we go against God’s commands we sin. Just as with Achan, we may not realize how our sin affects those connected to us until it is too late.

Sometimes a matter may seem small and insignificant, and we may feel that we can manage on our own without first going to God. God is omniscient, unlike us, He knows what might be ahead. God promises us victory in our battle against Satan, but only if we adhere to His commands. We are to seek God and acknowledge God in all our ways and He has promised to direct our path (**Proverbs 3:5-6**).

Like the children of Israel, if we do not address sin when we encounter it and we allow it to remain unchecked in the camp (church, family, acquaintances, etc.) we risk cursing all those who are connected to us and we risk facing defeat.

Confession is included in the call to "repent" from one's sins. John the Baptist's call for repentance is met by the people's confession of their sins ([**Matt 3:6**](http://www.biblestudytools.com/matthew/3-6.html)**;**[**Mark 1:5**](http://www.biblestudytools.com/mark/1-5.html)). Perhaps the most familiar text on confession is **1 John 1:9**.

Although Christ's sacrifice wipes out the guilt of all sins past, present, and future for the believer and secures us eternally in our justification by faith; forgiveness is always provided, but we are to ask for it ([**Matthew 6:12**](http://www.biblestudytools.com/matthew/6-12.html)[**Matthew 6:14**](http://www.biblestudytools.com/matthew/6-14.html)), as we confess our sins. “*To obey is better than sacrifice*“(**I Samuel 15:22**).

**MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY**

**JOSHUA: THE POWER OF GOD’S PROMISES**

***“And Joshua called for them, and he spake unto them, saying, Wherefore have ye beguiled us, saying, We are very far from you; when ye dwell among us?” Joshua 9:22***

**WEEK VI**

**DECEIVED (Ch. 9)**

**KEY SCRIPTURE**

Joshua 9:22

**LEARNING GOALS**

**\*Understand the seriousness of honoring a covenant**

**\*To learn how to avoid being deceived into sinning**

**\* To understand the true origin of deception**

**\*To show that we do not have to compromise our beliefs to keep peace**

**MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY**

**JOSHUA: THE POWER OF GOD’S PROMISES**

***“And Joshua called for them, and he spake unto them, saying, Wherefore have ye beguiled us, saying, We are very far from you; when ye dwell among us?” Joshua 9:22***

**WEEK VI**

**DECEIVED (Ch. 9)**

**FACT VS FICTION**

**1) Have you ever played the game “Two Truths and A Lie”? How easy or hard was it to tell the truths**

**from the lies?**

Sometimes it is easy to tell the “truths” from the “lie”; however, sometimes it is not so easy. The more

we know a person or know about a person, the easier it is to distinguish the “truth” from the “lie”.

God cautions us about being deceived. The enemy uses deception to try to get close to God’s people, to cause us to let our guard down, and to cause us to stumble. Satan deceived Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden (**Genesis 3**). He twisted God’s word to appeal to their fleshly desires. Satan also attempted to deceive Jesus in the wilderness after Jesus had fasted for forty days (**Matthew 4:1-11**). These are two different instances of Satan’s tactic of deception with two totally different outcomes.

***FACT DEFINED:*** something that is known or proved to be true.

***FICTION DEFINED:*** something that is invented or untrue.

People can usually tell the difference between fact or fiction. However, sometimes it is not always that easy. Sometimes fiction can be distorted to appear to be fact; in that instance, it is deceptive.

***DECEIVE DEFINED:*** cause (someone) to believe something that is not true, typically in order to gain some

personal advantage.

Israel suffered another set-back because of a deception. The Gibeonites used deceptive measures against the children of Israel in order to get what they wanted

**2) How do you decide whether to make a decision on your own or to pray about it first?**

The Holy Spirit will always convict us when something is not in agreement with God’s word (**Romans 1:28**).

**3) How do the Gibeonites go about deceiving the Israelites?**

The Gibeonites pretended to be travelers from a far country. They wore old clothes and carried moldy

bread and old wine skins to make it appear they had been traveling a long time.

**4) What factors made the Gibeonite deception so convincing to the Israelites (v. 7-13)?**

The appearance of the Gibeonites made it seem that they had been on a long journey. They were careful

not to mention the Israelites crossing the Jordan or the conquests of Jericho and Ai, which might have

given away the fact that they were not from far away.

**5) The Israelites were fooled because they “did not inquire of the Lord” (v. 14). When have you found**

**yourself in this situation?**

Some people are *smooth talkers*; they can convince others to believe something or do something by

playing on that person’s sympathy, emotions, or desires. Although they may make it appear that what

they are presenting will benefit that person, but just like the Gibeonites, their only motive is to satisfy

themselves.

We should always be cautious of a person’s motive for what they are doing or asking us to do.

**6) Why should the Israelites have known that this was not a decision to be made on their own?**

God had already instructed the Israelites on how to defeat Jericho. He had given them certain instructions on how to deal with opposing nations.

The Israelites had some doubt about the Gibeonite’s truthfulness about where they lived. The Gibeonites

approached them so the Israelites had no way of really knowing where the Gibeonites were from.

**(v. 7).** Also, they were involving God in an oath without consulting God **(v. 15, 18, 19).** They were

committing themselves and God to an act that was binding **(v. 18, 19).** The people were not all in

agreement to honor this commitmentwith the Gibeonites **(v. 18b).**

We should always go to God in prayer and submit to the Holy Spirit’s guidance especially when something appears to go against what God has instructed us to do (**Proverbs 3:5-6**).

**DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LYING AND DECEPTION**

Lying and deception are two terms that are rather overlapping. **Lying,** on one hand, refers to telling someone something that is not accurate. In this sense, it is either verbal or written.

**Deception,** on the other hand, is much broader. It usually refers to causing someone to believe something false as the truth. Deception can take many forms. Lying is just one manner through which an individual can be deceived. Deception distorts the truth by verbal or non-verbal actions. Lying is also a form of deception through words, but it is not the only way.

When someone lies or deceives someone else, the bible says they are behaving like their father the devil ([**John 8:44**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%208%3A44&version=KJV)**).** Satan comes *“to steal, and to kill, and to destroy” (***John 10:10***).* One of the ways in which he does so is by deception. If we don’t know God’s word or we fail to submit to the Holy Spirit, Satan can deceive us by making us think that what he is offering us is true and “harmless”.

**7) The Gibeonites are similar to Rahab in that, for both, their faith led them to lie. Why aren’t the**

**Gibeonites commended for their faith as Rahab was?**

Rahab was commended for her faith. She did not lie to the Israelites; she lied to her own people to

protect the Israelites. What she told the soldiers was not “against” anyone. She protected the spies and

helped them to escape; risking her own life and possibly that of her family.

The Gibeonites, however, deliberately tricked the Israelites into believing they were not from around the

area the Israelites were about to seize. The Gibeonites were not trying to help the Israelites in

any way; they were strictly looking out for themselves.

God does not honor lying; however, God looks at the heart. Rahab’s intentions were to help God’s

people, the Gibeonites’ intention was to help themselves.

**8) What do we learn from this about faith?**

Faith honors God.Without faith it is impossible to please God.Faith should lead us to action; however,

that action should not be a selfish or self-centered one.

**HONORING A COMMITMENT**

***HONOR DEFINED:*** honor in the Bible means **“esteem, value,** or**great respect.”** To honor someone is to

value him highly or bestow value upon him.

Most occurrences of honor in the Old Testament are translations of some form of kabod [[d/b'K](http://www.biblestudytools.com/lexicons/hebrew/nas/kabowd.html)], while in the New Testament they are derivatives of timao [[timavw](http://www.biblestudytools.com/lexicons/greek/nas/timao.html)]. The root of kabod [[d/b'K](http://www.biblestudytools.com/lexicons/hebrew/nas/kabowd.html)] literally means heavy or weighty. The figurative meaning, however, is far more common: "to give weight to someone." **To honor someone, then, is to give weight or to grant a person a position of respect and even authority in one's life.**

God the Father, for example, is honored when people do the things that please him ([**1 Cor 6:20**](http://www.biblestudytools.com/1-corinthians/6-20.html) ).

Above all else, the Bible makes it clear that we are to honor God and give Him the glory due Him forever ([**1 Timothy 1:17**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/1%20Tim%201.17); [**Revelation 5:13**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Rev%205.13)). We should honor God in every area of our life: our actions and words ([**Colossians 3:17**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Col%203.17)), treatment of others ([**Proverbs 14:31**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Prov%2014.31)), physical bodies ([**Romans 12:1**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Rom%2012.1); [**1 Corinthians 6:19**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/1%20Cor%206.19)), money and possessions ([**Proverbs 3:9**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Prov%203.9)), and marriages ([**Hebrews 13:4**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Heb%2013.4)). How we honor others is a reflection of how we honor God.

Honor does not only benefit those we are honoring, but it has benefits for us as well. God honors us for honoring others: ([**John 12:26**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/John%2012.26))

**9) In verse 15 they make a treaty. What should the Israelites have known about making peace with**

**distant and neighboring cities (Deuteronomy 20:10-18)?**

God had given the Israelites specific instructions on what to do when they approached a city. The

Israelites were not to make peace with neighboring cities. They were to be careful not to follow the

practices and abominations of the people they were encountering. They were to approach distant cities

peacefully to allow the cities to choose either to surrender or suffer attack.

**10) Why did the Israelites take their oath so seriously, even though it was based on a lie (v. 16-19)?**

The Israelites had sworn to the Gibeonites by the Lord. Not keeping their oath would have dishonored

God.

**11) The danger in sparing the Gibeonites was that they might entice Israel to idolatry and other pagan**

**practices (Deuteronomy 20:18). How would Joshua’s curse on them have helped to solve the problem**

**(v. 20)?**

Joshua’s curse signified to the Israelites and to the Gibeonites that the Gibeonites were not to be treated

as equals with the Israelites; the Gibeonites were to be servants only.

**12) In what areas are we tempted to make peace with a sinful world?**

Some people dislike confrontation; they seek peace at all cost. Sometimes we may want to please those

who we are close to (family, friends) or someone we may be hesitant to stand up to (boss or superior) in

order to keep peace. That type of peace is not really peace; it might be avoidance of something that

could be far worse than the temporary peace they experience. We might ignore the convicting of the

Holy Spirit during those times.

There are also those who live for confrontation, who look for arguments whenever possible to prove

their point. We should always strive to keep peace, but not if it means compromising what God has

commanded us to do.

Jesus promised that the peace that He gives is not the same as what the world has to offer. By keeping

our mind focused on the things of God we avoid becoming entangled by the things

of the world (**Romans 12:2**)

**GUARDING AGAINST DECEPTION**

Just as Satan deceived Adam and Eve in the garden and attempted to deceive Jesus in the wilderness, he continues to try to deceive God’s people today. Jesus was able to combat Satan because He knew God’s word and therefore could not be deceived by Satan.

**Proverbs 4:14-17** cautions us to be careful about becoming entangled with evil men. In order for us to avoid being deceived, we must study and rely on God’s word and compare what others say against what God’s word says. We must also examine ourselves as well to see if what we desire or if our actions line up with God’s word. We must pray and rely on the Holy Spirit to guide us in the right direction.

**13) How can we guard ourselves against these deceptive alliances?**

God gives us His spirit so that we will know what is freely given us (**I Corinthians 2:12**). God’s word also cautions believers that some will even leave the faith and give heed to “*seducing spirits,”* (**I Timothy 4:1-2**).

We are called not only to be students “hearers” of God’s word, but also to practice, “be doers” of God’s word (**James 1:22**).

When we focus more on what pleases our flesh rather than the things of God we can be tempted to

compromise our beliefs (**James 1:14**) and we become vulnerable to these deceptive alliances.

Just as soldiers on the battlefield are prepared and watchful for the enemy’s attacks, believers must also prepare and watch for our enemy (Satan) through constant study of God’s word, prayer, and trust in God’s Holy Spirit. The more we exercise our spiritual muscles the stronger they become (**Hebrews 5:14**).

**14) II Peter 2 warns about false teachers who will attempt to deceive the church. What help can you find**

**in this chapter for identifying false prophets?**

Christians must seek the know the truth and not what “sounds good” or makes us “feel good”. When we

seek what sounds good or makes us feel good we open ourselves up to be deceived by false teachers.

**CONCLUSION**

We are reminded in **Hebrews 4:12** of how powerful God’s word is:*“For the word of God is quick,*

*and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and*

*spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”*

There are many reminders in God’s word about those who lie in wait to deceive unsuspecting

people. Believers are given the word of God as a means of protecting them against those who

speak untruths. God’s word does no good if we don’t use it. It is important to study (and to know) God’s

word (**II Timothy 2:15**) so that we can recognize when something does not align itself with the word.

If it is something that we are unfamiliar with, we should compare what we receive to God’s word. The more time we spend studying and meditating on God’s word and in prayer with God the more in-tune we become to the Holy Spirit’s convicting, which will enable us to discern what does or does not align with God’s word (**I John 4:1**) and help us to detect false prophets.

**MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY**

**JOSHUA: THE POWER OF GOD’S PROMISES**

***“And the Lord said unto Joshua, Fear them not: for I have delivered them into thine hand; there shall not a man of them stand before thee..”* Joshua 10:8**

**WEEK VII**

**LEARNING TO TRUST GOD (Ch. 10-12)**

**KEY SCRIPTURE**

Joshua 10:8

**LEARNING GOALS**

**\*To show how God fights for His people**

**\*To understand what trust is**

**\*To understand why trust is so important**

**\* To have assurance that the God who has helped us in the past will be with us in our future battles**

**MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY**

**JOSHUA: THE POWER OF GOD’S PROMISES**

***“And the Lord said unto Joshua, Fear them not: for I have delivered them into thine hand; there shall not a man of them stand before thee..”* Joshua 10:8**

**WEEK VII**

**LEARNING TO TRUST GOD (Ch. 10-12)**

**1) Have you ever participated in a “trust walk”? What concerns did you have as the one blindfolded?**

**How is this exercise similar to trusting God?**

In participating in the “trust walk” the person wearing the blindfold does not get to see what is in front

of them. It is important for the person who is blindfolded to be able to trust the one who is leading them

Sometimes in life we can’t always see what is ahead, there may be stumbling blocks set in our path that

could trip us up and cause us to fall. God, in His infinite wisdom, is all-knowing. He wants us to trust

that He will guide us in the right direction and that He is looking out for our good.

***TRUST DEFINED:* assured reliance on the character, ability, strength, or truth of someone or something.**

According to Psychology Today, trust is a central part of all human relationships, including romantic partnerships, family life, business operations, [politics](https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/basics/politics), and medical practices. trust has an inextricable emotional dimension. To trust people, you need to feel good about them.

**Ways In Which We Build Trust Might Include**:

-**be reliable**

-**be honest**

-**be open**

-**show integrity**

***MISTRUST*,** on the other hand assigns negative emotions akin to dislike and [fear](https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/basics/fear). When someone misuses or abuses the trust others have in them, it sends a signal that they are unreliable, dishonest, and lack integrity.

Trusting God is vital to the Christian faith. God demonstrates His faithfulness to every Christian. He strengthens us, comforts us, heals us, and provides for us. Yet after all this, we often find it difficult to trust Him. Unless a person trusts God to do what He said He will do, they will be reluctant to do what God requires them to do.

Each time we experience victory over the enemy, our circumstances, or our fears it should give us the courage to “trust” God for the next struggle.

Joshua and the Israelites had crossed the Jordan River and conquered the cities of Jericho and Ai. In spite of those victories they still needed to be reassured that God was with them.

**2) Why is it hard to trust God for the future even though He has been faithful in the past?**

We tend to forget what God has done for us in the past or we may feel like what is in the future is too

Great. Sometimes we tend to compare God to others who may have abused or misused our trust. Some

people act as if God doesn’t understand what they are facing and so they find it hard to trust that God is

able to handle it. We can trust that God is the same God yesterday, today, and forever (**Revelations 1:8**).

If He promised it, He will bring it to pass.

**3) What picture of God do you get from this passage (Joshua 10)?**

The holiness and justice of God is demonstrated in this passage. We can see in this passage that:

-God is mighty

-God does not compromise

-God is faithful to His promise

-God is faithful to those who keep His commands

-God fights for His people

**GOD REASSURES HIS PEOPLE**

***REASSURANCE DEFINED:*** the action of removing someone's doubts or fears.

As children, we look to our parents for reassurance when we are afraid. As adults, we may look to those

who have authority over us for reassurance when we encounter something that is difficult or beyond

what we are capable or authorized to handle.

As believers God gives us reassurance when we face difficult situations, or when He has called us to do

something we feel is beyond our abilities. Joshua was about to face a difficult situation; he needed

reassurance that God would be with him.

**4) The Lord tells Joshua, “Do not be afraid of them; I have given them into your hand” (v. 8). After**

**miraculously crossing the Jordan and conquering Jericho and Ai, why would Joshua need this**

**reassurance?**

Joshua was coming against five armies who had joined forces to defeat the Israelites. He knew he was

outnumbered physically. He needed reassurance that God was with him spiritually to defeat these

armies.

**5) In spite of past victories, in what areas do you need to be reassured of God’s presence and power?**

**Explain.**

**6) Verse 14 concludes. “Surely the Lord was fighting for Israel!” How is this obvious from verses 9-15?**

Joshua and the children of Israel were outnumbered in size, yet they defeated all of the kings and their

armies. The Lord cast down hailstones from heaven to destroy the armies “*more. . . than they whom the*

*children of Israel slew with the sword”* **(v. 11).** Joshua prayed to God for the sun to stand still so that his

army could have daylight to fight and God honored Joshua’s prayer **(v. 12-13).** All of Joshua’s men

returned to camp; no one was killed in the battle **(v. 15).**

**7) How would these events have encouraged Joshua?**

Joshua faced an opponent that was five times greater than his previous one. He witnessed events that were not humanly possible. These events were reminders of God’s promise to deliver the land to Joshua and the Israelites.

**8) After the Lord reassures him, how does Joshua reassure his army about future battles (v. 16-27)?**

Joshua found the kings that had been hiding in a cave and called his military leaders to place their feet

on the necks of the conquered kings. Joshua then killed the kings and buried them in the cave.

Joshua made a memorial of the cave so that his army would have a reminder of their victory.

**9) What can we do to encourage others that God is faithful?**

Our lives and our testimony are a powerful witness of God’s faithfulness to those who trust Him. When

we live our lives pleasing to God and we share our testimony with others, it serves as a reminder to us

and to them of what God has done and is able to do (**Revelation 12:11**).

**10) How does the Lord demonstrate his faithfulness to Israel during the southern campaign (v. 29-43)?**

The Lord delivered all the kings into the hands of Joshua to destroy and all of Joshua’s men returned to

the camp unharmed.

**11) After the stunning victories in the south, a new and more powerful force aligns itself against Israel**

**(11:1-5). What thoughts do you imagine went through Joshua’s mind as he received reports of this**

**new alliance?**

Joshua was up against even more armies than previously, “*even as the sand that is upon the seashores*”

(**v. 4**). Joshua knew this was going to be an even greater battle than before and that they could not

attempt to defeat these armies unless God was with them.

**GOD FIGHTS FOR HIS PEOPLE**

**12) During the northern campaign, how does Joshua demonstrate his obedience to the Lord (v. 6-23)?**

Joshua followed God’s instructions:

-Joshua took all of his men to war

-he burned the chariots and crippled the horses

-he killed every man and burned the cities except for those cities built on small hills

**13) Why is our obedience important if we wish to see God’s power?**

God says that He knows the plans for our lives (**Jeremiah 29:11**). God knows what is ahead. He has

already made the way for us to obtain victory. God does not force us to follow the plan that He has for

us.

When we disobey God and do things on our own, we hinder God from working and we fail to see God’s

power. Disobedience to God can cause us to fall short of what God has promised us (**Genesis 3:23-**

**24**).

**14) In chapter 11 we do not read of any miraculous intervention by God, as we did in previous chapters.**

**How did the Israelites know that God was still the one giving them the victory?**

God had commanded Moses, who instructed Joshua. Joshua continued to follow instructions previously

given to him. The people trusted Joshua to follow God’s commands just as they trusted Moses.

**15) How can we know God is still with us even when we don’t see a miracle?**

God’s word is a reminder to us of what He has promised us. God’s word also gives us examples of

God’s faithfulness to His people.We can study to learn about God’s faithfulness and about what God

has promised us. We can pray and remain steadfast in what God has told us to do and trust that God is

working out the things we cannot see physically at the moment. We can be assured that God is with us

and that God is faithful to keep His promises.

**16) Consider how God’s faithfulness is shown in chapter 12. What victories can you list to remind you of**

**How God has kept His promises to you?**

**CONCLUSION**

Joshua and the children of Israel faced a huge battle. They were facing an army that they could not humanly possibly defeat. Only by trusting in God and following God’s commands were they able to defeat their enemy. God had proven His faithfulness to them before; He reassured them that He would be with them just as He had been with them in the past.

As imperfect humans, we may not always display a sense of trust when dealing with others. Sometimes, we may even deceive ourselves if there is something that we want badly or want to believe badly enough (**Jeremiah 17:9**).

God has given us many examples in His word to remind us of His faithfulness towards those who follow Him. Even before we trusted Him, He was working on our behalf **(Romans 5:8**). God’s word also warns us against the enemy who tries to attack us and keep us from reaching our goal by bombarding our minds with feelings of doubt, fear, and discouragement. When we give in to those feelings, we display a lack of trust in God who *“is able to do exceedingly and abundantly above all that we could ask or think”* (**Ephesians 3:20**) and we fall short of what God wants us to do.

As believers we must stay connected to God by studying God’s word and continuing to pray and meditate on God’s word so that it soaks into our spirit and becomes a part of us and we know who and what we can trust and we are able to stand on what God has given us despite how things might appear to us.

God is sovereign; He cannot lie. We can trust that whatever God promises us, He is faithful and just to bring it to pass: “*God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?”* (**Numbers 23:19**).

**MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY**

**JOSHUA: THE POWER OF GOD’S PROMISES**

***“And Joshua said unto the children of Israel, How long are ye slack to go to possess the land, which the Lord God of your fathers hath given you?”* Joshua 18:3**

**WEEK VIII**

**ATTITUDES WHICH HELP US GROW (Ch. 13-19)**

**KEY SCRIPTURE**

Joshua 18:3

**LEARNING GOALS**

**\*To show why Israel failed to possess all that God promised them**

**\* To understand how our attitude can affect our behavior**

**\*To demonstrate ways to develop the right attitude**

**\*To understand that God is very detailed in what He does**

**MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY**

**JOSHUA: THE POWER OF GOD’S PROMISES**

***“And Joshua said unto the children of Israel, How long are ye slack to go to possess the land, which the Lord God of your fathers hath given you?”* Joshua 18:3**

**WEEK VIII**

**ATTITUDES WHICH HELP US GROW (Ch. 13-19)**

**FAILURE TO LAUNCH**

**Mar 10, 2006 · A movie with Matthew McConaughey, Sarah Jessica Parker, about a thirty-something still living with his parents until they hire an interventionist to help him graduate out of the house.**

Some Christians may become frustrated by their lack of spiritual growth. Spiritual growth takes time and requires that we examine ourselves through the lens of the Holy Spirit. Some people may also become complacent in where they are spiritually and decide to settle for less than what God has for them.

## Salesman Zig Ziglar first coined the phrase; “It is your attitude, more than your aptitude, that will determine your altitude.” To show that having the right attitude is important in order to overcome obstacles and to be successful. How a person thinks can determine how far in life they go.

Joshua was getting older; he no longer had the same youthful energy and vitality he once possessed. Despite his age, Joshua still had work to complete for God.

God had proven himself to Israel throughout their many battles. He had kept His promise to be with them in the conquest of Canaan. Yet in spite of many victories, much of the land still remained to be conquered. Israel had failed to possess all that God had promised them. To become complacent would mean spiritual defeat for Joshua and the children of Israel.

***ATTITUDE DEFINED:*** attitude refers to a set of emotions, beliefs, and behaviors toward a particular object,

person, thing, or event.

a learned tendency to evaluate things in a certain way.

a settled way of thinking or feeling about someone or something that is typically

reflected in a person’s behavior.

Attitudes are often the result of experience or upbringing, and they can have a powerful influence over behavior. There are a number of factors that can influence how and why attitudes form.

**Experience**

**Social Factors**

**Learning**

**Conditioning**

**Observation**

**1) In what one area of your life would you most like to see spiritual progress?**

**2) What difficulties do you expect Joshua faced in dividing the land fairly?**

Some tribes were larger than others. Joshua may have had difficulty in deciding what land to give to

which tribe

**3) Notice that Joshua is commanded to divide the land even though much of it remained to be conquered.**

**How might this have complicated the process?**

Some people may have felt that it was unfair to be given land that had not yet been conquered. Even though God had promised them that they would receive all the land wherever their feet touched, they may have lacked faith to believe that they would conquer all of the land.

### **DEVELOPING THE RIGHT ATTITUDE**

### While attitudes can have a powerful effect on behavior, they are not set in stone. The same influences that lead to attitude formation can also create attitude change. **Romans 12:2** is a warning to believers about conforming to the world around us.

### Believers should be aware that growth often comes through trials (**James 1:1-4**).

### As sinners we adopt the world’s attitudes; as believers we are to adopt God’s attitudes. When we look to people rather than to God we fail to see our need to let go of the wrong attitude.

James MacDonald wrote a book (and bible study) entitled *“Lord Change My Attitude”.* The study centered around six attitudes believers needed to change and the corresponding attitude they needed to adopt

-Complaining to Thankful

-Covetous to Contentment

-Critical to Love

-Doubting to Faith

-Rebellious to Submission

In this book, the author presented five important questions for readers:

1) Are you open to considering what the Lord has to say about changing your attitude?

2) Are you willing to be changed?

3) Are you willing to change your attitude?

4) Are you willing to focus exclusively on “your” attitude?

5)Are you willing to go after this change of attitude with urgency?

The author’s reasoning for asking these questions is that “the way each reader “answered these questions will influence” what they “receive from this book”. If we do not see that change needs to take place, are not open to change, or are not willing to seek after and submit to change, we should not expect change to take place.

### Believers are instructed to keep their minds focused on God in order to have the right attitude needed to overcome negative peer pressure and to gain the victory promised them.

**4) Read Joshua 14:6-15. What spiritual strengths do you notice in Caleb’s character?**

At eighty-five Caleb still believed that God could strengthen him to do tasks that seem impossible.

-he remained faithful to Joshua as he did to Moses

-he reminded Joshua that he was the only spy who followed the Lord

-he believed that God was still with him

-he was still willing to fight

**5) In what ways do you think that Joshua was helped and encouraged by Caleb?**

Joshua was encouraged by Caleb’s faithfulness and willingness to fight for the land that God had

promised His people. Joshua was also encouraged by Caleb’s boldness.

Joshua remembered that it was him and Caleb who brought back the positive report when Moses sent

them to spy out the land

**6)How can your faith and attitudes become an encouragement to your Christian leaders?**

**SPIRITUAL GROWTH HINDERED**

***GROWTH:*** the process of developing or maturing physically, mentally, or spiritually

to increase in mass (size), number, value, or strength

***SPIRITUAL GROWTH DEFINED:*** the process of becoming more and more like Jesus Christ.

Growth implies change; physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually (**I Corinthians 13:11**).

God desires for us to grow spiritually, and He has given us all we need to experience spiritual growth (**2 Peter 1:3-8**). With the Holy Spirit’s help, we can overcome sin and steadily (grow spiritually) become more like our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jealously, envy, anger, and selfishness are some of the acts of the flesh that manifest themselves in those who are spiritually immature. The goal of spiritual growth is to live lives of godliness. It is identified by the fruit of the Spirit becoming increasingly evident in a believer’s life (**Galatians 5:19-23**). Spiritual growth begins the moment a person comes to faith in Christ and should continue until a person enters Christ's presence after this life, which means Christians should always strive to grow more and more each day.

***STUNTED GROWTH:*** a reduced [growth rate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_height) in [human development](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_development_(biology)). It is a primary manifestation

of [malnutrition](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malnutrition) (or more precisely undernutrition) and recurrent infections

Not having the proper food or proper amount of food can cause an individual’s growth process to become stunted. Similarly, not having the proper spiritual food can cause a believer’s spiritual growth to be stunted. And not utilizing our muscles can cause them to be underdeveloped. God has given us His word as spiritual nourishment to help us grow and develop into mature believers in Christ (**Matthew 4:4**).

Comparing ourselves to others is a way to hinder (or stunt) spiritual growth. We focus on what others have, do, or say rather than what God has given us. By doing so, we fail to benefit from the spiritual food that God has prepared specifically for us that will help us to properly develop into mature believers (**Hebrews 5:14**).

***ENTITLEMENT DEFINED:*** the belief that one is inherently deserving of privileges or special treatment.

The spirit of entitlement is one that Satan uses to trick believers into thinking that, now that they have accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior, only “good things” will happen to them; they will not experience any suffering, pain, or persecution, and all that they desire will be fulfilled.

Entitlement is chiefly recognized by its effect on us: [envy](https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/basics/jealousy), [anger](https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/basics/anger), and frustration*.* When people feel entitled, they want to be different from others; they feel that they don’t have to do what everyone else does. They feel that the whole world owes them something in exchange for nothing. Frequently parents are blamed for fostering that trait in their kids.

Even though the land was promised to the children of Israel, there was still some things they had to do in order to possess it. The people of Joseph felt that they were entitled to receive a larger portion of land but they lacked the motivation to do what it took to possess it. They became frustrated when they felt they were not given the land they were entitled to receive.

**7) Read Joshua 17:14-18. How does the attitude of the people of Joseph contrast with Caleb’s attitude?**

Caleb was willing to fight for the land that had been promised to him. The children of Joseph were

fearful and complained about the inhabitants of the land.

**8) How does Joshua deal with their complaint?**

Joshua displayed leadership as he encouraged the tribes to have courage and do what God expected of them.

Joshua stood firm on his decision and reminded the children of Joseph of what they were capable of doing

and what they needed to do in order to claim what had been promised to them.

**9) We sometimes act like the tribe of Joseph, complaining about how little God has given us when we**

**have not fully used what we have. How do you think Joshua would respond to our complaints and**

**excuses?**

**10) Read Joshua 18:1-10. Seven tribes had not yet received their inheritance. What was their problem?**

Not all of the land was of equal size or value, so there was some concern as to which tribes would get

the best land.They had not gone out to inspect the land.

**11) How does Joshua help them to make a fair distribution of the land?**

Joshua requested three men from each tribe to go out and inspect the land and bring a report back to

him. Joshua divided the land into seven parts; Judah was to abide in the south and the house of Joseph

was to abide in the north. Joshua also cast lots to make sure the division of the land was impartial.

**12) As you look back over these chapters, what reasons can you give for why Israel had difficulty taking**

**full possession of the land?**

Some did not want to do what it took to possess the land. Possibly their lack of faith kept them from

moving forward.

**13) Which reasons help to explain why God’s promises to us are sometimes only partially fulfilled? (For example, his promise to purify our lives of sin). Explain.**

Doubt, disobedience, and fear can keep us from doing what God commands, which can keep us from

getting what God promised.

**14) Does your response to God’s promises more closely resemble that of (a) Caleb (wholehearted faith and obedience)? (b) the people of Joseph (complaints, lack of faith)? (c) the seven tribes (procrastination)? Explain your answer.**

**DETAILS MATTER**

***DETAIL DEFINED:*** an individual feature, fact, or item.

describe item by item; give the full particulars of.

God pays attention to detail; He has even taken the time to count the hairs on our head. (**Luke 12:7**). God gave detailed instructions to Joshua on how the land was to be divided amongst the tribes.

**15) Skim Joshua 18:11-19:51. Why do you think these detailed allotments were included here?**

**16) What does it reveal about God?**

God is very detailed in His instructions. He has a purpose for everything He commands.

**17) Look at Exodus 23:29-30; Deuteronomy 7:22-24; 20:16-18; Joshua 16:10 and 17:12-13. What reasons**

**why the Israelites had not fully conquered the Promised Land do you discover here?**

The Israelites were instructed to drive out the inhabitants little by little until they were able to possess

the entire land to avoid the land being left abandoned and become desolate.

**18) How does this additional research help you understand the plateaus and declines in your spiritual**

**growth?**

Believers may need to build up strength to conquer the next spiritual level. God knows how much each of us can handle. We must be patient and wait on God’s timing and receptive to know when the Holy Spirit is calling us to move.

**CONCLUSION**

No one can take what God has promised to those who believe in Him. However, if we fail to position ourselves to receive what has been promised, we can miss out on our blessings.

When we adopt the wrong attitude concerning God and His blessings for us, we might think that we should receive blessings regardless of our actions (or inactions). By adopting that attitude, we miss an important lesson.

The people of Joseph wanted what had been promised to them, but they did not want to do what it took to possess it. They had adopted the wrong attitude (spirit of entitlement) concerning their blessings, which hindered (stunted) their growth spiritually and kept them from claiming their promised land.

Believers must be willing to grow spiritually. We must be willing to examine our attitudes against God’s word and the Holy Spirit, admit that we need to change our attitudes, and be willing to let go of wrong attitudes and to do what is necessary in order to have the proper (godly) attitude. Caleb had grown spiritually. He recognized that even though God had promised the children of Israel the land, there were things they needed to do in order to possess it and he was willing to do what was needed.

God is not haphazard in what He does. There is a time and a purpose for all that He does or allows (**Ecclesiastes 3:1**). There may be times when we don’t fully understand God’s reasons for what He does or allows. When we fail to follow God’s plan we put ourselves in the position of being god, deciding what is or isn’t right, and we might miss out on what God has waiting for us at the end of the path. We need others in our lives like Caleb and Joshua who will help us to stay focused on the things of God and to develop the right attitude necessary for spiritual growth that will push us to claim what has been promised to us.

According to bibleinfo.com, there are 3573 promises in the Bible. The word promise itself occurs over **50 times** in the King James Version of the Bible. The Bible is full of [God's promises](https://www.bibleinfo.com/en/node/357) to help us in every time of need. **List of promises in the Bible where the word "promise" is found:**  
Romans 9:4 Romans 15:8  
2 Corinthians 1:20 2 Corinthians 7:1  
Galatians 3:16, 21  
Hebrews 6:12 Hebrews 7:6  
Hebrews 8:6 Hebrews 11:13, 17, 33  
2 Peter 1:4

God promised to supply all our needs ([**Philippians 4:19**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians%204%3A19&version=KJV)), but we must be obedient to do what is commanded in order to claim what has been promised.