

# **Jericho**

**10-30-22**

Joshua 6:1-2 (NIV)

<sup>1</sup>Now the gates of Jericho were securely barred because of the Israelites. No one went out and no one came in.

<sup>2</sup>Then the LORD said to Joshua, “See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands, along with its king and its fighting men.”

**Israel is in the land. Although in the land, significant obstacles must be faced. The first one is the fortress of Jericho. God has already said, “I have delivered Jericho into your hands.” But in order to achieve the victory, they must march around the city for six days. On the seventh day, march around the city seven times with the priests blowing the trumpets. On the seventh day, the whole army give a loud shout; then the walls of the city will collapse. This account of the power of God is true and fascinating. However, the lesson is not that we need to march around city walls seven times, and they will fall down. This physical OT account give us NT spiritual insight of how we conquer our Jericho, our immovable obstacle in the kingdom of God. **In the OT Land and NT kingdom, God’s people need to hear God and do what HE says.** We must hear God in our specific situation and do exactly what God uniquely tells us however strange it may seem. **This OT physical picture shows us what God is doing spiritually with us, HIS church.** The physical march in the OT is the picture of spiritual march in the NT keeping in step with the Holy Spirit.**

Gal.5:25 (NIV)

Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step (march) with the Spirit.

**Spiritually to overcome our challenges, we must march in step with the Holy Spirit! Another translates puts the march this way: “If the Spirit is the source of our life, let the Spirit also direct our course.” Paul reminds us that since we have been made alive by the Spirit we are also to walk by that same Spirit. The Spirit leads: we are to follow. We stand on the Holy Bible rejecting anything that contradicts the Bible. However, standing on the solid Word of Scripture, the Holy Spirit will speak to us and uniquely guide us.**

Acts 13:2-4 (NIV)

While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, **the Holy Spirit said**, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off. The two of them, **sent on their way by the Holy Spirit**, departed.

**The Holy Spirit will continue to specifically speak to us throughout our journey in this life. Contemporary example:**

Acts 16:6-10 (NIV)

<sup>6</sup>Paul and his companions continued traveling **having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word** in North Carolina.

<sup>7</sup>When they came to the northern border of Virginia, they tried to enter DC, but **the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to.**

<sup>8</sup>So they passed by DC and went to Baltimore. <sup>9</sup>During the night Paul had a **vision** of a man of Pennsylvania standing and **begging him**, “Come over to Pennsylvania and help us.” <sup>10</sup>After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Pennsylvania, **concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.**

**After we have been sent on our way by the Holy Spirit, we need to keep following the Holy Spirit. God may close a door and direct us someplace else.**

**There were plenty of cities for Joshua for to attack. Joshua attacked Jericho because God told him to attack Jericho. The Holy Spirit told Paul “not” to go into Asia and preach. Then later told him to go to Macedonia. In the kingdom we must hear God and do what God says! Jesus HIMSELF listened and obeyed, and we should do the same.**

John 5:19 (NIV)

Jesus said, “Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing.”

**The Son can do nothing by himself! If Jesus can’t, we surely can’t! In the kingdom, we hear Jesus and do what HE says!**

John 15:5 (NIV)

Jesus said, “Apart from me you can do nothing.”

**Facing your Jericho! Be powerful! Hear! In my opinion, the number one way to hear is to Immerse ourselves in the Bible. God will speak and Words will jump off the page at us, or we will sense a burning in our heart. The disciples gave us a perfect example:**

Luke 24:32 (NIV)

**Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?**

**For the church and every believer today, our hearts will burn within us while HE talks with us and opens the Scriptures.**

**God speaks to us in a variety of ways. The Holy Spirit will give us a check, or likewise a prompting. Often times the Holy Spirit will bring thoughts to mind. These thoughts will seem and sound like our thoughts, but they will be uniquely applicable to the situation at hand. Of course, these thoughts would be completely consistent with Scripture.**

**Like anything else in life, when we exercise our spiritual muscles, they will grow stronger. In the kingdom, if we never apply our spiritual muscles, they become flabby and useless. Grow strong! March, walk in the Spirit.**

**God is working! We have a Purpose!**

Ephesians 2:22

And in Christ you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.