CC112 - SELF-SEEKERS Joshua 17:14-18

I. OVERESTIMATE THEMSELVES: 17:14, "Why hast thou given me but one lot and one portion?" Their personal opinion of themselves is normally much higher than anyone else's. Normally they blow their own horn - Usually ask for more than can really handle - Most are not real persistent in Christian walk - Seek position of recognition - God knew the truth of their individual efforts. Example - Three pole carriers with middle not really lifting.

II. STATED UNPROVEN CLAIMS: 17:14, "Seeing I am a great people." We are of tribe of Joseph; I am a college graduate, class leader, first team football player, foreman on job, top salesman, good housewife and mother; but none of these is any proof of spiritual greatness. One must prove himself in this area. Fifteen years as a minister has shown me this is one of greatest mistakes many make, and these usually fade as the morning dew when don't get what they think they deserve.

III. ENEMIES SHARED THEIR LAND: They wanted more but could not even handle territory already had. Joshua 17:16, "Canaanites...dwell in the land." When enemy is captured in the land, increases come as result of victories - Self-seekers often become resentful when don't get their way.

IV. ~~FULL OF EXCUSES: Justifications for their failures and inabilities -~~ In 17:15 Joshua told them since they were great people, go to wood country and cut down trees and they would have more land, but they showed the shrewdness of their kind when said in 17:16, "The hill is not enough for us." - False pride speaks.

V. DECEIVED ABOUT CHANGES: If had more land, things would be better -- Another job, house, city, etc. - My call to ministry in Oakdale, where walked same streets, passed same bars, clubs and old friends.
- A change inward changes the outward.

VI. UNABLE TO RISE TO THE OPPORTUNITIES: 17:17-18.
Joshua did not deny their ambitions but offered them an opportunity they rejected as beneath them.

1. "Cut down the woods" - Destroy all in your way, and it is always in your land.

2. Drive out the iron chariots" - real tough hindrances in your life.

- Accept the present problems as opportunities, areas of conquest, places for growth.

- Don't look for green grass over the hill until you cut your home grass.

VII. NONE HAVE TO REMAIN SELF-SEEKERS BUT CAN BE A JOSHUA AND CALEB WHO POSSESSED THE LAND: Cream rises to the top - Your <u>gift</u> will make a way for you, not your <u>talk</u>.

CC113 - PITFALLS THAT DEFEAT

- There are great and glorious promises to encourage and lift us up, yet faithful warnings that need to be obeyed, lest we disobey and birth failure.
- John 15:1-11 promises are great, yet 15:6, "If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire."

I. UNDUE DEPENDENCE UPON OTHERS: Joshua 24:31, "Israel served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and...the elders that survived Joshua, and which had known all the works of the Lord," but Judges 2:10: "There arose another generation after them, which knew not the Lord."

1. Some revealing truths:
   A. As long as Joshua heard from God and led them they won, but when land was divided we see individual weakness began to surface.
   B. When thrown upon their own they did not have the elements of stability which were sufficient to preserve them from unholy influence, so gradually fell away.
   C. The fruits that appeared to be real did not come from personal conviction but manifestation of strong spirited: Josiah in days of father. I know some.
2. The revealing test:
   A. Favorable influence is withdrawn and situations.
   B. When met by opposition, misunderstandings, critical associations discover if purpose is rooted in God and a real genuine personal abiding in Christ as source of strength to serve.
3. The revealing example: Joshua and Caleb.
   A. Came 40 years before, when their purpose was not affected by the ten spies and failure of the multitude to follow. Why did others fall??
   B. Joshua at height of blessings said, "Choose ye this day whom ye will serve...we will serve the Lord."
   C. One must be so persuaded that one cannot stop regardless if all others fail, even die.

II. DEVELOPMENT OF EVIL IN THE DEDICATED:
Many major enemies were defeated but in many little places the enemy lingered and gradually became tolerated or adjusted to.

1. Danger did not seem great. Trouble and cost of extermination seem too high - God's requirements a little strong, so inject personal interpretation.
2. Judges 1:28: became a source of profit to collect tribute and pride to have servants - plus, profits could be divided with God, so end justified means.
3. Did not refrain from personal relationships that soon developed into intermarriage, and thereby produced a mongrel race.
4. Tolerated their ways, then false gods, for sake of harmony and to enhance relations.
5. Courage to deal with evil was destroyed, ending in their destruction.
   - Saul is a perfect example, in failure to slay King Agag and good animals.

CC111 - WAITING PERIOD Joshua 14:6-15

- Joshua 14:14, "Hebron therefore became the inheritance of Caleb." After 45 years of faithful waiting.
- Various facts enabling Caleb to wait until he received the inheritance promised by God.

I. STOOD HOLDING TO GOD'S PROMISE: Joshua 14:6, "Thou knowest the thing that the Lord said unto Moses the man of God concerning me and thee in Kadesh-Barnea." - God read his heart's desire while he was spying the land and gave it to him when he remained faithful, proved himself. II Corinthians 1:20.
   - I Kings 8:56, "There hath not failed one word of all his good promise."
   - Num. 23:19, "God is not a man, that he should lie...hath he said, and shall he not do it, or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?"
   - Psalm 89:34, "My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips." Psalm 119:89, "For ever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven." Isaiah 40:8; I Peter 1:25.

II. REMAINED TOTALLY SURRENDERED: Joshua 14:8, "My brethren that went up with me made the heart of the people melt: but I wholly followed the Lord my God." Numbers 14:24, "Because he had another spirit with him, and hath followed me fully, him will I bring into the land...and his seed shall possess it." - Only this kind can stand the waiting - Sin causes to give up or go back to die.
   - Never found involved in grumblers' movement against Moses, jealous spirit of Miriam, nor allured by Moabite girls (worldly attractions), or disobedient.

III. CONTINUALLY DREW STRENGTH FROM RIGHT SOURCE: 14:10, "Behold, the Lord hath kept me alive, as he said...while Israel wandered in the wilderness: and now...I am...85 years old."
   - 14:11, "I am as strong this day as I was in the day that Moses sent me: as my strength was then, even so is my strength now, for war, both to go out, and to come in."
     - Dedication is source of undecaying strength: How?
       Neh. 8:10, "The joy of the Lord is my strength."
       John 15:5, "He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit." Just as sap flows to the branch to produce fruit, so will God's power for strength.
     - Separation eliminates fruit and strength.

IV. CONTINUALLY FILLED WITH BOLD CONFESSION: Joshua 14:12, "Give me this mountain...if so be the Lord will be with me, then I shall be able to drive them out."
   - This kind of boldness is birthed by walking and fellowshipping continually -- If is not in you, the pressure of difficulties will birth its own confession - Reveals the truth.

V. DROVE OUT AND KEPT OUT ENEMY THAT WOULD HINDER AND DEFEAT: Joshua 14:15, "Arba was a great man among the Anakims." They were in the land, and symbolize anything that brings failure.
   - Flaws drain vitality and stop full obedience, creating a willingness to settle for less, a portion of your inheritance - Revelation time.
   - May be classified as small but if they defeat you, then they are mighty and you are small.

CC113 - Pitfalls that Defeat (Continued)

III. SELF CONFIDENCE: A spirit of self-sufficiency. The inability to understand our own weaknesses.
   - Joshua 9:14-15, "Asked not counsel at the mouth of the Lord...and made a league with them, to let them live."
   - Proof of self confidence is actions taken without first consulting God.
   - Peter is good example, when told Jesus he would die for Him.

IV. JUMPING TO FALSE CONCLUSIONS: Joshua 22:1-30.
   - Judgmental spirit with inclusive facts.
   - Often put larger obstacles in the way than had before - basis is often a spirit of distrust or fear.

V. FORGETFULNESS OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS:
   - Joshua 21:45, "There failed not ought of any good thing which the Lord had spoken."
   - Numbers 23:19, "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?"
   - Isaiah 55:11, "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."
   - I Peter 1:24-25, "The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away. But the word of the Lord endureth forever."

CC114 - POWER SHORTAGE Joshua 24:24

Various truths that will enable one to be victorious.

I. WHY THE POWER SHORTAGE:

1. Ignorance: 23:6, "Be ye therefore very courageous to keep and to do all that is written in the book of the law of Moses" - Joshua 1:8 - Not knowing what desires.
   A. No plateau where fall is impossible.
   B. Failure to evaluate present position with past vision.

2. Pride: 7:3, "Let not all the people go up; but let about two or three thousand...and smite Ai." 7:5, "Ai smote...them."

3. Compromise: 9:15, "Made a league with the Gibeonites."

4. Permissiveness: 17:13, "Put the Canaanites to tribute, but did not utterly drive them out."

5. Unbelief: 18:3, "How long are ye slack to go to possess the land, which the Lord God...hath given you?"

6. Other gods: 24:14, "Put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt."

II. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN SHORT OF POWER:

1. Conquest power is gone: 23:13, "The Lord your God will no more drive out any of these nations before you; but they shall be snares and traps unto you, and scourges in your sides, and thorns in your eyes."

2. Defeat is certain: 10:42, "All these kings...did Joshua take at one time, because the Lord God of Israel fought for Israel."
   - 23:13, "Until ye perish from off this good land which the Lord your God hath given you."

III. SIGNS OF POWER SHORTAGE TODAY:
- A check list of present evidences:

1. Conversion without conviction.
2. Pardon without power.
3. Justification without sanctification.
4. Service without success.
5. Trying without triumph.
6. Dedication without discipline.
7. Forgiveness without holiness.
8. Union without communion.
9. Eternal life without abundant life.

IV. HOW TO OVERCOME POWER SHORTAGE:
- Safeguards against.

1. Obedience: 23:6, "To keep and to do all that is written in the book of the law." 24:24; Joshua 1:8.
   - 24:4, "But Jacob and his children went down into Egypt."

2. Separation: 23:7-8, "Come not among these nations...neither make mention of the name of their gods...but cleave unto the Lord your God."
   - Carelessness of walk.

3. Dedication: 23:11, "Take good heed therefore unto yourselves, that ye love the Lord your God."

V. GOD'S POWER IS SUFFICIENT: Joshua and Caleb proved it and so have many others; so can you and I.
- II Corinthians 12:9, "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness."

4. Ease and pleasure: The manifestation of the #1,2,3. When Christ is no longer central, one will replace or substitute something else.
   - Real danger in America, as Greeks and Romans.
   - Saints, beware of power of pleasure.

5. Lack of courage: Because of so much criticism, mockery, ridicule, and fleshly desire to conform to be accepted, many have become cowards. Therefore, the conflicts and denials required become unattractive, and easier to retreat.

6. Lack of persistence: Great hopes and high desires but loose perseverence - Stickability God demands - It is an evidence of root problems never faced. Many with great potential fizzle here - It must become a way of life, as breathing.

7. Influence of others: A weak cup of coffee always makes a stronger weak if permitted.
   - Seemingly truth of weaker one's arguments.
   - Seemingly pleasure and prosperity they have.
   - Justify their condition by attempts to dilute you - Hide their true identity - Often shrewd and cunning in approaches.

8. Unbelief: Like Israel at Kadesh-Barnea, who admitted the land is good but enemies (problems) so great never be able, but Caleb said, "we shall."

9. Lack of power: Slackness in life now will show up in times of trouble - Pressure gets - causes to retreat, and few come back.

10. Premature spiritual old age: Joshua 13:1, The Lord said to Joshua, "Thou art old and stricken in years, and there remaineth yet much land to be possessed."
    - Lose the spring of life from God, and life loses its glow and becomes hard - when His presence is withdrawn, heaviness comes and enables temptations to defeat. Time not used rightly is time abused - cannot save one moment to use later - All time is used rightly or wrongly.

III. THREE STEPS TO VICTORY:

1. Absolute surrender: A submission that never changes mind or backs up - one way.

2. Total consecration: Everything in every department of life - No holding back.

3. Forever faithfulness: Until appropriation.
   - Philippians 1:6, "Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ."

CC109 - Kill the Kings (Continued)

1. Joshua 14:15, "Arba was a great man among the Anakims."
   - Perpetuated until find 31 kings.
   - Arba means "strength of Baal" (god of nature).
   - Represents the strength of natural man in all the power of self will and self sufficiency.
2. Joshua 15:14, "Caleb drove out the three sons of Anak, Sheshai, and Ahiman, and Talmai."
   A. Anak signifies "long necked," which suggests pride.
   B. Sheshai means "free," embraces idea of selfish delights - do as pleases - pleasure seeker.
   C. Talmai means "bold." Contains thought of the independence of self life. Balks at any possible control - anti submissive.
   D. Ahiman means "brother of men," an expression for humanitarianism which ignores God, makes itself a god - what it wants and its desires.
3. Other possible kings: Self: seeking, confidence, indulgence, complacency, importance, vindication - sensitiveness, affections, desires, possessions, even prayers.

CC110 - STOPPING TOO SOON Joshua 13:1; 18:3

After many great victories we now find a period of long delay.
Seven tribes would not move forward and occupy what was theirs.

This is a picture of many Christians who have won great victories in the past, but now are just hanging around -- will not go on into more of their inheritance.

God has an inheritance, a territory, a plan for each individual, which he alone must realize and pay the price to possess.

- Joshua 13:1, "There remaineth yet very much land to be possessed."
- Joshua 18:3, "How long are ye slack to go to possess the land, which the Lord God of your fathers hath given you?"

I. CAUSES OF FAILURE: Stopping too soon.
   1. Laziness: Most will not face and admit the unwillingness to put forth much effort - want quick and easy - true spiritually and naturally.
      - Proverbs 10:4, "The hand of the diligent maketh rich."
      - Proverbs 13:4, "The soul of the diligent shall be made fat."
      - Joshua 1:8, "Make thy way prosperous and...have good success."
   2. Indifference: Desire to go on or higher drained by Satan through various sins - remember what once had or what should do, but power to do is gone.
   3. Complacency: Because fire is gone, become falsely satisfied where you are - A false sense of attainment - this level requires little or nothing to smooth conscience - cancerous.

CC115 - TRAVELING WISDOM I

I. CANAAN: Illustrates passing of Christian from one level of living to another - The end of a life lived on principle of self-effort to one of faith and obedience - End of self-life.

II. JORDAN: Stands between purpose and realization.

III. TWO AND ONE HALF TRIBES: Every person chooses his own level to live - Entered in, but strongest heart strings were on wilderness side - Joshua had led the Jericho march but even this taste did not change.
   - I Chronicles 5 shows first to fall and never returned.

IV. A LIFE CHANGE MUST TAKE PLACE, NOT JUST A SIMPLE SUBSTITUTING ONE INTEREST FOR ANOTHER.

V. A LEGAL COMMAND OR LAW HAS NO LIFE CHANGING EFFECT: It cannot be a motive as it cannot give life or power to sustain - Not sufficient to insure right conduct.

VI. LABOR WITH SUCCESS MAY BE THE HEIGHTS OF FAITH OR THE DEPTHS OF STUBBORN SELF-WILL: Failure should lead us to question which.

VII. SEEKING A WIDER SPHERE OF SERVICE, WHILE NOT VICTORIOUS IN PRESENT SPHERE.

VIII. POTENTIAL VERSUS POSSESSION:
   - Consider what God has intended, and what you have made yours.

IX. IS IT THE EVILNESS OF THE WORLD OR THE INDIFFERENCE OF YOUR CHRISTIAN LIFE THAT HINDERS YOUR MATURITY?

X. DELAY IS BRIDGEHEAD TIME AND PERIOD IN WHICH TO RECEIVE BATTLE INSTRUCTIONS:
   - Time of death to fleshly rush and hurry.

XI. IT IS NOT HOW A MAN BEGINS HIS CHRISTIAN LIFE BUT HOW HE FINISHES THAT COUNTS.

XII. THE LEVEL IN WHICH GOD MEETS MAN DEPENDS ON THE LEVEL ON WHICH THE CHRISTIAN PREPARES TO MEET THE LORD.
   - Little desire births little preparation, and little revelation, and little growth and maturity.

XIII. THE SEEMINGLY IMPOSSIBLE STANDS BETWEEN YOU AND THE BLESSING.
   - Faith bridges the gap - Traveling the way of the seemingly impossible is a fact, not theory.

XIV. BEWARE OF MOMENTARY STIMULUS FROM CIRCUMSTANCES AND PEOPLE.

CC116 - TRAVELING WISDOM II

Some more "rules for the road" for conquest.

I. ANYTHING THAT COMES BETWEEN US AND ANOTHER ALSO COMES BETWEEN US AND GOD.

II. WRONG REACTIONS CAUSED BY PEOPLE OR THINGS IS A SIGN THE SELF-LIFE IS CONTROLLING, NOT THE HOLY SPIRIT.

III. SIN'S FIRST ACT IS AN ATTEMPT TO COVER UP, EXCUSE OR BLAME SOMEONE OR SOMETHING.

IV. A PROPER RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD IS NEVER LOST OVER ANOTHER'S WRONGS OR SINS, BUT ONLY OUR OWN.

V. ANYONE BOLD ENOUGH TO ASSERT HIS INDEPENDENCE WITH THE WORD OF GOD WILL DO ANYTHING OR COMMIT ANY KIND OF SIN.

VI. REFUSING TO GIVE UP THE DESIRES OF THE SELF-LIFE MAKES ONE MISERABLE AND CAUSES LOSS OF JOY AND PEACE, NOT GIVING UP OR DYING TO.

VII. THE WORD "TRYING" CONNECTED TO THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS THE INDICATOR IT IS "SELF" WHO IS TRYING TO LIVE RIGHT.

VIII. SIN CHANGES YOUR FELLOWSHIP, NOT YOUR RELATIONSHIP, AND A LOVING FATHER IS WAITING FOR YOUR REPENTANCE TO RE-ESTABLISH THE FELLOWSHIP - THE DELAY HURTS YOU -- HINDERS.

IX. THERE IS A GREAT TENDENCY FOR CHRISTIANS TO TURN FROM GRACE TO LAW. THE SELF-LIFE IS STRONGEST WHEN GIVEN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS ITSELF IN WHAT IS GOOD, JUST AND RIGHT.

X. BELIEF ALWAYS INCLUDES DOING - SEPARATE, THEY ARE NON-PRODUCTIVE AND DEAD.

XI. THREE CONDITIONS IMPOSED ON JOSHUA ARE ALSO IMPOSED UPON US WHO WOULD CONQUER THE CRISIS WE FACE - OBTAIN VICTORY:

1. Knowledge of the will of God is revealed in His Word.
   - Joshua 1:8, "Meditate therein day and night."

2. Obedience is required.
   - Joshua 1:8, "That thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein."

3. Courageous at all times.
   - Joshua 1:5-7, "Be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest...do."

4. Outcome: Joshua 1:8, "For then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success."

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CRISES IN CONQUEST II SERIES

CC109 - KILL THE KINGS Joshua 10:24-27; 12:1-24

Two passages from which we will draw various truths to enable us in conquest in crises faced today.

I. FOUNDATION KNOWLEDGE:
1. These passages describe and symbolize great conflicts in the promised land, after deliverance from Egypt, after saved and filled with the Holy Spirit.
2. It is not a conflict with grosser forms of sin, because left them behind when left Egypt.
3. The kings (ways of self and flesh) in Christian lives do not want to give up their controlling power and rights.
4. Victory comes from remaining in close fellowship with God:
   10:6, "Sent unto Joshua to the camp to Gilgal."
   God must be home base.
5. Victory requires the right foundation:
   10:8, "The Lord said unto Joshua, Fear them not: for I have delivered them into thine hand."
   - God spoke in the completed tense as only He can do; then, and has for us now.
6. Proper relationship births a boldness God honors:
   10:12-14, "Then spake Joshua to the Lord...and he said in the sight of Israel, Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon; and thou, Moon, in the valley of Ajalon."
   - This boldness birthed and based by God's Word is necessary to kill the kings.

II. THE FIVE KINGS IN JOSHUA 10:24-27:
1. Their location: 10:16, "Five kings...hid themselves in a cave."
   - Picture of sins hiding in the personality and self-life to escape discovery.
2. Their disclosure: 10:22, "Open the mouth of the cave and bring out those five kings unto me."
   - Uncover - expose hiding ways unto Jesus, the Light.
3. Their destruction: 10:24-27.
   A. Recognition of true position: 10:24, "Called for all the men of Israel, and said unto the captains...Put your feet upon the necks of these kings." Jesus for us.
   B. Recognition of the power that insures conquest:
      10:25, "Thus shall the Lord do to all your enemies against whom ye fight." Note the condition: fight, not hide nor ignore.
   C. Recognition of extent of dealings: 10:26-27, "Slew them, and hanged them on...trees until the evening...cast them into the cave...and laid great stones."
      - Demonstrated to all others (sin in own life), then gone from sight completely - No more power to show themselves.

III. THE THIRTY-ONE KINGS IN JOSHUA 12:1-24:
12:7, "These are the kings...which Joshua and the children of Israel smote."
The meanings of five of their names give us some ideas to follow.

CC104 - DEATH VALLEY

- Joshua 1:11, "Shall pass over this Jordan."

I. WHAT WAS JORDAN THEN? It was a fordless, flooding, bridgeless river called "the descender," meaning "overwhelming rough."
   - Its mighty roaring waters say, "no-no-no."
   - "You cannot cross - overcome me to get what God promised."
   - Cries, "reconsider - re-evaluate - Be reasonable and sensible.
   - Face up to facts."

II. WHAT ARE TODAY'S IMPLICATIONS OF JORDAN?

1. The Red Sea signifies God's judgment upon sin and separation from life of bondage to Egypt, as the Jordan River is God's judgment upon self and the futility of human effort to produce spiritual benefits within itself - death sentence.
2. It is all the seeming impossibilities of life Christians face:
   - Mountains and rivers.
3. Jordan is always between us and Canaan (God's blessings) so can clearly perceive that by no strength or energy of own selves can we overcome.
4. The standing and observing place where the confidence and impetuosity of self-life dies; place where self-life is powerless.
5. Place where the natural mind blows up, as cannot perceive or comprehend any way within own self.
6. Can be: Power of a habit - Opposition of relative - Rejection by someone - Fear of persecution - Strength of a passion - Picture circumstance presents.

III. WHAT HAPPENS AT JORDAN?

1. Place of failure for most: The lust of the flesh wants what it wants now.
   - Manifests itself in impatience, then a slacking off and a gradual drying up.
   - Cost must pay to learn, grow, to get it God's way is too much, so revert back to man.
   - Revealed often in: unloving - harsh judging.
     - Feelings easily hurt - Stand for rights - Vindicative.
     - Jealousy - Easily provoked, etc.
2. Place of conquest for some: Recognize they cannot, believe God can, so make dedication and act upon until waters of impossibilities roll back - Possess their inheritance.

IV. WHAT ENABLES ONE TO CROSS THE JORDAN?

1. God must be first in all: Joshua 3:13-15 (7 times)
   - Everything centered around the ark of the covenant, a symbol of the presence of God.
2. God's power must be present: Joshua 3:16, "Waters...stood and rose up upon an heap very far from the city." - Sell out and continual faithfulness always brings.
3. God must be obeyed regardless of man or his logic and reason - Joshua 3:17 - James 2:17,26.

- MIRACLES TAKE PLACE ONLY WHERE GOD'S POWER IS PRESENT.
- HE IS THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN DO THE WORK IN US THAT NEEDS TO BE DONE.
- SHOUT IN FAITH AT DEATH VALLEY - GOOD IS ON THE WAY!

CC105 - DELAYS: GOOD AND BAD Joshua 4:19

"And encamped in Gilgal, in the east border of Jericho." Delays after great victories are not irregular in God's operation plan. Delays are profitable when properly recognized, while haste is destructive.
- We will major on the good <u>but</u> remember bad can come forth, such as discouragement, impatience, disappointment, resentment, and even rebellion, ending in rejection.

I. PLACE TO REMEMBER: 4:6, "a sign among you, that when your children ask... in time to come."
   1. God's works are worth treasuring.
   2. Due to proneness to forget.
   3. Remind how different are God's thoughts and ways.
   4. Encouragement in future.
   5. Unity involved - 12 tribes.

II. PLACE OF REMINDER OF COVENANT POSITION WITH GOD AND ESTABLISH <u>INABILITY OF FLESH</u>: 5:8, "When they had done circumcising all the people."
   - Suspended 40 years due to unbelief and disobedience.
   - Symbolized land not to be won by strength of flesh - self energy must be set aside for God to work.
   - Test of trust as handicapped fighting force.
   - Symbolizes mortification of sin - Total victory, not just resisting or overcoming - Jesus' power sufficient.

III. PLACE OF RENEWAL: 5:10, "Kept the passover."
   - Exodus 12:48, "No uncircumcised person shall eat thereof."
   - Forfeited their rights, so God suspended.
   - We, too, can forfeit blessings by not meeting God's conditions.
   - Daily eating heaven's bread is required to do heaven's work.
   - Cannot freely speak and serve Jesus unless enjoying Him in your heart - Essential to living abundantly.

IV. PLACE OF DIFFERENT DEALINGS: Joshua 5:12, "Manna ceased after... eaten...corn of land."
   - Be alert for God's changes in dealing with you.
   - Growth and circumstances bring different methods.
   - Do not preclude how He will lead - get out of trust.
   - God continually reveals new strategy of attacks.

V. PLACE OF REVELATION: 5:12-15, "As captain of the host of the Lord." Ahead lies the semmingly impossible for those who trust God completely.
   - Jericho cannot be left uncaptured as things in one's life, if intend to go on with God.
   - Joshua could not within himself, neither can we. Failure to realize this and seek God sends many to human methods and alliances with strange partners.
   - God's <u>power</u> is the evangelism method, not books, tapes, papers, TV, radio, etc.

CC106 - WALLS THAT MUST FALL Joshua 6:1-21

I. WHY JERICHO MUST BE TAKEN AND ALL DESTROYED.
   1. Divine command, so God's character involved.
   2. Designed to preserve: Deut. 20:18, "Teach you not their abominations...ye sin against the Lord your God."
   3. Direct judgment: Genesis 15:16, "The iniquity...is not yet full." See longsuffering of God.
   4. Enemy strongholds cannot be left behind you and between your base of operations.
   - Certain victories must be won before going on.
   - Those not destroyed can rise again at times they might choose, always to their advantage.

CC106 - WALLS THAT MUST FALL (Continued)

II. WAY JERICHO WALLS WERE TO BE TAKEN:

1. Have proper foundation to depend upon: 6:2, "See, I have given into thine hand Jericho, the king, and the mighty men of valour." God's power.
2. Follow God's directions: 6:3-5.
   A. Control eyes
   B. Control hearing
   C. Control mind and feelings
   D. Control mouth.

III. WALLS THAT MUST FALL TODAY FOR CHRISTIANS:

- Can be any force within or without.

1. Self confidence: relies on own strength and wisdom.
   - A person of strong common sense and self-reliance who is confident in his judgment due to various facts.
   - Often failure is only way to bring to end of self.
2. Self-seeking: Object is personal honors, pleasures or end. I Cor. 13:5, "Love...seeketh not her own." Mt. 6:33, Seek first kingdom of God and His righteousness and all things shall be added.
3. Self-indulgence: Any form of gratification of flesh life. Romans 14:23, "That which is not of faith is sin." Should minister to body wants in order that may be strong to serve and glorify God - Make all of life's doings for His glory - God centered living.
4. Self-depreciation: Majoring on shortcomings and inabilities - live in fear of being puffed up.
5. Self-vindication: A respectable form of selfishness - stands for own rights - quick to detect offense and to express opinion clearly in words, actions or silence - quick to correct and straighten up.
6. Self-glorying: Seeks and feeds on praises of others. If given attention/OK. Ignore/puff up, cover up and justify by pointing to others' problems. - Want in front or main light, not just a part.
   - Often use body and clothes to attract attention.
7. Selfish hopes: Vision is earthbound - dream of coming victories - wrapped up in me and mine.

- Romans 8:13, "If ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live."
- Void power - destroy effectiveness and control.
- Joshua 6:21, "They utterly destroyed all that was in the city." Are you willing to go that far? - Do you judge some things to be good and OK, when God said "all"? -- This is why most don't.

IV. WAY CHRISTIAN WALLS MUST BE TAKEN.

- Same principle: Still by God's power. 6:2, "See, I have given into thy hands Jericho."

1. Have proper foundation: Let us take Joshua 6:2 and put some New Testament words in it: "See, I have: made you an heir of God, more than a conqueror, partaker of His divine nature, to sit in heavenly places."
   - Looking at one's walls from an earthly position and own strength spells failure.
   - Looking from who we are in Christ, our exalted position as sons of God enables us to "mortify" these fleshly ways.
   - My position enables me to order my conduct, but my conduct within itself cannot obtain a position God has given me in Christ.
2. Follow God's directions: Col. 3:5,8-12; Eph. 4:22-32; 5:1-5.
   - "Put off and put on"
   - Colossians 3:17, "Whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus."
   - Forget it is only through Him you are guaranteed victory, and you end up in the efforts of the flesh, your own strength without Jesus as your source.

CC103 - PREPARATION PHASE Joshua 3:5

- Preparation always before practice.
- Preparation today is proof will be ready tomorrow.
- Submission to His will today is only evidence we will be winning tomorrow.
- Woven into God's design for success is the human condition of preparation and obedience.
- Those who can't pay price to prepare cannot pay the price obedience requires to win.

I. DISCOVERY TO BE MADE:

1. Israel: Joshua 1:12-18 - Check-up time of the faithfulness of other's word.
   A. 2½ tribes were ready to fight but equally still determined to return to wilderness side.
   B. Interest was temporary, not permanent.
      - Visit but not stay, as Numbers 32:2,4,19 says had much cattle, plus family could stay safe and protect valuables.
   C. Willing to fight but not abandon other side.
   D. Gave few names to roll of heroes: were the first to fall to Assyria and never returned.
2. Christians today: Each chooses the level of life he is to live (then and now).

II. INVESTIGATION TO BE DONE: Must know enemy.

1. Spies dispatched: 2:1 - Learned from 40 years before, so only sent two and kept a secret from Israelites.
   - Did not send to determine whether, but how and when.
2. Spies protected: 2:3-7 - Rahab's works in hiding them, even though lying unjustifiable.
3. Spies informed: 2:8-11 - Rahab revealed her faith in threefold reasons she helped.
   (1) Conclusion: 2:9, "I know the Lord hath given you the land."
   (2) Defeatism: 2:10, Fearful at report of Red Sea.
   (3) Faith: 2:11, "Your God is God in heaven above and earth beneath."
   - There are jewels in the enemy's camp that desire to be free but don't know how.
4. Spies promised Rahab safety - 3:12-22. Three conditions:
   A. Remain in house during attack.
   B. Hang scarlet cord from window; C. Keep mission secret.
5. Spies' report: 3:23-24 - Plain and clear.

III. SEPARATION REQUIRED: 3:5, "Sanctify yourselves"

1. God requires cleanness, not cleverness.
2. God's wonder working power always depends upon the condition of His people.
3. The level God meets man always depends upon one's preparation to meet God.
4. Living in a manner to be able to honestly expect God's miracle power is necessary for success and for one's life and ministry not to be bare.
5. God desires to bring all into land of plenty, but requires cleanness and purity.

- Jesus gives the answer to shortages of God's power -- "He could do no mighty works in Nazareth because of their unbelief." Mark 6:5-6.

- "In Jesus' name I refuse to always look in vain for manifestations of God's miracle power in signs, wonders, miracles and mighty deeds and large numbers of converts to Jesus." -- Elbert Willis.

CC102 - INGREDIENTS OF CONQUERORS

I. NOT OVERCOME BY WICKEDNESS OF HIS DAY:
- Born and raised in slavery.

II. COURAGE TO STAND FAITHFUL IN SPITE OF OTHERS: Numbers 14:9-10, "Rebel not ye against the Lord...neither fear...Lord is with us... but all the congregation bade stone them." Faithfulness is the minority usually and walks alone often.

III. OVERCAME STING OF REJECTION AND PENALTY:

- Had to wait 47 years because of others' failures.
- National penalty, with present spiritual implications.
- Effects ofothers.

IV. EXPERIENCED GREAT LOSS: Family and friends.

V. POTENTIAL WAS RECOGNIZED BY GOD'S MAN:

Exodus 17:8-13 - Moses chose to lead Israel's troops.
Exodus 24:12-13- Went with Moses to Mt. Sinai.

VI. HUMBLE MAN: Exodus 24:13, "Moses rose up, and his minister Joshua." Joshua 1:1, "Moses' minister."

VII. TOOK ADVANTAGE OF UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY:

- Observed Moses in all kinds of situations.
- Prayer to spare Israel, to striking of rock.

VIII. NOT AMONG MURMURERS: Numbers 14:27-28, "As ye have spoken in mine ears, so will I do to you."

IX. DISTINCT CALL TO HOLD TO: Joshua 1:1, "The Lord spake unto Joshua."
- We/salvation call - Don't let slip - Remember.

X. DEFINITE TASK: Joshua 1:3-5, "Go over this Jordan."
- Mt. 28:19, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations...teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded." Acts. 1:8.

XI. OBEYED GOD'S SUCCESS PRINCIPLE: Joshua 1:8, "This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success."

XII. POLISHING TAKES TIME:
- Not sudden work but gradual result.
- Years of discipline - Faithfulness in the narrow round of daily tasks is part of the preparation for tomorrow's higher task.
- Give dignity to smallest task by the greatness of your response.
- Years of faithfulness behind every success story.

CC107 - RECOVER AFTER THE FALL Joshua 7:1-26

I. CAUSE OF DEFEAT:

1. Self Confidence: 7:3, "They are but few."
   - Ai, population 12,000 so seemed unnecessary.
   - Based on supposition of their victory over Jericho, while actually it was God's victory.
   - Ruins were not a testimony of their strength, nor is any victory we have - the flush of victory is dangerous time, as pride can rise easily.
2. Failed to seek God's Guidance: 7:2, "Sent men from Jericho."
   - Every new advance needs to be taken before God, so back to Gilgal.
   - Went in effort and wisdom of natural minds - Trusting in self dulls sensitiveness - Constant looking to Jesus is only antidote to defeat.
   - Can cost lives of others. 7:5, "smote 36 men."
3. Disobedience: 7:11, "Israel hath sinned - have taken a devoted thing."
   - God had set aside these for the "treasury of the Lord" - 6:19.
   - Became an act against God's Word - God's Word caused the sin of covetousness to manifest itself - the 10% God wants set aside for the treasury of the Lord in Mal. 3:8-12 locates Christians today.
   - Also God names penalty for disobedience in Mal. 3:9, "Ye are cursed with a curse." - In most congregations there are enough of these to grieve the Spirit in most services unless the dedicated are strong enough to override.

II. CURE FOR DEFEAT:

1. Know whom sin is against: 7:20, "I have sinned against the Lord (His Word)" Psalm 51:4, "Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight."
2. Know the cost:
   A. Personal exposure: 7:23, "Unto Joshua, and all the children of Israel."
   B. Loved ones, 7:24 C. Others, 7:25
   Today: 7:13, "O Israel: thou canst not stand before thine enemies, until ye take away the accursed thing from among you."
   - Continual defeats - loss of joy, peace, etc.
3. Locate the cause: 7:21, "I saw - coveted - took."
   - Trace genealogy - find ancestor - too often people want to ignore or forget and go on.
   - Jos. 7:6, "Joshua rent his clothes and fell to the earth on his face
4. Don't attempt to blame God. 7:7-9.
5. Don't make excuses - call it what it is:
   7:11, "Israel hath sinned,...and transgressed."
6. Confession precedes cleansing and restoration.
   7:20, "I have sinned against the Lord." I John 1:9.
7. Removal: 7:25, "Stoned him...and burned them with fire."
   - Sin cannot be tolerated, pampered or babied.
   - Destructive power must be recognized.

III. RECOVERY STEPS:

1. Move quickly, 8:3. I John 1:9.

2. Prepare to fight: 8:24-29. Harder to win as enemy entrenched.

3. Praise and give God glory for victory: 8:30,34-35.

CC108 - DECEITFUL ALLIANCES Joshua 9:3-15

- To be guarded against in every stage of Christian development as always cost is high.

I. DECEIVERS' OPERATION METHODS:

1. Hidden motives require pre-planning:
9:4, "Did work wilily" and "made as if." Shrewd covering - pretenders - disguisers.

2. Make first move: 9:6, "Went to Joshua."
- A designated gain, normally more than expect.

3. Use partial truth: 9:6, "Come from a far country:...make ye a league with us."

4. Good with words and actions: 9:9-13, "Said unto him...heard the fame of the Lord thy God, and all that He did in Egypt." Did not mention Jordan or Jericho - Art of flattery.

5. Causes you to operate naturally: 9;14, "Asked not counsel at the mouth of the Lord." - Previously showed decisions with consulting God is proof of self-confidence - Prov. 3:5-6.

6. Causes bad unions that can affect greatly: 9:15, "Made a league with them." Unequal yoke.

7. Discovery often too late: 9:16, "At the end of 3 days heard were neighbors."

8. Recovery is possible, but effects can be long: 9:27, "made them hewers of wood and drawers of water." Live with.

II. DEVELOPMENT OF COMPROMISE IN BELIEVERS:

1. Danger does not seem great: Being over emphasized - not really that evil.

2. Cost of obedience is high: 9:24, "Destroy all the inhabitants" - Hard to do - Demanding.

3. Source of personal benefit: 9:11, "Say unto them, we are your servants." - They can put in good word - Business harmed if too rigid - Lose friends - Be all by myself - others get raise.

4. Relationship led to inter-marriage: with a heathen or weaker Christian with strong ways can dilute-Satan likes to mix to pervert.

5. Failure to deal with firmly and definitely - Easier to give room and pacify for sake of so called peace and harmony - Easier to yield than stand for truth - relation appears to be better - failure is easier thing to do.

6. Tolerate certain sins because of personal advantage: Husband or wife not angry - husband come home - children happier - boss easier to work with - promotion possibility.

7. Self-life is usually basis.

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CRISES IN CONQUEST I SERIES

CC101 - LAND OF CONQUEST Joshua 1-3

We shall see what should be ours; much that should be never becomes.
Joshua 1 - 3 gives 4 stages in the Book of Joshua. The Land:
1. - Entering; 2. - Fighting for; 3. - Dividing; 4. - Living in.

I. THE INHERITANCE GIVEN: 1:2, "Land which I do give"
Gen. 12:5, "Into the land of Canaan they came."
Gen. 12:7, "The Lord appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land."
1. The inheritance is the sum total of our blessings as given by God.
- Canaan was theirs, Christ ours. - In Canaan was all they needed; in Christ, all we need.
- Theirs had boundaries; ours has none.
2. Understanding inheritance must precede experiential possession.

II. THE POSSESSION POSSESSED: 1:3, "Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you." - There can be a great difference in what one inherits and one possesses.
- Joshua 13:1, "There remaineth...much land to be possessed."
- I Corinthians 3:21, "For all things are yours." By gift, but the possession is that part we make our actual own.
- What is possible to possess should become actual.

III. THE INHERITORS: Israelites then, the Christian now; both God's chosen people with great promises from God. - Birthright potential is in all, but not all possess - Enemy steals.
1. Many die in wilderness of rebellion and murmuring.
2. Many in self-indulgence and compromise - Hebrews 4.

IV. THE RIGHT OF CONQUEST: Joshua 1:11, "Go in to possess the land, which the Lord your God giveth you."
- Genesis 15:18-21 to Abraham - Deuteronomy 7:1-26, 20:1-20 to Moses: special conquest and settlement instructions.
- It was God's will, as it was God's land, world.
- All heathens are rebellious poachers - claiming and taking that which is not family property.
- God is our Father and all His belongs to His.

V. THE CONQUERING POWER:
- Faith and effort (action). Joshua 1:2, "I give."
- Joshua 1:3, "Every place...sole of...foot...tread." - To believe is to do.
- Feet must respond to faith - Faith is not passive or inactive, but an act requiring effort and will operation - Faith actions bring one out of principle into practice - Only by faith that acts can one experimentally possess the inheritance - No perfection without perseverance, victory without struggle.

VI. THE ENEMY AND THEIR DESTRUCTION: Joshua 6:21, "Utterly destroyed all... man and woman...young and old."
1. Why? Deuteronomy 20:17-18, "That they teach you not to do after all their abominations." Genesis 15:16, "Iniquity is not yet full." Deut. 18:10-12, spiritualism. Direct contact with spirits for information puts in direct opposition to God - prevent snare.
2. Who are we to destroy? "All inhabitants of Canaan" represent the sins and demons that live in and operate in Christian life.
- Subduing not sufficient - must be dead to their control and power.

VII. THE DILIGENCE REQUIRED: Seven years to possess what God gave. Hebrews 11:6.
- Few willing to pay the price, as want it instant and easy.
- Possession comes with growth; so does progress.