

Learning From Prosperity:

May 22, 2011

GOD EXPECTS OBEDIENCE
JOSHUA 1:7-18

Volume 1 Number 2

This Week's Core Competency:

Authority of the Bible- I believe the Bible is the Word of God and has the right to command my belief and action.

2 Timothy 3:16-17- All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Using This Study

1 EXPERIENCE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. Ask God to help you focus on the passage and hear from Him as you read His word.

2 EXAMINE His Word

The words God uses to communicate matters. Go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

3 EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface both the Divine and human author's point in the passage.

4 EXPAND His Word

How does this FIT? Studying cross references can expand your understanding of a passage and discover the unity in God's word.

5 EMBRACE His Word

We study God's word to hear from Him. Embracing God's word is when we personally RESPOND to Him in obedience.

Introduction

Flight instruments are the instruments in the cockpit of an aircraft that provide the pilot with information about the flight situation of that aircraft, such as height, speed and altitude. These instruments are of particular use in conditions of poor visibility, such as in clouds, when such information is not available from visual reference outside the aircraft. When in an environment of poor visibility, a pilot *must* rely on the plane's instruments. Human reasoning and senses alone are simply not adequate to fly safely.

A similar thing can be said for God's word, the Bible. When correctly interpreted, the Bible is the Holy Spirit's primary instrument for guiding people to Himself and through life. God condescended to reveal the truth to humanity about Himself, each other, and the world we live in. This record is the Bible. Human reasoning, external senses, and experiences are notoriously unreliable in evaluating God and His will.

This Week

In Joshua 1:7-18, God cautions Joshua to closely follow His instructions when entering the Promised Land. He knew the Israelites were susceptible to imitating the same faulty human reasoning, and superstition that characterized the Canaanite's religion and life. Instead, God wanted His people to trust Him and take full possession of the land He had given them. He knew the key to experiencing all that God had promised Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob was obedience to His word.

Some aspect of human factors now accounts for over 80 percent of all air craft accidents. Pilots who depend on their instruments commit fewer errors in flight. Likewise, most of the errors we make in life are the result of us choosing to not trust God through His word. Discover this week how God wants His people to take possession of all He has given them.

① EXPERIENCE His Word

Read the passage and experience God's word personally.

Joshua 1:7-18

7 Above all, be strong and very courageous to carefully observe the whole instruction My servant Moses commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right or the left, so that you will have success wherever you go.

8 This book of instruction must not depart from your mouth; you are to recite it day and night so that you may carefully observe everything written in it. For then you will prosper and succeed in whatever you do.

9 Haven't I commanded you: be strong and courageous? Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

10 Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people:

11 "Go through the camp and tell the people, 'Get provisions ready for yourselves, for within three days you will be crossing the Jordan to go in and take possession of the land the LORD your God is giving you to inherit.' "

12 Joshua said to the Reubenites, the Gadites, and half the tribe of Manasseh:

13 "Remember what Moses the LORD's servant commanded you when he said, 'The LORD your God will give you rest, and He will give you this land.'

14 Your wives, young children, and livestock may remain in the land Moses gave you on this side of the Jordan. But your fighting men must cross over in battle formation ahead of your brothers and help them

15 until the LORD gives your brothers rest, as He has given you, and they too possess the land the LORD your God is giving them. You may then return to the land of your inheritance and take possession of what Moses the LORD's servant gave you on the east side of the Jordan."

16 They answered Joshua, "Everything you have commanded us we will do, and everywhere you send us we will go.

17 We will obey you, just as we obeyed Moses in everything. And may the LORD your God be with you, as He was with Moses.

18 Anyone who rebels against your order and does not obey your words in all that you command him will be put to death. Above all, be strong and courageous!"

What are you first impressions?

② EXAMINE His Word

- ☒ Place a star next to each phrase "above all."
- ☒ Underline each occurrence of "carefully observe"
- ☒ Bracket each occurrence of the phrase "the LORD your God."
- ☒ Put a parenthesis around each occurrence of "gave, gives, given, is giving" and "will give."
- ☒ Count the number of instances the phrase "strong and courageous" occurs.
- ☒ Circle each occurrence of "command(s), or instruction(s)" and any words related to them.
- ☒ Enumerate (put a number next to) all commands you find in the passage.

③ EXPLORE His Word

1. In verses 7-9, God is equipping Joshua. List the specific instructions that God gave to Joshua.
2. From these verses, what reason(s) does God give to Joshua for all of these instructions?
3. In Joshua 3:15 we learn that the Jordan River was at flood stage. What thoughts or concerns do you think the Israelites might have had as they got the orders to get ready in verses 10-11?
4. How does the directive given to the tribes of Gad and Reuben in verses 12-14 illustrate the command found in Gal 6:2 or 1 John 3:16?

④ EXPAND His Word

5. Read Hebrews 3:12-4:11. What rest has God promised us?
6. Why are meditating on and obeying God's Word crucial to succeeding in possessing our inheritance? (See Joshua 1:7-8; Matthew 7:24-27; Hebrews 4:8-13.)
7. What do the following passages tell you about the inheritance God has promised Christians?
 - a. Matthew 5:3, 5
 - b. Matthew 19:29-30
 - c. Romans 8:15-17
 - d. Phil. 3:20-21
 - e. 1 Peter 1:4; 2:9-10
 - f. Rev. 21:1-7

⑥ EMBRACE His Word

The Bible reveals God's word and the Holy Spirit uses it to instruct, correct, encourage, and mature people into fully-devoted followers of Christ. Responding to Him means living in light of His Word (obedience).

8. As new covenant believers, we are not under the law, but under grace. What benefit, therefore, is there in obeying God's word?

9. Describe the last time you were afraid to obey God's word/will?
 - a. What did you choose?

 - b. What was the result?

Journal your thoughts on the passage:

Write about what God wants you to KNOW...

Write about how God wants you to FEEL...

Write about what God wants you to DO...

Sermon Notes:

30 CORE Competencies

10 Core Beliefs

Trinity *2 Corinthians 13:14*

I believe the God of the Bible is the only true God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Salvation By Grace *Ephesians 2:8-9* I believe a person comes into a right relationship with God by His grace, through faith in Jesus Christ.

Authority of the Bible *2 Timothy 3:16-17*

I believe the Bible is the Word of God and has the right to command my belief and action.

Personal God *Psalms 121:1-2*

I believe God is involved in and cares about my daily life.

Identity in Christ *John 1:12*

I believe I am significant because of my position as a child of God.

Church *Ephesians 4:15-16*

I believe the church is God's primary way to accomplish His purposes on earth today.

Humanity *John 3:16*

I believe all people are loved by God and need Jesus Christ as their Savior.

Compassion *Psalms 82:3-4*

I believe God calls all Christians to show compassion to those in need.

Eternity *John 14:1-4*

I believe there is a heaven and a hell and that Jesus Christ is returning to judge the earth and to establish His eternal kingdom.

Stewardship *1 Timothy 6:17-19*

I believe that everything I am or own belongs to God.

10 Core Practices

Worship *Psalms 95:1-7*

I worship God for who He is and what He has done for me.

Prayer *Psalms 66:16-20*

I pray to God to know Him, to lay my request before Him and to find direction for my daily life.

Bible Study *Hebrews 4:12*

I read the Bible to know God, the truth, and to find direction for my daily life.

Single-mindedness *Matthew 6:33* I focus on God and His priorities for my life.

Spiritual Gifts *Romans 12:4-6*

I know and use my spiritual gifts to accomplish God's purposes.

Biblical Community *Acts 2:44-47*

I fellowship with other Christians to accomplish God's purposes in my life, others' lives, and in the world.

Giving Away My Time *Colossians 3:17*

I give away my time to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away My Money

2 Corinthians 8:7

I give away my money to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away My Faith *Ephesians 6:19-20*

I give away my faith to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away My Life *Romans 12:1*

I give away my life to fulfill God's purposes.

10 Core Virtues

Joy *John 15:11*

I have inner contentment and purpose in spite of my circumstances.

Peace *Philippians 4:6-7*

I am free from anxiety because things are right between God, myself, and others.

Faithfulness *Proverbs 3:3-4*

I have established a good name with God and with others based on my long-term loyalty to those relationships.

Self-Control *Titus 2:11-13*

I have the power, through Christ, to control myself.

Humility *Philippians 2:3, 4*

I choose to esteem others above myself.

Love *1 John 4:10-12*

I sacrificially and unconditionally love and forgive others.

Patience *Proverbs 14:29*

I take a long time to overheat and endure patiently under the unavoidable pressures of life.

Kindness/Goodness *1 Thess. 5:15*

I choose to do the right things in my relationships with others.

Gentleness *Philippians 4:5*

I am thoughtful, considerate and calm in dealing with others.

Hope *Hebrews 6:19-20*

I can cope with the hardships of life and with death because of the hope I have in Jesus Christ.