

Learning From Prosperity:

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GOD SPARES ALL WHO TRUST IN HIM JOSHUA 2:8-14, 17-21

This Week's Core Competency:

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

"For God loved the world in this way: He gave His One and Only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

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

Why does God respond to faith? Houston pastor John Bisango describes a time when his daughter Melodye Jan, age five, came to him and asked for a doll house. John promptly nodded and promised to build her one, and then he went back to reading his book. Soon he glanced out the study window and saw her arms filled with dishes, toys, and dolls, making trip after trip until she had a great pile of playthings in the yard. He asked his wife what Melodye Jan was doing. "Oh, you promised to build her a doll house, and she believes you. She's just getting ready for it."

"You would have thought I'd been hit by an atom bomb," John later said.

"I threw aside that book, raced to the lumber yard for supplies, and quickly built that little girl a doll house. Now why did I respond? Because I wanted to? No. Because she deserved it? No. Her daddy had given his word, and she believed it and acted upon it. When I saw her faith, nothing could keep me from carrying out my word."

--John Bisango, *The Power of Positive Praying*
(Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1965), 24.

Just like this father responds immediately to the confidence his daughter has in his promise about the doll house, our Heavenly Father responds immediately to the confidence a woman in the OT has in God's promises.

This Week

Rahab is the focus of our study this week –especially her faith. She received word that the land she inhabited actually belonged to this powerful God named Yahweh and that He intended it for His people alone. She knew appealing to the impotent gods of her culture for help was futile. Instead she appealed to the only One who could save her.

Unknown to her was that God had already seen her faith in Him—and that He was quickly responding. He will spare all who trust in Him.

1 EXPERIENCE His Word

Read the passage and experience God's word personally.

JOSHUA 2:8-14

8 Before the men fell asleep, she went up on the roof

9 and said to them, "I know that the LORD has given you this land and that the terror of you has fallen on us, and everyone who lives in the land is panicking because of you.

10 For we have heard how the LORD dried up the waters of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to Sihon and Og, the two Amorite kings you completely destroyed across the Jordan.

11 When we heard this, we lost heart, and everyone's courage failed because of you, for the LORD your God is God in heaven above and on earth below.

12 Now please swear to me by the LORD that you will also show kindness to my family, because I showed kindness to you. Give me a sure sign

13 that you will spare the lives of my father, mother, brothers, sisters, and all who belong to them, and save us from death."

14 The men answered her, "We will give our lives

for yours. If you don't report our mission, we will show kindness and faithfulness to you when the LORD gives us the land."

Joshua 2:17-21

17 The men said to her, "We will be free from this oath you made us swear,

18 unless, when we enter the land, you tie this scarlet cord to the window through which you let us down. Bring your father, mother, brothers, and all your father's family into your house.

19 If anyone goes out the doors of your house, his blood will be on his own head, and we will be innocent. But if anyone with you in the house should be harmed, his blood will be on our heads.

20 And if you report our mission, we are free from the oath you made us swear."

21 "Let it be as you say," she replied, and she sent them away. After they had gone, she tied the scarlet cord to the window.

What are your first impressions?

2 EXAMINE His Word

- ✎ Bracket each phrase that contains "the LORD..."
- ✎ Circle Rahab's phrase "I know".
- ✎ Double underline the phrases "has given you this land" and "your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below."
- ✎ Draw an arrow from the phrase you circled to each of the phrases you double underlined.
- ✎ Place a star next to each word or phrase that indicates fear by the Canaanites.
- ✎ Put the entire verse 10 in parenthesis.
- ✎ Draw an arrow from each star to verse 10.
- ✎ Place a cross (†) next to the phrases "a sure sign" and "a scarlet cord."
- ✎ Connect the crosses to each other with a line.

③ EXPLORE His Word

1. From verses 9 and 11, what specifically did Rahab believe about the Israelites God?
2. What two events convinced Rahab of Yahweh's (the LORD's) preeminence (v. 10)?
3. What did Rahab do to help the Israeli spies? What risks, do you suppose, might have been involved?

④ EXPAND His Word

4. Read the following passages and describe some of the behaviors that may demonstrate one's devotion is to God.
 - a. Matt 25:34-40
 - b. Matt 10:40-42
 - c. Luke 19:2, 5, 8-10
 - d. 1 John 3:2-3
 - e. 1 Pet 1:22
5. Becoming a child of God (salvation) requires faith in God's testimony about Christ; but *living* as a child of God also requires faith. What do the following verses say is needed to respond to God in faith?
 - a. Mark 9:24
 - b. Heb 11:6
 - c. 1 Pet 5:6-10
 - d. Prov 3:5-8
 - e. Rom 10:14-17
 - f. Eph 6:14-18

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).

6. Generally, the way we behave flows from what we deeply believe. List a *specific* action/behavior in each of the following areas that is an expression of your devotion to God:

a. Money-

c. People that you dislike-

b. Family-

d. People that dislike you-

7. What do you need personally to respond to God in faith?

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.