

# Cultivating a Heroic Faith

Part 9

## Joshua and Rahab

# TALKINGPOINTS WALKINGPOINTS

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**Talk** together about the glory of God's kingdom. –Psalm 145:11  
Love the Lord your God and **walk** in all his ways. –Joshua 22:5

## Questions for Reflection or Discussion

**Note:** For each of the following questions, refer to the **Sermon Summary** inside.

### Observation—*What do I see?*

- Joshua had a long history of faithful action, but what one event is highlighted in Hebrews 11:30 as evidence of his faith?
- What did God promise Joshua before the battle of Jericho, and what specific instructions did he give him for waging war (Joshua 6:2-5)?
- Rahab had a brief history of faithful action, so what event of her faith is recounted in Hebrews 11:31?
- What confession of faith did Rahab make in Joshua 2:8–11?

### Interpretation—*What does it mean?*

- Why must biblical faith be based on God's promises, and how does Joshua illustrate this truth?
- What does Joshua's encounter with the commander of the Lord's army (Joshua 5:13–15) teach about submission?
- What does Rahab's confession reveal about how faith arises, and what is the theological significance of her place in Jesus' genealogy?

### Application—*What do I do with this?*

- Where on this continuum does your amount of biblical knowledge lie?



If you have little biblical knowledge, how should Rahab's story **encourage** you?

If you have extensive biblical knowledge, how should Rahab's story **challenge** you?

- What is a biblical command you're having difficulty obeying at this time?  
How does Joshua's story challenge you? Be specific.
- What practical step should you take in response to Pastor Doug's teaching on biblical faith?

# Sermon Summary

The conclusion of the study of the heroes of faith highlights two individuals associated with the fall of Jericho: Joshua and Rahab. Though very different in background, both demonstrate that authentic faith involves trusting God's Word and acting upon it. Joshua represents faith exercised with extensive knowledge of God, while Rahab demonstrates faith expressed with limited knowledge but decisive response.

**Joshua and the Fall of Jericho** Joshua was appointed by God to succeed Moses and lead Israel into the Promised Land. His task included conquering the existing inhabitants and allocating the land among the tribes of Israel. Jericho, a heavily fortified city located just beyond the Jordan River, was the first strategic target because its defeat would open access to the rest of the land.

**The Promise of Faith** (Joshua 6:2; Romans 8:37) God initiated the conquest with a promise: Jericho had already been given into Joshua's hand (Joshua 6:2). Biblical faith rests on God's revealed Word and promises. Faith therefore requires trusting what God has declared and acting accordingly. Believers likewise receive promises regarding spiritual victory (Romans 8:37), and faith requires living in light of those promises.

**The Plan of Faith** (Joshua 6:3–5) God provided a specific plan for Israel's victory. For six days the army was to march around the city once each day, led by priests carrying trumpets. On the seventh day they were to march around the city seven times. After the final circuit, the priests would blow the trumpets, the people would shout, and the walls would collapse. The soldiers would then enter and take the city.

**The Principles of Faith** [1] **Submission** (Joshua 5:13–15) Joshua encountered the commander of the Lord's army and immediately submitted to divine authority before receiving instructions. Faith begins with submission to God's authority. This submission established a chain of obedience: God spoke to Joshua, Joshua obeyed, and the people obeyed Joshua. [2] **Silence** (Joshua 6:10; Psalm 46:10) Israel was commanded to march in complete silence until the final day. This unusual command emphasized obedience to God's direction even when it conflicted with human expectations. Silence also reflects dependence upon God rather than human strategy. [3] **Strategy** (Joshua 6:3–5) God's plan included both purpose and method. The repeated marches around Jericho created anticipation and confusion within the city while demonstrating Israel's trust in God's instructions. Though unconventional, God's strategy proved effective. [4] **Spirituality** (Joshua 6:8) The Ark of the Covenant, representing God's presence, was central to the procession. Israel recognized that victory depended on God's presence rather than human strength or military skill.

**Rahab and the Faith of a Convert** Rahab, a resident of Jericho and a prostitute (Joshua 2:1), represents a different expression of faith. Though she lacked Israel's covenant history and knowledge of Scripture, she responded decisively to what she had heard about Israel's God.

**The Confession of Faith** (Joshua 2:8–11) Rahab acknowledged that Israel's God was the true God of heaven and earth based on reports of His works in delivering Israel from Egypt and defeating their enemies. Her faith demonstrates the principle of response, acting upon the truth that she had heard.

**The Covenant of Faith** (Joshua 2:12–14; 17–21) Rahab hid the Israelite spies and requested protection for her family. The spies agreed, instructing her to display a scarlet cord from her window as a sign identifying her household.

**The Principles of Faith** [1] **Response** (Joshua 2:8–11) Rahab believed the reports about God and acted accordingly. [2] **Refuge** True faith seeks safety in God rather than mere intellectual acknowledgment of His existence. [3] **Risk** (Joshua 2:12–14) By protecting the spies, Rahab placed her life in danger, demonstrating trust in God's protection.

**The Completion of Her Faith** (Joshua 6:17, 22–23, 25) When Jericho fell, Rahab and her family were spared according to the covenant. Her faith resulted in deliverance from destruction.

**The Principle of Redemption** (Matthew 1:5–6) Rahab later became part of Israel and married Salmon. She entered the lineage of King David and ultimately the genealogy of Jesus Christ (Matthew 1:5–6). Her life demonstrates God's redemptive grace, transforming a former pagan into an ancestor of the Messiah.

**Conclusion** Joshua and Rahab represent two distinct expressions of faith. Joshua illustrates faithful obedience grounded in long experience with God and knowledge of His promises. Rahab exemplifies decisive trust based on limited information but genuine belief. Together they demonstrate that heroic faith is not determined by background or knowledge but by trusting God's Word and acting upon it. Faith requires obedience to God's revealed will, reliance upon His presence, and confidence in His power to save and redeem.

## Digging Deeper in Your Daily Quiet Time

*Joshua was a seasoned Jewish military commander and Moses' right-hand-man.*

*Rahab was a pagan prostitute, recent convert to faith in Yahweh—and ancestor of Jesus! Both of them are studies in the development of faith. Let's see what we can learn from them.*

**Monday— Preparation:** Joshua Formed as a Servant of the Lord. God often prepares leaders through long periods of service before entrusting them with authority. Spiritual formation occurs through proximity to God's word and faithful obedience in smaller responsibilities.

Study: Exodus 17:8–14; Exodus 24:13; Exodus 33:11; Numbers 27:18–23; Deuteronomy 31:7–8

**Tuesday— Faith:** Joshua Trusts the Promises of God. Faith is demonstrated by trusting God's promises even when circumstances appear threatening. Courage in leadership flows from obedience to God's revealed word.

Study: Numbers 13:25–33; Numbers 14:6–9; Joshua 1:6–9

**Wednesday— Completion:** Joshua Leads Israel into the Promised Land. Spiritual leadership aims not merely at conquest or success but at guiding God's people toward lasting covenant faithfulness. A faithful life concludes by directing others to continued obedience to the Lord.

Study: Joshua 3–4; Joshua 6:1–20; Joshua 23:6–11; Joshua 24:14–15

**Thursday— Recognition:** Rahab Recognized the One True God. Faith begins with hearing and believing the testimony of God's works. True faith recognizes the Lord's sovereignty over all nations and circumstances.

Study: Joshua 2:1–11

**Friday— Demonstration:** Rahab Demonstrated Faith in Yahweh. Genuine faith results in decisive action. Trust in God leads individuals to identify with His people even at personal risk.

Study: Joshua 2:1–7; Joshua 2:12–21; Hebrews 11:31; James 2:25

**Saturday— Redemption:** Rahab was Redeemed and Included among God's People. God's grace extends beyond ethnic boundaries. Faith brings individuals from outside the covenant community into the people of God.

Study: Joshua 6:22–25; Matthew 1:5