"God's PRINCIPLES for Success in the Unknown Ahead"

Sunday, January 3, 2021

MAKE A QUIET COMMITMENT:

- QUIET your mind and soul before the LORD "Be still, and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10)
- COMMIT to obedience: *Commit* to doing whatever God will say to you in this message *"to obey is better than sacrifice"* (1 Samuel 15:22)

We are considering the new year seeking to enjoy God's success in the unknown ahead by applying the principles found in the book of Joshua.



We must keep in mind that God gives us the **privilege** of being taken outside of our comfort zone in order to grow us in a way that, if God has <u>His</u> way, will draw us closer to <u>Him</u> and move us to give <u>Him</u> more honor and praise. In doing this, **He** will use us to be the means to **His**

end instead of us using Him as a means to our end. <u>He</u> will use us to accomplish <u>His</u> purpose.

2 Timothy 2:21 If a man therefore purge [*cleanse*] himself from these [*iniquity* (v. *19*)], he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified [*set apart*], and meet [*useful*] for the **Master's** use, *and* prepared unto every good work.



How will we be successful? How will we be able to faithfully follow after Him and be a useful vessel that is fit for His use?

The **Dynamic Faith** of Rahab (Joshua 2)

The second lesson from Joshua, which prepares us to realize God's success in the unknown ahead, is **RAHAB'S DYNAMIC (ACTIVE) FAITH**. Rahab, by *faith*, acted upon the limited truth she heard about God and was <u>obedient</u>.

Philippians 2:12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation [*sanctification*] with fear and trembling.

- I. The Unlikely Servant of God (Joshua 2:1-7)
 - A. Consider Rahab's Lifestyle (Joshua 2:1)

1 Corinthians 1:27-29 But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound [*to put to shame*] the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound [*to put to shame*] the things which are mighty; 28 And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, *yea*, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: 29 That no flesh should glory in **His** presence.

- B. Consider Rahab's Lying (Joshua 2:2-7)
- II. The Uncommon Faith in God (Joshua 2:8-22)
 - A. Rahab stated what she believed (Joshua 2:9-11)

Hebrews 11:31 By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace.

Romans 10:17 So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God. (cf. Ephesians 2:8-9)

Rahab was faithful with the little light of truth that she was given.

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

James 2:17 Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

James 2:25 Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot [*shown to be*] justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent *them* out another way?

Dynamic faith—stated belief that is shown in one's life is faith and obedience going hand-in-hand in order to be victorious in our Christian lives. It finds SUCCESS IN THE UNKNOWNS AHEAD.

C. Rahab shared what she believed (Joshua 6:23)

Joshua 6:23 And the young men that were spies went in, and brought out Rahab, and her father, and her mother, and her brethren, and all that she had; and they brought out all her kindred, and left them without the camp of Israel.

An interesting point to note is that Rahab's dynamic faith was blessed as she became a distant ancestress of Jesus (**Matthew 1:5**).

God's PRINCIPLE FOR SUCCESS in the unknown ahead is realized through DYNAMIC FAITH. We must be diligent to not only STATE OUR BELIEFS but SHOW WHAT WE BELIEVE by "working out our own salvation with fear and trembling." Showing our faith will then lead to opportunities to SHARE WHAT WE BELIEVE with others.

What is my next step? Please consider doing the questions on the back of this page.



Hearing — Giving *attention* to God's Word with the intent to obey it – James 1:21-25 **Doing** — Making *application* of God's Word to be more like Christ – Eph. 4:22-24

Date:______Text:______Speaker:_____

- What did God show me that I must confess and forsake because it does not reflect Christ and hurts my relationship with Him and others? (*Put* <u>OFF</u> SIN)
- 2. What did God show me about Himself in this text? (Renew your mind)
 - a. What is He like?
 - b. What does He like?
 - c. What does He dislike?
- 3. What does God say to me in this text? (Renew your mind)
 - a. What command to obey?
 - b. What promise to claim?
 - c. What principle to apply (*If I do _____, then God will do ____*)?
 - d. What example to follow?
- 4. What verse(s) should I memorize and meditate upon through-out this week to help make **my** change lasting? (*Renew your mind*)
- 5. In light of what I have heard from God, ... (Put <u>ON</u> CHRIST)
 - a. What character quality of Jesus must I demonstrate *with God's help* this week?
 - b. In what situations will I most likely be tempted <u>not</u> to respond in a Christ-like way?
 - c. How can I get ready for those situations? (*If I don't have a plan for change, it probably won't happen.*)



OUR MISSION: Supremely love GOD, Sacrificially love others —ALL to the GLORY of GOD!