



Destiny
CHURCH

7 DAYS OF PRAYER + FASTING

TAKING GROUND

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TAKING GROUND

7 DAYS OF PRAYER & FASTING - 7 TAGE GEBET & FASTEN

INTRODUCTION

As we embark on this new season of prayer and fasting, we have an opportunity to step into possessing the promises of God – taking territory, and seeing growth, blessing, and favour in our personal lives, family lives, and churches like never before. It's time to take ground.

We believe that by seeking the Lord in prayer and fasting over these 7 days, and by journeying through the 24 chapters of the book of Joshua, we will experience significant breakthrough together.

This devotional guide is designed to help each of us as we pray, fast, and read through some chapters of the book of Joshua each morning and evening. On this occasion, we will be doing quite a bit of reading – the whole book of Joshua. But it's a great story and well worth the effort. These chapters will both encourage our faith and challenge different areas of our lives. After reading the chapters, there will be a meditation section with some thoughts and questions for us to reflect on, followed by a prayer.

WHAT IS FASTING?

Fasting is a spiritual discipline that believers have practiced all around the world for thousands of years. Traditionally, someone fasting would abstain from eating food for a particular period of time. Fasting is always about food – either not eating at all or restricting what we eat. It is a discipline of denying our natural desires, humbling ourselves, and taking time to focus on God. You may recollect that Adam and Eve fell over food – and Jesus' first temptation was about food.

Whilst some will fast all food, others may choose to fast certain types of food or specific meals during the day. Biblical fasting is always related to food, but many people also choose to give up other distractions, such as social media, television, or certain habits, as an additional way to focus on God.

Fasting frees up time that can then be used for focused prayer and studying God's Word. By doing this, we align ourselves with God's will for our lives.

Fasting is not a means of twisting God's arm to fulfil our desires or to gain His approval, but it often precedes a move of God.

BIBLICAL EXAMPLES:

Moses spent forty days alone with God without eating or drinking until he received The Ten Commandments (*Exodus 24:18*).

David sought a personal breakthrough as he fasted to keep himself humble (*Psalms 35:13*).

Daniel fasted and prayed as he sought a breakthrough for the exiled people living in rebellion against their God (*Daniel 9:3-4*).

Jesus Himself entered a 40-day fast before launching His public ministry (*Matthew 4:1-2*).

PREPARATION

Before starting this period of prayer and fasting, take some time to prepare yourself – decide what and how you will fast, and what you are believing God for. The more prepared you are as you enter these seven days, the more you can expect God to do. If you are going to enter a full fast, there is wisdom in thinking about how you will transition from your ordinary diet to the fast, and how you will transition back afterwards.

You might find it useful to have some lighter foods before and after the fasting period. If you have any underlying health issues or are taking any prescribed medication, you may wish to consult your doctor before entering a time of prayer and fasting.

1. DECIDE WHAT TO FAST

Full Fast – Abstain from all solid food.

Partial Fast – Abstain from one or two meals a day, or from a certain type of food or drink.

Abstinence – An additional, deliberate pause from other activities (e.g. Entertainment, hobbies, and social media) to create space for spiritual connection and focus on God.

2. SET SOME GOALS

Write down what you're believing God for over the next seven days. Begin with the goal of knowing God more intimately and hearing His voice more clearly. If there are areas in your life where you need a breakthrough, commit them to God and believe that He can work in your life as you fast and pray. Most importantly, remain open to whatever God wants to speak and do as you seek Him!

3. SHARE THE JOURNEY WITH SOMEONE

As we embark on the next seven days as a church, we're doing this together! Find someone – your spouse, a close friend, or someone from your close friendship group – and go through the devotional together. Commit to sharing with each other what you sense God is speaking to you and doing in you over the next week.

NOTES

[illegible]

THE BOOK OF JOSHUA

Joshua is a book of promises fulfilled.

We read,

"So the Lord gave Israel all the land which He had sworn to give to their fathers, and they took possession of it and lived in it. And the Lord gave them rest on every side, in accordance with everything that He had sworn to their fathers, and no one of all their enemies stood before them; the Lord handed all their enemies over to them. Not one of the good promises which the Lord had made to the house of Israel failed; everything came to pass."

Joshua 21:43-45

The book is a story of faith, courage, commitment and faithfulness.

The faithfulness of God to His Word.

The faithfulness of Joshua to his call.

The Intermittent faithfulness of Israel as they walked into their inheritance.

After wandering in the wilderness for a generation, the time had come to press in and take ground. This required radical change, not least in their willingness to trust and believe God, knowing that with Him all things were possible, unlike their parents before them. They would need courage, resolve, and the discipline of following leadership.

They also needed the tenacity to fight! Knowing that God was with them.

The New Testament equivalent of this book is Ephesians. In Ephesians we read the phrase 'in Him' or 'in Christ' 27 times. In Christ we are more than conquerors. Through Him, our Joshua, we can do all things.

As we go into these 7 days, let's truly expect to go in at one level but come out at another.

DAY 1

MORNING DEVOTIONAL

MOVING ON AND MOVING IN

READ JOSHUA 1 + 2

Should old acquaintance be forgot? It is said friendships are worth more than gold or silver, however perhaps as we start the prayer and fasting, we look at new ways of doing things, new ways of thinking, new structures and new practices. We can keep reliving past glories, past failures or adoring old favourites or we can see what God's doing now, welcoming the new and step into God's promises and plans for now.

In Joshua 1:2 God speaks a sharp word to his people - Moses is dead! He's not coming back. It is a new day. Nothing dies when a man of God dies, it simply changes hands. The chapter doesn't need to state who the new leader is, that was obvious, but God simply needed to get the people to let go of the former ways.

We surely are the modern day Joshua's! A generation poised on the edge of a huge breakthrough. May the Lord say to you He's got vast lands for you spacious places. He's got land earmarked for you and your family. May the Lord say to you 'be strong and courageous!'. We're about to cross over into uncharted territory. The old things that once sustained us, old manna, old ways, old victories won't cut it but drawing near to the one that lights our path is the way.

Our mindsets really do matter. In chapter 2 we see that Rahab and her family were saved through the scarlet cord. As followers of Jesus, we are saved through the shed blood of Christ . He is the scarlet cord that saves us. Remember Joshua was born a slave in Egypt, this image of himself had to be reconstructed into the victorious leader he would become.

The gospel can be seen in every book in the Bible and Joshua is no exception. Rahab, a prostitute, acts in faith to save herself and her family through a scarlet cord. She is commended for acting in faith in the book of Hebrews. When Rahab turned to God from her lowly state, God exalted her even into the genealogy of Christ himself. Know this; no matter what your state, God will also receive any and all who turn to Him today.

DAY 1

MEDITATE

Regarding Joshua in these chapters, are there old mindsets you still carry? Ask God today, for the grace to keep growing and keep moving forward. Let go of old mindsets as we start this fast.

Regarding Rahab in these chapters, do you know you are born again, saved, and forgiven? Give your life to Christ today without delay.

PRAYER

In this new season, please help me to let go of anything that You want me to let go of. Please help me obey Your command to be strong and courageous and to be a person

DAY 1

who sees with the eyes of faith, like the two spies did in Joshua 2. I pray You will lead me towards those like Rahab who will turn to You and be saved. Please help me to continue in this journey of prayer and fasting. I ask this in the precious name of the Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

PRAYER OF FAITH

Lord Jesus, I repent of my sins and surrender my life. Wash me clean. I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, that He died on the cross for my sins and rose again on the third day for my victory, I believe that in my heart and make confession with my mouth that Jesus is my Saviour and Lord. I receive eternal life, in Jesus' name, Amen.

DAY 1

EVENING DEVOTIONAL SERIOUS PREPARATION REQUIRED

READ JOSHUA 3

There will always be a “camping by the water before a crossing over.” Seeing the immovable deep waters and knowing God is completely able is a paradoxical faith moment. It’s like knowing the impossibilities whilst also being certain that God’s about to move.

As the saying goes: “Success is 90% preparation, 10% perspiration.” Joshua tells the people to consecrate themselves, “for tomorrow God would do amazing things among you.” Consecration means to dedicate yourselves to God. Consecration also means being willing to risk all, wholly leaning into God and standing on all that He has said and promised. It could be summed up in the words of a missionary who died for his faith

“He is no fool who gives up that which he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose.”

Jim Elliott

Not long after this point, the costliest of the Israelite’s possessions – the Ark of the Covenant – goes into the water first. That’s what you call risking it all! It’s a great picture that if we truly want to see breakthrough in any area of our lives, our relationship with God must come first. Consecrate yourself today, child of God, because God’s going to do amazing things among you.

MEDITATE

How will you prepare and consecrate yourself to the Lord today and in the days ahead?

DAY 1

Have you experienced a “camping by the river” moment in your life, where you see the huge challenge ahead but believe God for the miracle to come? How did you handle that situation?

PRAYER

Dear Lord, I bow my knees and choose to consecrate myself afresh to you. Help me to be a holy vessel for You to use in the days ahead. Help me, as I see the challenges of these coming days and the challenges in life, to deepen my faith and trust in You and to know that You are still in the business of making roads out of rivers.

Lord, I pray, like with the priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant who went first into the river, may my relationship with You go first before anything else goes forth. This I ask in the mighty name of Jesus, Amen.

DAY 2

MORNING DEVOTIONAL

REMINDERS ARE IMPORTANT

READ JOSHUA 4 + 5

In these chapters, we see the critical nature of reminders. The stones were to mark the significance for this and future generations. The stones remind us that when we face greater Jordans ahead, God is faithful and will always be faithful. Before we take new territory, what will you do that will be a memorial to the people forever?

The priests were still in the Jordan right till the last, carrying the Ark. They were first in and last out. They entered the very waters in which John the Baptist would later baptise many. Anyone looking to grow in the realm of serving the Lord and leading others should take note: they are first to believe, first to carry, first to walk ahead of others, and last to leave! The Ark always represented the presence of God. Never forget that God has made you a huge promise – He said that He will never leave you and is always there. Knowing this, we should constantly seek the active presence of God. When we are fully surrendered to Him, we are ready to be useful servants in His hands. Reverence your times with the Lord. There is no place like the place of worship and intimacy with the Lord. We may not need to physically take off our shoes as Joshua did, but we should take off any casual attitude to holy things.

Something truly ground-breaking was taking place. The Passover feast was eaten the day after they ate the produce of Canaan. Then the manna stopped after forty years of eating it in the desert. All that many of them would have known was manna, and now they would never see it again. We remember that the last time they celebrated the Passover was on the night they left Egypt. On that night, the smell of roast lamb hung heavy in the air – a smell of great comfort to Israel but terror to the Egyptians. Now, as tens of thousands celebrated the Passover, that smell of roast lamb filled the air again. God, the mighty deliverer, was about to move with His people. What God had done before, He would do again.

Remember the victories God has given you. Write them down, give thanks for them, and be encouraged – there's more to come.

DAY 2

MEDITATE

What memorial stones do you have in your life to remind you of all God has done for you and your family?

Decide how your spiritual diet will change in the coming weeks to enable greater victory this year than ever before.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank you for all you have done for me. As I look back, I can truly see so much that you have done. Help me like these twelve men who took stones to remind them of what you did that day, to also remember your goodness through all the ups and downs of my life.

Lord, I thank you for helping me on this journey of prayer and

DAY 2

fasting this far. Please help me to continue and to deepen my relationship with you in profound ways. Speak to me, I want to hear your voice clearly. I ask this in the precious name of Jesus, Amen.

DAY 2

EVENING DEVOTIONAL

WHAT'S BLOCKING YOU?

READ JOSHUA 6 + 7

In our story, Joshua encounters the Commander of the Lord's army. How encouraging this must have been. The significance of this encounter is to show that the Lord Himself will fight for you! Something huge is happening – tectonic plates are shifting all around. The people of Jericho are terrified and shut inside their city.

What is God asking Joshua and the people to do, to see breakthrough through the impenetrable walls of Jericho? He tells them to surround the city, march around it with a ram's horn trumpet. Each day they are to march and carry the trumpet, and finally, on the seventh day, to blow the trumpets and shout!

May you recognise that as you live your life obediently to the Lord, God is God – He doesn't need our expertise, knowledge, wisdom, gifts, talent, charisma or service, but rather our obedience to His strategy.

God calls us to a life of faith and trust. In chapter 7, we see that thirty-six men died because of one man – Achan – who took what did not belong to him. God was giving them the entire Promised Land, and all that was in it, BUT the first part of the first spoils of the first city belonged to the Lord.

Today, ask the Lord to highlight areas of your life where your priorities may need adjusting – in your time, finance, or even your gifts. Are we truly making them available to Him on His terms, not ours? He will reveal these areas so we can deal with them and in doing so, be propelled into a season of unprecedented breakthrough. Ask Him now to shine His spotlight on any area where you may be tempted to hold back, refuse to release, or take for yourself what rightfully belongs to Him. Remember Jesus' words in Matthew 6:33: when we seek God and His kingdom FIRST, all other things come our way.

DAY 2

MEDITATE

Consider the walls of Jericho; ask the Lord to demolish those immovable walls in our lives that have hindered us for years simply through his power. Can you identify these walls?

Have you experienced a “camping by the river” moment in your life, where you see the huge challenge ahead but believe God for the miracle to come? How did you handle that situation?

PRAYER

Dear Lord-almighty, please help me to recognize that you are able to demolish walls that have stood for generations. I pray that in my life, as I journey through these seven days of prayer and fasting, that you would demolish strongholds in

DAY 2

my life that have refused to move for so very long.

Lord, I ask again that you wash me clean and make me aware of the destructive force of sin to myself and others around me. Please forgive me and cleanse me and help me to follow you each and every day. Help me to turn my eyes upon Jesus and not be distracted by futile and frivolous things. In Jesus precious name, Amen.

DAY 3

MORNING DEVOTIONAL

SEEK STRATEGIC DISCERNMENT
TO PROCEED

READ JOSHUA 8 + 9

The story in today's reading sees the Israelites repenting and snatching victory from the jaws of defeat. Ai reminds us that God gives second chances. When we fess up and truly repent, our good God is keen to lead us in triumph. God had outlined His requirements and promised victory. Joshua set about putting the plan into a strategic march of victory – giving specific instructions to his soldiers, and positioning them in tactical locations. One key move baited the leaders of Ai to attack the Israelite army early in the morning, leaving their city defenceless. This led to its downfall in the hands of Joshua's 5,000 men, who were patiently waiting for the signal – Joshua's raised javelin.

Be strategic like Joshua. Don't just let life wash over you like so many people do. Make intentional decisions that will bear much fruit.

- Can you be strategic with serving this year?
- Can you be strategic in making life giving choices such as attending Destiny College?
- Can you be strategic in inviting people to church?
- Can you be strategic with your finances and your giving?

Sadly, in chapter 9, we find that in this life there will be some who seek to tell us lies and intentionally deceive us. The Israelites looked at the presented evidence that their guests were from a far-off place, accepting their claim but failing to consult the Lord. This resulted in discontent and conflict later among the Israelites.

Be careful of feeling "smart" as there will always be someone "smarter" than you! Joshua was definitely outsmarted by the Gibeonites. Rely on God's wisdom especially in difficult situations. Perhaps more significantly, Joshua entered into a covenant relationship with these people that went on to affect generations. Sadly, some people say don't commit to anyone – anything, any church, any leaders – since you might get hurt. But that wasn't the lesson here; it's making the wrong commitments that are costly and hurt. Love what God loves – seek what God seeks.

DAY 3

Friends, if we are to see breakthrough in the new season, we need to not just see with physical eyes but consult the Lord and hear His voice on situations we will face. God can give us the upper hand over those who seek to get the better of us when we first purposefully seek Him. The scary thing is that it was Joshua, the man of God, who signed the treaty with these guys. Even if we're God's elite, His crème de la crème, we can fall foul of the cunning enemy if we do not check in with the Lord. If we seek the LORD, He can give us a discernment that will protect us from all manner of enemy deception.

MEDITATE

Strategy and planning are not the enemy's tools but the servant of God's! What are some strategic godly decisions that you can make now that will encourage you to bear fruit throughout the season ahead?

Have you experienced a "camping by the river" moment in your life, where you see the huge challenge ahead but believe God for the miracle to come? How did you handle that situation?

DAY 3

PRAYER

Holy Spirit, please guide me each day. Help me not to be rudderless but give me strategies that come from You. Help me to live intentionally, making Godly plans in this new season to see great steps forward in my relationship with You and in developing a healthy Christ-centred life.

Lord, please help me to have such a close walk with You that I spot the lies and deception of the enemy a mile away. Keep me from ever making an agreement without hearing your opinion about it first. Lord, today I choose to consult You about anything that I need direction over, so that I won't be caught off guard. Please grow the gift of discernment in me and in my brothers and sisters in Christ. Please speak to me, Holy Spirit; guide me, I pray, Amen.

DAY 3

EVENING DEVOTIONAL

ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE!

READ JOSHUA 10 + 11

In Joshua 10:8, God tells Joshua not to be afraid as the kings of many nations form an alliance and come to wage war against the Israelites. I cannot imagine how the Israelites must have felt, knowing that many armies had combined to face the ill-equipped Israelite army – but you can understand if they took a breath or gulped as they received this news.

Fear can be a huge force in some lives. Let us ask the Lord to help us in the areas of fear and anxiety in our lives and in the lives of all our brothers and sisters in Christ. Pray today for all those who have become paralysed by fear and anxiety.

Joshua's faith in God was so absolute that he believed God could cause the day to be prolonged by stopping the sun in the middle of the sky to give them complete victory. It is amazing to note that this chapter reveals not only Joshua's strong faith but also highlights his deep relationship with the Lord while living amongst the people. This is the challenge of living a life truly connected with Jesus, allowing the Holy Spirit to live through you.

You might have heard the saying, "higher levels, higher devils." With the previous chapter seeing the advancing armies joined together against Israel being utterly defeated, now in chapter 11 an even larger number of kings and armies come to fight against Israel. This army is described as being "as numerous as the sand on the seashore."

Again, the Lord tells His people not to be afraid of them, as the Lord would deal with them Himself. The Lord gives the victory against all these kings and their vast armies. Joshua completely obeys the Lord's commands in what to do, and this leads to a time of rest from war.

MEDITATE

How can you grow your faith and trust in the Lord so that when challenges and fears come, you are able to face them with faith in the Lord?

DAY 3

Scripture says, "Let God arise." Note the word "let!" We can block the move of God by being overly self-dependent. Joshua threw off this thought when he spoke to the sun, showing his reliance on God. Today, cast off self-reliance and cast your cares on Him.

PRAYER

Lord, I ask that You help me with the area of fear in my life and those around me. When challenges come my way and fear starts to rise, may I trust in You and Your promises and draw my strength from You. Let faith arise in my life in such circumstances like it did with Joshua, that will please You, Lord, and see the enemy sent packing.

Lord, I pray that fear will not paralyse me but rather, when challenges come my way, I would trust in You and step out in faith. Help me to rid myself not just of sins that seek to entangle me but also of anything that limits my effectiveness as a believer. I ask this in the precious name of Jesus, Amen.

DAY 4

MORNING DEVOTIONAL

A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS

READ JOSHUA 12 + 13

And you're probably wondering right now, after reading this scripture, what significance all these 31 named kings have to your life and the challenges you face as you seek to see advance in this new season. The story paints a picture of Israel needing to defeat all 31 kings to take all the territory – the inheritance the Lord had for Israel.

In our lives, we have a great inheritance from the Lord, but it is unlikely we will simply take it without going to war with opposing forces. This will take place through prayer, seeking the Lord's strategies, being obedient to him, and removing them one by one. As each stronghold in our lives – each fear, each area of unbelief, each sin – is defeated, we will possess all our inheritance. And we should tell people about each of the tyrants the Lord helped us gain victory over through His power and might.

In chapter 13, it appears that some time had passed since Joshua took possession of most of the promised land. The once valiant Joshua is now described as being very old by the Lord:

"When Joshua had grown old, the Lord said to him, "You are now very old, and there are still very large areas of land to be taken over."

Joshua 13.1

The strategy was changing – there's more work to do but a strategic transition will be required. Just as seen in nature, each season has its own type of labour and fruit; we must adjust to the season to finish the task. In our lives, when we follow the Lord, we don't have the luxury of thinking we've done all our growing as followers of Jesus, conquered every dark corner of our lives, and fully arrived. Lord, forgive us when we've thought that! Rather, whether we're old in years or mature as followers of Jesus, let us fervently ask the Lord what remaining areas need conquering now.

Are we ready for the fight of challenging what currently prevents us from entering our inheritance from the Lord?

MEDITATE

DAY 4

Scripture says, "Let God arise." Note the word "let!" We can block the move of God by being overly self-dependent. Joshua threw off this thought when he spoke to the sun, showing his reliance on God. Today, cast off self-reliance and cast your cares on Him.

PRAYER

Lord, I thank You for the revelation that for me to enter into all the blessings You have for me, there needs to be an uprooting of kings and tyrants that are literally sitting on my blessing.

Lord, I pray that You would clearly, step by step, reveal every area that needs removing so that I can possess all the territory You have for me to possess. However, Lord, I don't want to be so proud in thinking I have fully arrived and am perfect. There clearly are still areas in my life that I'm not proud of and that I need victory over in this season. Help me to have a humble spirit. I ask this in the name of Jesus the King, Amen.

EVENING DEVOTIONAL
TRUE WISDOM

READ JOSHUA 14

We see Caleb and his friends coming to see Joshua. Caleb, now in his 85th year declares that the Lord has kept him alive all this time through desert and battles just as He said He would. He states that he’s still as strong as he was when he was in his 40s and so asks to go out to battle to possess the hill country. Why did the mighty old warrior come to Joshua to ask if he could take possession of the hill country? Couldn’t he just go and take it? I think perhaps Caleb knew there was a means of coming under God’s authority in order to find blessing. Caleb wanted Joshua’s blessing as well as the Lord’s. Wise people obey God and men (that is, godly leaders).

Caleb followed the Lord wholeheartedly and therefore gained this inheritance for himself and his descendants. David served long and faithfully, yet because of “blood on his hands” could not build the temple. Moses led the people so well for so long, yet because of disobedience could not enter the promised land. But Caleb – this is a different story – not only did he begin; he finished with the blessing of God on his life and work. May God grant us all the favour and good spirit of Caleb. How people finish is often the only thing people ever remember, so let’s make sure we finish well. Furthermore, Caleb left a lasting legacy; his daughter and son-in-law, Othniel, became mighty leaders and rulers in their own right.

MEDITATE

Caleb shows great intergenerational wisdom here. He does not abuse his age or longevity; rather, he honours Joshua and seeks permission from him. How can you honour godly authority and receive a blessing?

DAY 4

Is it easier or harder to maintain levels of faith as you get older? How did Caleb maintain such levels of faith?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, I thank You for all You have done in my life. I can count so many memories of You growing me and the things I have done through Your empowerment. Lord, I pray in this season that these areas will come under Your complete reign. Finish the great work You have started in me I pray, Amen.

DAY 5

MORNING DEVOTIONAL

SETTING UP HEALTHY BOUNDARIES

READ JOSHUA 15

This chapter focuses on Judah's allotted boundaries. Boundaries are important for knowing how far you can go before you run into another's territory. In our lives, we need to have firmly established boundaries that will protect us. It's going to happen – people will overstep the boundaries of your home, family, ministry, and personal life. When this happens, there is no easy answer. We must address the situation with wisdom and love, communicating clearly and respectfully why we feel our personal boundaries have been encroached upon in a negative way.

As a church leader, I'm very careful about meeting individuals on my own without a third-party present in the room because I don't want to ever end up in a compromised situation that would damage my reputation, marriage, or ministry. Thinking through healthy boundaries in advance of situations can often save us from many trials and heartaches as followers of Jesus. Making choices about what you allow to happen – and not happen – in your home and family are wise things to do. Boundaries help establish who we are and who we will be.

In Joshua 16:10 we read that Israel did not dislodge the Canaanites living in Gezar, and to this day the Canaanites live among the people of Ephraim but are required to do forced labour. It's a reminder to choose your enemies carefully. The Israelites tolerated the Canaanites living in Gezar, and therefore they never left. Friend, the areas of error that you tolerate in your own life so easily stay forever. There is a proverb which states, "The small fox cubs spoil the vines." Although cute and cuddly, their gnawing and clawing at the vine stem killed the vine. Don't ignore the small things. What do you need to dislodge from your territory? Do it with God's help, or it will be an ongoing hindrance for all the years to come.

A little bit of pain in dealing with certain areas of our lives now may give us complete victory. Don't give the enemy a foothold in any areas of your life.

DAY 5

MEDITATE

Have there been situations in your life where having boundaries in place might have spared you much heartache?

Are there Canaanites in your personal Gezar? Considering the wisdom gleaned from Joshua, how can you sensitively and restoratively restore those healthy boundaries?

PRAYER

Lord, I don't want to be tripped up because I have not established boundaries in my life that will protect me and the things that are precious to me. Help me to practically put boundaries into place. Reveal to me what is most important to my life and therefore where to put extra protection.

Lord, please forgive me for times in my life when I have had not put boundaries in place and have paid the price. I ask for

DAY 5

Your forgiveness and to not repeat the same mistakes. Today I hereby give notice of eviction to these areas and ask that You send your bailiffs to ensure their certain removal. I don't want to tolerate these areas anymore; it's time for them to leave. I ask this in Jesus' precious name, Amen.

DAY 5

EVENING DEVOTIONAL COMPROMISE

READ JOSHUA 16

In chapter 15, we saw the importance of boundaries. In chapter 16, we see the equal importance of not compromising with evil. Joshua tolerated the Canaanites still living in the land and influencing the nation – something that would later cost them dearly. Here, we are not referring to casual compromises like where to eat or the colour of the wallpaper – those aren't a problem. We're talking about unprincipled compromise – compromise that seeks to pragmatically water down the clear truth of God's Word.

Oxford Languages defines compromise (*verb*) as:

1. To settle a dispute by mutual concession.
2. To accept standards that are lower than is desirable.

Notice the concepts in these definitions of compromise: "mutual concession," "lower standard," "allow," "give up." Israel lowered their standards. Instead of conquering all the land God told them to take, they stopped short and allowed evil to remain in parts of their territory. Instead of worshiping God alone, they made mutual concessions with the nations around them and brought foreign gods into their homes. What begins as a personal attitude of acceptance toward compromise – within our own lives and the Christian community – can become something more dangerous. This acceptance often shifts into active pressure, encouraging the broader Christian community to agree with, and share in, that same compromise.

Why does this happen?

I think there are two reasons:

1. Satan knows that once a Christian has accepted compromises in their own life, it becomes much harder for them to speak out against that issue anywhere else. Too often, they even begin to advocate for it. Once you've seen something in God – you cannot unsee it. You are obligated to walk in that truth.
2. Satan also knows that compromise is one of the fastest ways to keep a dispute going. He convinces Christians that the dispute itself is the sin, not the original sin that caused the conflict. As a result, Christians who would otherwise stand firm often compromise in order to avoid

DAY 5

MEDITATE

conflict, calling it peace. But peacemaking and peacekeeping are two very different things.

It was the clarity of Jesus' message that brought attacks against Him. How clear is my message? More importantly, is there a difference between what I say and what I do?

When is it right to challenge offence or sin – whether in myself or in others? And if so, with what attitude should I doing it? James encourages us to confess our faults to one another (James 5:16). Do I do that? Is there someone in my life to whom I am accountable?

DAY 5

PRAYER

Lord, I thank you that You never compromise – not for a moment or in any way. You remained true to Your purpose and true to God in every detail. Because of that, I am now saved through Your sacrifice. I thank You that You are light, and in Your light, we have life. Help me to always walk in that light. And then, in love, help me to be an effective light to those around me, Amen.

DAY 6

MORNING DEVOTIONAL

JUST DO IT!

READ JOSHUA 17 + 18

Here we see the descendants of Joseph's sons becoming numerous. They had already possessed some of the land allocated to them; however, a portion remained untaken because the Canaanites simply refused to leave, and the descendants of Joseph saw them as too mighty to remove. They brought this issue to Joshua, who reminded them that they were "numerous and very powerful" and instructed them to clear the forested hill country – assuring them there would be plenty of land for their growing population. There will always be someone who doesn't believe in you – just make sure it's not you!

In our lives, we need people of faith who can speak to our true identity, not the false ones we often see in ourselves. Just as Joshua declared Ephraim and Manasseh to be numerous and powerful, we, too, need godly voices to speak truth over us. God's plan was for there to be light in every part of the land – not just some!

In chapter 18, we read that seven of the Israelite tribes had still not taken possession of the land already allocated to them. Joshua asked them how long they were going to wait to take possession of the land the Lord had given them.

Perhaps the Lord would ask us a similar question: How long are you going to wait? I've already given this to you – step into it. Take it!

In his wisdom, Joshua instructed each tribe to appoint three men to survey the land and write a description of it. Then they were to report back, and the land would be divided among the remaining tribes. Joshua knew that sending these twenty-one men into the land would serve as a catalyst – the kick-start needed to move the people toward possessing their inheritance.

Camping far away from their future territories allowed them to stay uncertain about what lay ahead. It allowed them to be preoccupied with other things and leave the possessing of their inheritance to another day somewhere in the future. However, by entering into the land and exploring it, a process would begin of seeing a new

DAY 6

MEDITATE

identity as a possessor of the new land.

You can't learn to drive in a parked car.

Spy out the land the Lord has for you!

Ask God to reveal to you people of faith that will spur you on to enter into all of your inheritance in Christ and to give you a humble heart to receive from others.

Hear the words of Joshua asking you the question: 'How long will you wait before you begin to take possession of the land?'

DAY 6

PRAYER

Lord, I renounce the wrong thoughts I have believed over my life. I can do all that You say I can do. Please forgive me for speaking a 'less than' identity over my life. Please help me to put on the new self and therefore take the inheritance You have waiting for me to grasp.

Help me to spy out the land and to step into the inheritance You have obtained for me. Thank You that You have great things for me this year – a land of abundance – and I look forward to enjoying its fruit. Take me deeper into You, I pray, Amen.

DAY 6

EVENING DEVOTIONAL

FINISHING STRONG

READ JOSHUA 19 + 20

Joshua had waited such a long time to enter the promised land and then a further period to receive his allotted inheritance. Joshua was enslaved in Egypt, then for forty years had to live in the wilderness because of other people's lack of faith. He served Moses for so many years and then commanded Israel. Then finally, right at the end of his life, after everyone else had received their allotted lands, Joshua receives his. Well done, Joshua! Good and faithful servant – enter into your rest. May we be faithful to the Lord, serve Him, serve others, and may we finish our race strong. Ask the Lord to guide you into your inheritance. Ask the Lord to help you to remain faithful to the end.

In chapter 20, look at this picture: you can imagine transitioning from being a nation of wandering nomads in the desert and then a nation moving from place to place at war for years, to now changing again to a nation living in the land and establishing businesses and houses and law and order – it would take time. They were not to adopt a murderous avenging-of-blood policy, but if someone accidentally killed someone, they could flee to a city of refuge where they would be able to have a proper court hear their case.

Sometimes in our lives, we need to remove ourselves from dangerous situations in order to find help from those who can help us rebuild our lives. We might need a place to gain that help ourselves if we have gotten into a mess, or we might one day be in that place to hear someone's case and help them with wisdom and counsel. Whilst we cannot micro-manage every area of someone's life, we can provide godly counsel, share wisdom, and be a pivotal point in their life. In our world today, there will be many Christian ministries who facilitate 21st century sanctuary cities where those in trouble can find people who will give wisdom and counsel.

Also, there is always a need for such people in the local church who, when people run from chaos, can offer sober, wise, and caring support.

DAY 6

MEDITATE

What can you put into place in your life that will help you to finish strong like Joshua did?

Pray for those in your church who provide a place of sanctuary. Ask the Lord, as you grow in maturity in the Lord, how you can help provide a place of sanctuary.

PRAYER

Lord, I thank You that the Bible does include some who ran their race and finished strong like Joshua. I dearly desire to do the same. Help me to maintain a good testimony, to maintain my integrity, faith, and zeal for You, Lord. May Your word not depart from my mouth, may I meditate on it continuously, and may I seek Your presence and counsel throughout my life.

DAY 6

Lord, I thank You that to truly enter the promised land is more than possessing land – it is about building a healthy society within. Lord, I pray also that You would use me in shaping a healthy, God-fearing, just society where You reign. Help me in providing that place of godly wisdom and counsel to others who will benefit from this. I ask this in Jesus precious and matchless name, Amen.

DAY 7

MORNING DEVOTIONAL

SETTLING IN OR SETTLING DOWN

READ JOSHUA 21 + 22

There are two things we can see in this chapter of Joshua. First, the family heads of the Levites, those who served the Lord in worship and with presenting sacrifices to God, approach Israel's leadership asking for what the Lord had commanded Moses – that towns and pastureland would be allocated for the Levites across the territories of Israel. Now, perhaps this is reading into Scripture, but perhaps this has been placed on the back burner or even forgotten until this point. It can be the case in our Christian maturity that giving to the Lord can often be the last thing that comes under His reign. Bringing our tithes, offerings, and ourselves in service of the Lord shouldn't come last like it seems to in the book of Joshua but should surely come first. There are some serious blessings that are promised when we give to the Lord, such as Malachi 3:10-12. Let us be a generation that gives to the Lord first and not last. Secondly, we see in verse forty-four that the Lord gave them rest on every side. I pray that, having journeyed through this process of prayer and fasting and having gone through a fresh process of aligning our lives to God's plans and purposes, this will bear fruit in the form of rest in your life on every side.

There is a rest to be found – a serenity, a peace that passes all understanding – when our lives are more and more placed under the reign of Christ. Let us pray for rest on every side for our own lives, our families, our churches, our workplaces, etc. As peace descends, we see some settle in but remain attentive to the Kingdom, but we also see others "settle down".

In chapter 22, we see that having fought faithfully alongside the other Israelite tribes, Joshua now summons the Reubenites, Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh and lets them go back to their lands on the other side of the Jordan with this beautiful charge:

"But be very careful to keep the commandment and the law that Moses the servant of the Lord gave you; to love the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to obey his commands, to hold fast to him and to serve him with all your heart and all your soul."

Joshua 22:5

DAY 7

After giving them this charge, he blessed them and sent them on their way. As they approached the Jordan River to cross over to their territory, there they made an altar, and it caused utter uproar. The people thought they were abandoning the Lord, making a new religion, by making an altar of sacrifice there. However, it appears, at least, that they were in fact doing the opposite – they wanted to leave well. They wanted a monument to prove to the generations to come that they are part of the inheritance of Israel and not at odds with the wider community. They didn't want to give future generations an excuse to abandon the Lord, so they built something to speak to the generations to come.

It is beautiful to see that these Israelite tribes were already thinking of the generations to come and their relationship with the Lord. They were not merely focused on their needs but looked towards the needs of the future generations. They wanted to build something that would help the coming generations after them. He is, after all, the God not just of Abraham, but of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

MEDITATE

Have you put giving to the Lord – in time, talent, and treasure – first or last in your life?

DAY 7

Think about those words Joshua gave to these groups of Israelites in Joshua 22:5. Meditate on them throughout the day.

PRAYER

Lord, I pray that You please forgive me when I have given to You as an afterthought. Forgive me when I have put other things before You. Help me to be a cheerful giver, giving You what You rightfully deserve as my Creator, Lord, and Saviour. Lord, I also pray that You would bring rest on every side – not only for myself but my friends, family, church, community, and workplace. May I truly enter into the fullness of Your rest. Lord, I desire to hold fast to You, and to serve You with all my heart and all of my soul. I pray that You will continue to bring me to full maturity in Christ by not only causing me to develop my own deep-rooted relationship with You but also to cause me to focus on the spiritual growth of others – even the future generations that are yet to come.

Touch my heart. Give me a passion for the salvation and discipleship of children and young people. Help me to play my part in setting them up to thrive in their relationship with You. I ask this in Jesus' precious name, Amen.

DAY 7

EVENING DEVOTIONAL **REMAINING IN BUT NOT** **OF THE WORLD**

READ JOSHUA 23 + 24

In these final chapters of Joshua, we read verses which remind us of Joshua 1:7. Joshua, before his departure, wanted to leave a godly legacy in the land he had helped take possession of. He proclaims in verse ten that, “one of you routs a thousand because the Lord your God fights for you just as He promised.”

Friends, it's impossible for one person to kill a thousand people, particularly with the limited weapons of warfare the Israelite army possessed at that time – and yet they did it because the Lord fought for them.

When we walk with the Lord, impossible things happen. When we trust Him, amazing things take place. As we move into a new season, will we stir up faith that, as we trust in the Lord, we too can expect to see impossible things take place.

However, Joshua also warns what will happen if they align themselves with the many evil practices around them. How true this is! Over time, Christians and churches can assimilate to the customs and practices of the world around us. The book ends with a warning: after all the struggles to gain this ground don't lose it through complacency. And as we find in the next book of the Bible (Judges), the biggest cause of complacency is the blessing of God. Can God trust you with more?

We see Joshua recount to the people all that the Lord has done for Israel as a people – from choosing Abraham to the present day of having taken possession of the promised land. In our lives, and at this point of our prayer and fasting journey, let us also recount all that the Lord has done in our lives thus far. Let us remember all He has done – from our birth to our salvation, and to the present day – and give Him glory, praise, and adoration.

Then Joshua gives the people an important charge: to be devoted to the Lord, to fear Him, and to serve Him. He gives the people a choice of whether they want to be fully devoted to the Lord or to choose a false idol instead to serve. And still today, the Lord gives us that choice. As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

DAY 7

MEDITATE

Joshua is ending well. Some make their biggest mistakes at the beginning, others in the middle, others at the end. Joshua is a great example of ending well – may you experience the same.

Are you ready for the Lord to do miraculous things in your life as you fully surrender your life to Him in this new season? Can you declare; "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord"?

Prevention is better than cure, they say; therefore, be sure that you focus in and focus on Jesus. Never stop being a God chaser. You may need to adjust your pace but never change direction. God first, last, and always. If others quit, keep going; if others drop, keep standing; if others stop believing, believe for more. The power behind you is greater than the task ahead of you. You will become what you focus on.

DAY 7

PRAY

Heavenly Father, I thank You that You want to do the impossible in my life, and I welcome this in my life as I fully surrender to Your Lordship in this new season. Please help me to trust You more and more and for my faith muscles to grow exponentially. Lord, please protect me from being enticed to partner with people or practices that are wicked and might lead me away from You and the inheritance You have for me as a child of God. Help me to finish strong. I ask this in the mighty name of Jesus, Amen.

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