

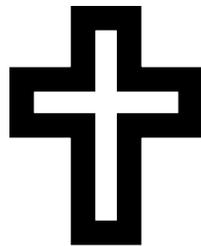
**Twelve Lessons**

*on*

***Joshua***

*by*

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## **THE PRINCIPLE OF THE WORD OF GOD – LESSON 1**

### **Joshua 1:1-18**

**Introduction:** Joshua is a book about the spiritual man while Judges is a book about the carnal man. Joshua speaks of spiritual victories while Judges speaks of spiritual defeats. Joshua is a book of revival while Judges is a book of rebellion. Joshua is comparable to the book of Ephesians and the Seventh Church, Philadelphia. There are 24 chapters in Joshua, the number of the priesthood.

1. Joshua – Old Testament name for Jesus.
2. Canaan – Type of the Spirit-filled, Christ-controlled life. Joshua in Canaan is a type of a man walking in the perfect will of God or the perfect word of God. The word and the will of God are never separated.
3. Canaan – God’s goal for His People. God’s goal for the Believer is to be in the perfect will of God but this will never be accomplished apart from the perfect word of God. The best life is not the “saved life” but the “surrendered saved life.”
4. God gave Israel three things: The land, the law, and the Lord. These were inseparable and are a picture of the physical word, the written word, and the living word.
5. “To be filled with the Spirit is to be filled with the Word.”
  - a. Eph. 5:18-19 – *“And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.”*
  - b. Col. 3:16 – *“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.”*
  - c. John 6:63 – *“...the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.”*
6. Joshua’s Victories in Canaan depended SOLELY upon his obedience to God’s Word. God has not chosen the strongest, but those who will obey Him to get His work done. Check it out. Examine the people God has used (I Cor. 1:26).

### **Lesson Goals:**

1. To verify that God’s Word never changes.
2. To study the simplicity of God’s Word.
3. To vindicate God’s man who stands on the Word.

### **Definitions of Important Terms and/or Phrases:**

1. Schoolmaster – Gal 3:24 f the King James Version reads: "The law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster." "Schoolmaster" is a translation of paidagogos, literally, "child-leader." This paidagogos was not a teacher but a slave, to whom in wealthy families the general oversight of a boy was committed. It was his duty to accompany his charge to and from school, never to lose sight of him in public, to prevent association with objectionable companions, to inculcate moral lessons at every opportunity, etc. He was a familiar figure in the streets, and the (sour) "face of paidagogos" and "to follow one like a paidagogos" were proverbial expressions. Naturally, to the average boy the paidagogos must have represented the incorporation of everything objectionable. (International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia).
2. Meditation – The practice of reflection or contemplation. The word meditation or its verb form, to meditate, is found mainly in the Old Testament. The Hebrew words behind this concept mean "to murmur, "a murmuring," "sighing," or "moaning." This concept is reflected in Ps 1:2, where the "blessed man" meditates on God's law day and night. The psalmist also prayed that the meditation of his heart would be acceptable in God's sight (Ps 19:14). Joshua was instructed to meditate on the Book of the Law for the purpose of obeying all that was written in it (Josh 1:8). (Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary).
3. Canaan – Type – Canaan is in Scripture made the type of the heavenly land of rest and inheritance (Heb 4:1-11). We must win it only under the heavenly Joshua, Jesus the Captain of our salvation, and by faith, the victory that overcomes the world and extirpates sin, self, and Satan (1 John 4:4-5; 5:4-5). The new heaven and earth, purged of all them that offend, shall be the portion of those who, like Caleb and Joshua, have previously in faith trodden the earth occupied by the ungodly, of whom the Canaanites are the type. (Fausset's Bible Dictionary).

**I. THE UNCHANGED PRINCIPLE** – Joshua 1:1 – *“Now after the death of Moses the servant of the Lord it came to pass, that the Lord spake unto Joshua”*

### **A. God changes commanders but never changes commands.**

1. God buries His workmen but He never buries His work. (Consider Elijah-Elisha).
2. Here is introduced one of the first great principles of the Word of God.
  - a. Moses, who represents the law, can only go so far.
  - b. Joshua, a picture of the Lord Jesus in grace, can alone lead us on to the promised land of victory.
  - c. The law has served its purpose. The law was a Schoolmaster to bring us to Christ.
  - d. Exit Moses, enter Joshua. Exit the law, enter grace.
3. The best life is not the “saved life” but the “surrendered saved life.” Thank God for Moses and the “threatenings” of judgment to bring us out of Egypt but praise God for Joshua and grace that leads us into the promises of God.
4. The “saved life” of Israel never “RESTED” until it crossed the Jordan. The “saved life” lived in a tent, survived on bread and water, wandered, and bickered while the “surrendered life” built a house, ate milk, honey and grapes and settled down.

### **B. God changes conflicts but never changes commands.**

1. Vs. 5 – “...as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee”
2. Moses conquered through obedience to the Word.
3. Jesus conquered through obedience to the Word – “It is written” – Matt. 4:4,7,10
4. II Tim. 2:3 – “...good soldier” – II Tim. 4:2 – “Preach the word”

## **II. THE UNCLOUDED PRINCIPLE** – Vs. 2 – “...go over this Jordan”

### **A. Commitment to the Word** – Vs. 2 – “...go over this Jordan” – R.A. Torrey had a revival formula: “Get thoroughly right with each other, pray, and get a burden for souls, and in that order.” Getting in line with the Word of God is prerequisite to the miracle at Jericho.

1. Biggest Problem – Getting people to read and study the Word of God. The average Baptist does not even read the Word of God much less study the Word of God. At Pulpit reading rate, the Bible can be read in 70 hours and 40 minutes; the O.T. in 52 hours and 20 minutes; and the N.T. in 18 hours and 20 minutes.
  - a. They’re either glued to a TV or got their nose stuck in a secular book and wonder why they are not spirit-filled.
  - b. To “go over this Jordan” means you’ll have to say good-bye to the “wilderness life.”
  - c. Why only “survive” when you can “succeed.”
2. Why did God say “this” Jordan in Vs. 2 instead of “the” Jordan. “The” Jordan can be crossed at anytime but “This” Jordan is to be crossed NOW. Jordan is “present” NOW.

### **B. Clearness of the Word** – Vs. 2 – “...go over this Jordan”

1. Complaints; “I can’t understand the Bible.”
2. The things it is CLEAR about will be more than you can handle.

### **C. Conquering in the Word** – Vs. 3 – “Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses.”

1. Claim the promises of the Word – How can you claim those promises if you don’t “tread.” There are promises that you’ve never seen. Mountains, valleys, rivers, orchards, fields, vineyards.
2. Thousands, yea, millions have never seen God’s power because they don’t read and claim God’s promises. Vs. 4 – River, land, sea, sun. Every verse in the Bible is a river, a mountain, a vineyard or a lush valley. Promises as powerful as a river, as large as the land, as deep as the sea, as bright as the sun.

### **D. Constancy of the Word** – Vs. 4-5

1. If you’ll stand by God, He’ll definitely stand by you.
2. If you’ll go with God, He’ll definitely go with you.

## **III. THE UNCONCEDED PRINCIPLE** – Vs.7-8

### **A. Four Qualifications**

1. “Observe to do according to all that is written therein.”
2. “Turn not from it to the right hand or to the left hand.”
3. “This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth.”

### **B. Three Conditions.**

1. Speak it – “This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth.”
2. Study it – “Thou shalt meditate therein day and night.”

3. Submit to it – *“That thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein.”*
4. There is no shortcut to holiness. The greatest transactions of a man’s experience are not made in a church but behind closed doors.

**IV. THE UNPARALLELED PROMISE** – Vs. 9 – *“God is with thee.”*

**A. Four Requirements** – Have faith in God.

1. *“Be strong”*
2. *“Of good courage”*
3. *“Be not afraid”*
4. *“Neither be thou dismayed”*

**B. Final Results** – *“God is with thee.”*

**V. THE UNSWERVING PREACHER** – Vs. 10 – *“Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people.”*

**A. The Authority of the Man of God**

1. Faith is connected with authority – You can’t “believe” this Word without coming “under” its authority.
2. Your submission to your leader is connected with your submission to the Lord.

**B. The Arrangement of the Man of God**

1. Prepare “victuals” – Vs. 11 – He told them what to prepare.
2. Passing over “three days” – Vs. 11 – He told them when they were leaving.

**C. The Acknowledgment of the Man of God** – Vs. 16-18

1. Acknowledgment – Vs. 16 – “ALL” – This is not a “Family Picnic” or “Food Bar” where you pick what you want to eat and ignore the rest.
2. Awareness – Vs. 17 – One thing the people asked of Joshua – *“only the Lord thy God be with thee, as he was with Moses.”* You’d better make sure, the Preacher is filled with the Power of God.
3. Action – Vs. 18 – Rebel will be “put to death.” Protect the man of God.

**CONCLUSION** – Joshua 1:12-15

1. Canaan is conditioned on choice. Months before, the tribe of Reuben, Gad, and the half-tribe of Manasseh had chosen not to enter the Promised Land, but to stay on the other side of Jordan.
2. This is nonsense – Vs. 14 – Joshua said, you’re going to have to go to battle with us until we have conquered the land and then you can go back to the Wilderness.
  - a. Bless God, if I’m going to have to fight, anyway, I believe I’ll live under the Word of God!
  - b. Years later, when the enemy attacked Israel, their land was the first to fall.