

Demolishing Strongholds

Heroes of Faith – Part 2 (Joshua 5:13 – 6:25)

Life Church St. Louis – May 20, 2012

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Ephesians 6:12 (NIV) For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

2 Corinthians 4:4 (NIV) The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

2 Corinthians 10:4-5a (NIV) The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, ...

1. _____ yourself with God's army

Joshua 5:13-14a (NIV) Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, "Are you for us or for our enemies?" "Neither," he replied, "but as commander of the army of the LORD I have now come."

2. Believe the _____ is already won

Joshua 6:2 (NIV) Then the LORD said to Joshua, "See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands, along with its king and its fighting men."

3. Surround the stronghold with _____

Joshua 6:3-4a (NIV) March around the city once with all the armed men. Do this for six days. Have seven priests carry trumpets of rams' horns in front of the ark.

4. Release your _____ for the breakthrough

Joshua 6:20 (NIV) When the trumpets sounded, the people shouted, and at the sound of the trumpet, when the people gave a loud shout, the wall collapsed; so every man charged straight in, and they took the city.

5. Keep yourself _____ in battle

Joshua 6:18 (NIV) But keep away from the devoted things, so that you will not bring about your own destruction by taking any of them. Otherwise you will make the camp of Israel liable to destruction and bring trouble on it.

6. Rescue those _____ God

Joshua 6:25 (NIV) But Joshua spared Rahab the prostitute, with her family and all who belonged to her, because she hid the men Joshua had sent as spies to Jericho--and she lives among the Israelites to this day.

Demolishing Strongholds – Study Guide

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(Answer questions based on the message outline and verses listed)

Intro. Who is your favorite hero of faith in the Bible, other than Jesus? Why?

What can we learn from Old Testament battles that can be applied to our lives today (Ephesians 6:12)?

In what ways are unbelievers in captivity and need rescue (2 Corinthians 4:4)?

How do believers demolish strongholds today (2 Corinthians 10:4-5)?

1. What do you think the commander of the Lord's army meant when he said that he was neither for Joshua nor for Joshua's enemies (Joshua 5:13-15)?

How does the reality of God's angelic army encourage you?

2. Why did the Lord say "I have delivered Jericho into your hands" when the fortress had not yet been captured (Joshua 6:1-2)?

3. What do you think was the purpose of the Lord's detailed instructions to Joshua (Joshua 6:3-5)?

In what ways do these instructions give us insight into prayer for unbelievers?

4. What happened spiritually and naturally when the Israelites gave the loud shout (Joshua 6:6-21)?

5. What is the spiritual lesson in the instruction to keep away from the plunder (Joshua 6:18)?

6. Why was Rahab the prostitute spared from God's judgment (Joshua 6:21-25, Hebrews 11:31, Joshua 2:1-22)?

Who do you know that needs to be saved, as Rahab was? How can you cooperate with God in demolishing the strongholds in their life?