

SPIRITUAL WARFARE 7

"For the Lord Your God, He is God in heaven and on earth." Joshua 2:11

8 year old Danny burst out of Sunday School like a wild stallion yelling, "Hey dad, that story of Moses and all those people crossing the Red Sea was great!" His father looked with pride at his budding bible scholar. "Tell me about it." Danny explained, "Well, it was really cool when the Israelites escaped out of Egypt but Pharaoh's army cornered them against the Red Sea with their tanks. So Moses got on called in drone strikes and commanded the Israeli air force to bomb the Egyptians with their F-16s and artillery and to get ready for a ground assault. Then the Corp of engineers built a huge pontoon bridge to cross the Rea Sea to the Promised Land!" His father was shocked. "Is that how they taught you the story?" Danny answered, "Nah, not exactly, but if I told you what they said REALLY happened you'd never believe it!"

The hardest part of spiritual warfare is to **BELIEVE** the power of our Creator God and to **OBEY** (apply) His word especially when we don't understand what He's up to! We must learn to focus on His character and promises to the point of obedience rather than on circumstances which drive us to fear, retreat, denial, discouragement and compromise. **In what present battle are you finding it hard to believe God? Why?**

A HOOKER WITH A HEART FOR GOD For 40 years the Lord faithfully lead His people through the wilderness. He protected, prospered, guided and provided for them countless times to demonstrate His love and to prove that He alone is the only One qualified to be trusted with their lives. In preparation for their first spiritual battle in the promised land Gen. Joshua sent two spies into Jericho (1) to check out the strength of the enemy, (2) the thickness of the city wall and (3) to see if there was anyone responsive to God's grace so that He could rescue them in salvation. The Lord perfectly led them to Rahab, one of the bad girls of the bible. After all, who better to know the inside scoop of troop morale and placement, than a prostitute? She could also attest to the sturdiness of the wall since hookers' homes were built against the city wall appointed as the first to die during an attack and to keep them away from family housing near the city center. And she certainly needed salvation in a relationship with God!

(Josh 2:1-24) How would you describe Rahab's faith (8-13)? On what facts about God's character was she striving to build her small flickering faith? How does her faith compare to yours?



What made Rahab believe that Jehovah was the one true God and the city idols of her life were not? Is there a "Rahab" God has put in your life who needs to "hear" about His character? What facts about God's character do you need to build your faith for the battles you are facing?

(Josh 2:1-7; James 2:17-26) The Lord teaches that the faith of both Rahab and Abraham are powerful examples for us to follow because the reality of their faith was not simply intellectual assent but proved by their action (works). We are saved by faith alone but saving faith is never alone as it is always proved by our works! Where does Rahab act upon her faith in God? Would Jesus describe your faith as alive or dead? As you apply principles of spiritual warfare to your life, where do you need to man up (take action) putting God's truth to the test?

(Josh 2:12-21; II Pet 3:8-9; I Tim 2:1-6) How does the Lord honor Rahab's faith? Your faith? Why is God willing to put His entire move of His people to the Promised Land for one sinful prostitute?

(Heb 11:31; Matt 1:5; Luke 7:1-9) God included Rahab in His *Hall of Fame of Faith* with spiritual giants like Noah, Abraham and Moses because she acted on her faith in His character! When was the last time your faith amazed the Lord? How did Rahab's faith meet God's minimum requirements described in Hebrews 11:1, 2 and 6? Would your name be next to Rahab's in this same Hall of Fame? After all, if you are a Christ follower, you are a "saint" (I Cor 1:2; Eph 1:1; 2:9; Phil 4:21)!

ASSIGNMENT

1. Memorize Heb 12:6.
2. Put your agenda on hold for a 'Rahab'.

TAG TEAM DISCUSSION

How is your faith like Rahab's?
Where does your faith need to grow?

"Suddenly a heated exchange took place between the king and the moat contractor."

