

# Healing

## Sunday, January 2, 2022

### Day One

#### Read Joshua 1:1-2

#### Key Verses:

*“After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, it came to pass that the LORD spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses’ assistant, saying: <sup>2</sup> “Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them—the children of Israel.” – Joshua 1:1-2 (NKJV).*

#### Key Reflection:

After the death of Moses, there is a void in Israel. For over 40 years, Moses was the only leader Israel knew. Israel mourned and wept for Moses for 30 days (Deuteronomy 34:5-8). Additionally, the generation inheriting the promised land enters this promise without the previous generation (parents, grandparents, uncle, and aunts). There is healing that God provides when we take the time to grieve, even as we approach new horizons.

#### Thought:

A new year signals a transition. Yet with every change, there is a move from something prior. Take time to grieve as you seek the Lord during our fast. 2021 was the first full year in the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of our loved ones transitioned in 2021. As we enter into a new season, please take time to grieve so that God can begin and continue the healing process in you. New possibilities are among us, but we can receive them better with a healed heart.

#### Prayer:

Lord God, you are the God of all comfort and the Father of compassion. Heal my heart and help me embrace the new life you have for me. Fill the empty space that my loved ones left and bring me to a place of peace in this new year with you. This is my prayer in the name of Jesus, Amen.

#### Questions:

1. Have you taken time to grieve the transition of someone you love? If not, allow God to strengthen you in this time as you seek His face.
2. Have you asked the Lord to help heal your heart? What can you do differently this year to help you heal? A W.H.O.L.E. you is the best you.

# Obedience

## Monday, January 3, 2022

### Day Two

#### Read Joshua 1:6-7

#### Key Verses:

*"Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. <sup>7</sup> Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go."* – Joshua 1:6-7 (NKJV).

#### Key Reflection:

These are the first words that Yahweh gives to Joshua as the newly appointed leader of Israel. Joshua's success in leading God's people is predicated upon his obedience to the law of God. The Lord instructed him to obey the law of God. Obedience is the key, and there is no substitute for obeying God.

#### Thought:

God expects us to obey Him. Obedience to the Lord and his word shows a level of trust, faith, and hope in God. Obedience exhibits that you believe that God is who God says God is. Also, it shows a level of loyalty to the Lord and His plan for your life. Your obedience recognizes that He is truly Lord over your life.

#### Prayer:

Lord God, you are my Lord. I yield myself to you and your word. Forgive me for my disobedience in 2021. I desire to please you with the offering of my life. In 2022, help me to walk in obedience with you faithfully. You desire the best for me because you gave your best in Jesus Christ. This year I give you my best through my obedience to you. This is my prayer in the name of Jesus, Amen.

#### Questions:

1. In what areas of your life do you need to be more intentional in obeying God? Ask God to reveal these areas to you.
2. Is your disobedience attributed to fear, pride, or unbelief? Is it something else that you feel prevents you from obeying God?

# Worship Leads to Empowerment

## Tuesday, January 4, 2022

### Day Three

#### Read Joshua 1:8

#### Key Verses:

*"6 Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall [a]divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. 7 Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go. 8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein; for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success." – Joshua 1:6-8 (NKJV).*

#### Key Reflection:

Yahweh speaks to Joshua by commanding him to meditate on the Torah (law) day and night. To meditate is to ponder, give serious thought, and consideration to selected information, with a possible implication of speaking in low tones reviewing the material (Swanson, J., 1997, *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Hebrew (Old Testament)*, Logos Research System [online]). It involves thinking, listening, and quieting the soul to hear from God. Meditation is worship. This is the kind of worship that Yahweh requires of Joshua, and the promise is that success will follow Joshua if he puts worship to practice. These words empowered Joshua to lead God's people.

#### Thought:

Worship is more than a Sunday morning experience. It should be a daily activity that we welcome with God. The spiritual discipline of meditating on God's word is vital for success in the believer's life. In this time of meditation, God speaks and gives instruction for life. When you hear God speak through worship in the Word, it empowers you to accomplish what God requires. Worship should empower you to do the will of the Lord. Worship empowers you to be whole. This is why it is the first of our core values! Meditate on Scripture during this fast and find the empowerment to be whole!

#### Prayer:

Lord God, in this new year, I desire to worship you with my whole heart. As I worship you in spirit and in truth, reveal to me who you desire for me to be through the study of your word. I delight myself in your word, and I hope to be changed by you. As I meditate on your word, empower me to represent you and your kingdom. Make me a lover of your word as I worship you in the name of Jesus, Amen.

#### Questions:

1. Is meditating on the word of God a daily practice for you? If not, why?
2. What time of the day or evening is best for you to meditate on God's word? Try meditating on the word for 10 minutes, then gradually increase your time.

# Obedience Leads to Empowerment

## Wednesday, January 5, 2022

### Day Four

#### Read Joshua 1:8-9

#### Key Verse:

*"<sup>8</sup> This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. <sup>9</sup> Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."* – Joshua 1:8-9 (NKJV).

#### Key Reflection:

Yahweh commands Joshua to worship (meditate) and be courageous. It is through learning of God through the law, day and night, that Joshua would find comfort and courage to lead Israel. This is not a suggestion; it is a command from the Lord. As Joshua obeys the Lord, he will find strength alongside the realization that God is with him. The truth that the Lord God is with him wherever he goes empowers Joshua to lead God's people while he serves and worships the Lord.

#### Thought:

There is comfort and courage that comes with obedience to God. Your conscience is clear when you know that you have obeyed the Lord. For your obedience points to your loyalty and trust in God. When you walk in obedience, you feel confident that the God you obey will fight for you and defend you! Knowing that the omnipotent and omnipresent God is with you should empower you to fly. Obey God in 2022 and watch the Lord empower you to soar.

#### Prayer:

Lord, your word is perfect. I desire to obey you and your word. Keep your word ever before me so that I will not disobey you. I desire to please you with my life. I understand that your favor comes through obedience. Thank you for going with me as I seek to obey you and every word you speak to me. Grant me the courage to empower me to do your will. In the name of Jesus, I pray, Amen.

#### Questions:

1. Make a list of things you feel empowered to do in 2022. How can obeying God help you feel secure about you being empowered to accomplish them?
2. How does knowing that God is with you empower you to have the courage to obey God?

# Empowerment

## Thursday, January 6, 2022

### Day Five

#### Read Joshua 1:16-18

#### Key Verses:

*"<sup>16</sup>So they answered Joshua, saying, "All that you command us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go. <sup>17</sup>Just as we heeded Moses in all things, so we will heed you. Only the LORD your God be with you, as He was with Moses." – Joshua 1:16-17 (NKJV).*

#### Key Reflection:

After Yahweh spoke to Joshua, Joshua addressed the congregation of Israel, telling them all that the Lord instructed. It was a pivotal moment in the history of Israel as Joshua gave his inaugural address to the nation. The people's response was one of agreement with Joshua as they looked to their new leader. Both Joshua and the people were empowered to receive the promise from God. The agreement between the leader and the congregation fostered a culture of trust to believe in God and go fulfill God's promise. The confirming words of the congregation empowered Joshua to lead.

#### Thought:

Joshua and Israel were a leader and people in transition. However, they were on the precipice of promise as they realized that as they followed God and God's servant, they would be empowered to receive the promise. This is an example of congregational unity where the people receive God's leader and encourage this leader to be empowered to lead God's people. Let us learn from this Scripture the importance of creating a culture of trust to follow God's appointed leader.

#### Prayer:

Lord God, I pray that we as a people can move together as one. I thank you for the leader you have chosen to lead our congregation. Give him direction and encourage him to be empowered to believe you. Help me be empowered to trust that you know what you are doing in him as he leads us. Show me who I need to be to worship you and be empowered to support him as you empower me to be whole. In the name of Jesus, I pray. Amen.

#### Questions:

1. In 2022, think of what you can do to create a culture of trust within the congregation so as a people, we can be empowered too as one people to receive the promises from God?
2. Take an honest assessment of your heart and ask the Lord to reveal to you if you are in full support of the Lord's leader of your congregation. Ask the Lord how you can support your leader in 2022 to empower your leader to lead God's people?

# Empowerment

## Friday, January 7, 2022

### Day Six

#### Read Joshua 2:1-14

#### Key Verses:

*<sup>12</sup>“Now therefore, I beg you, swear to me by the LORD, since I have shown you kindness, that you also will show kindness to my father’s house, and give me a true token, <sup>13</sup>and spare my father, my mother, my brothers, my sisters, and all that they have, and deliver our lives from death.” <sup>14</sup>So the men answered her, “Our lives for yours, if none of you tell this business of ours. And it shall be, when the LORD has given us the land, that we will deal kindly and truly with you.”– Joshua 2:12-14 (NKJV)*

#### Key Reflection:

Rahab felt empowered to make a bold request to the spies to spare her life. She had heard of the awesome things that Jehovah did for Israel. She took the risk of her life because she believed in the activity of Israel’s God. Because of what she heard, she had faith to ask. By Rahab’s confession of faith in Israel’s God, she made herself an Israelite, so to speak, and casts her lot with Israel’s God, not the Canaanites’ gods. Furthermore, Rahab’s presence in the book of Joshua is a positive feature, displaying the out-workings of the Abrahamic covenant, God’s inclusive interest in all who would confess him as sovereign Lord, and his providential care for his own people (Howard, *Joshua*, Vol. 5, 1998, p. 106). Rahab’s courageous request ultimately placed her name in human history. In fact, the human lineage of Jesus Christ has come through her. One empowered belief solidified her legacy.

#### Thought:

One decision can change your life. We see it throughout human history, witnessing it in our devotional Scripture. An outcast, Rahab, who was not valued in society, chose to believe. Her faith came by hearing. It is important for us to choose to believe what God has done and what God has said. Like Rahab, we too must be empowered to make decisions rooted in faith that our God can do the impossible. God has done too much for us not to believe. Be empowered to be bold in your request to God, for this is what we are encouraged to do with Jesus Christ (Hebrews 4:14-16).

#### Prayer:

Lord, please help me make decisions in my life that show my faith in you. I have seen you do too much in my life. I believe that you are God. Let this truth empower me to use wisdom in faith for my life. If someone who does not know you can believe in you, then surely, I can. Shape my decisions in 2022 as I ask you to do the impossible in my life. In the name of Jesus, I pray, Amen.

#### Questions:

1. Do you believe?
2. What have you done to activate your faith?

# Worship

## Saturday, January 8, 2022

### Day Seven

#### Read Joshua 3:1-5 (NKJV)

#### Key Verse:

*<sup>3</sup>“and they commanded the people, saying, ‘When you see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, and the priests, the Levites, bearing it, then you shall set out from your place and go after it. <sup>4</sup>Yet there shall be a space between you and it, about two thousand cubits by measure. Do not come near it, that you may know the way by which you must go, for you have not passed this way before.’ <sup>5</sup>“And Joshua said to the people, “Sanctify yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you.” –Joshua 3:3-5 (NKJV).*

#### Key Reflection:

Before the people of Israel crossed the Jordan, they were instructed to worship. They were called to sanctify themselves. The core idea is that of “separation” from unclean or common things, that is, anything that would contaminate one’s relationship with a perfect God. Their proper preparation would have included extensive and rigorous ritual preparation, including thorough washings and abstinence from sexual relations and certain foods (Howard, *Joshua*, Vol. 5, 1998, pp. 122-123). Their consecration was their obedient worship to prepare the Lord to do the amazing.

#### Thought:

Fasting is a spiritual discipline that is a form of consecration. In this new year, we set ourselves apart to hear from God. Consider this fast as preparation for God to do the amazing. Seek God through worship and prepare yourself to see God do the impossible in your life in 2022. Refrain from things that are unproductive and worship the Lord with all of you.

#### Prayer:

Lord God, I consecrate myself during this time of the year. My desire is to please you. Create in me a heart that can receive you and your promise. Purposefully, I make myself yours and consider you the priority of my life. You are my God, and I belong to you. I pray the prayer of Jesus—sanctify by your truth, your word is truth (John 17:17) in the name of Jesus, Amen.

#### Questions:

1. What can you remove from your life to foster a more worshipful life with God?
2. In addition to food, what are you willing to give up to draw closer to God?

# Obedience

## Sunday, January 9, 2022

### Day Eight

#### Read Joshua 3:7-8

#### Key Verses:

*“And the LORD said to Joshua, “This day I will begin to exalt you in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that, as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. You shall command the priests who bear the ark of the covenant, saying, ‘When you have come to the edge of the water of the Jordan, you shall stand in the Jordan.’” – Joshua 3:7-8 (NKJV).*

#### Key Reflection:

In this text, obedience is key to the forthcoming miracle. God speaks to Joshua and promises His God’s presence, yet specific instructions and directions are necessary for Joshua’s next move (Hess, Joshua, Vol. 6, 1996, p. 111). Yes, God will exalt Joshua, but it will not happen unless Joshua obeys and properly instructs the priests. God was meticulous and serious about the things to come for Joshua, and the channel through which it would come is obedience. Joshua is the leader and beneficiary of God’s work, but it is the Lord who is in control.

#### Thought:

You may have a desire for God to do great things this year. But you must partner with God through obedience. 2022 is a new year in a pandemic, and you have not been this way before. There is an order to your life in God, and obedience is the pathway to your success. As you enter the second week of the fast, continue to obey the Lord and wait for the Lord your God to exalt you in God’s timing.

#### Pray:

Lord God, you are sovereign, and my life is in your hands. My goal is to obey you as you lead me in righteousness. Any recognition that I receive is because of you. I implore you to exalt your name through my life. Get glory out of my life as I obey your instructions as to how and when I should move forward with the plans you are giving me for this new year. Reveal to me the direction I should go. I desire to obey you, so I wait for your instruction. In the name of Jesus, I pray, Amen.

#### Questions:

1. What has the Lord instructed you to do this year? Have you done it?
2. Consider your plans for 2022 and ask God if your plans are from Him?

# Worship

## Monday, January 10, 2022

### Day Nine

#### Read Joshua 4:1-7

#### Key Verses:

*<sup>5</sup>“And Joshua said to them: “Cross over before the ark of the LORD your God into the midst of the Jordan, and each one of you take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the children of Israel, <sup>6</sup> that this may be a sign among you when your children ask in time to come, saying, ‘What do these stones mean to you?’ <sup>7</sup> Then you shall answer them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD; when it crossed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. And these stones shall be for a memorial to the children of Israel forever.”—Joshua 4:5-7 (NKJV).*

#### Key Reflection:

The 12 stones from the Jordan were meant to be a memorial, that is a structure or object intended to commemorate a person or event by preserving or evoking their memory (The Lexham Analytical Lexicon of the Hebrew Holy Bible, 2017). The memorial itself was not the object of worship, but it pointed to the God who did something great that is a catalyst for worship of that God. By means of these stones, God would remind Israel of the awesome work he did in their midst (Howard, *Joshua*, Vol. 5, 1998, p. 135).

#### Thought:

We live in an area of monuments and memorials. They all point to a former thing or person that is celebrated. In our faith, we have many memorials or symbols that should evoke a memory of God. There is no memorial in our faith that is higher than the cross of Calvary. This memorial represents how we entered into the family of God by way of Jesus Christ. He turned an emblem of shame into a memorial of grace. For this act of God, we have before us a perpetual reason to worship the Lord our God.

#### Prayer:

Lord, let me always keep the memory of your death for me in my being. For this, I have a reason to worship you always. I will tell the next generation of your awesome love for me. You gave your life so that I might live, and for this reason, I worship you. Thank you, Lord. In the name of Jesus, I pray, Amen.

#### Questions:

1. What memorials in your life provoke you to worship the Lord?
2. What place does Calvary hold in your life as you seek to worship the Lord?

# Healing

## Tuesday, January 11, 2022

### Day Ten

#### Read Joshua 5:2-8

#### Key Verses:

*7"Then Joshua circumcised their sons whom He raised up in their place; for they were uncircumcised, because they had not been circumcised on the way.<sup>8</sup> So it was, when they had finished circumcising all the people, that they stayed in their places in the camp till they were healed."* – Joshua 5:7-8 (NKJV).

#### Key Reflections:

Circumcision was a sign of the covenant between Israel and Yahweh. It was established with Abraham (Genesis 17). It served as a physical sign that Yahweh would be Israel's God. After the act of circumcision, there was a period set aside for healing (believed to be three days). It was important that the men would be healthy and healed before they approached Jericho on their conquest to possess the promise.

#### Thought:

God is compassionate, and He does not require us to run without rest. In life, particularly in your service to the Lord, there are times when you will be cut. Please know it is okay to say that you have been hurt, even if you are hurt because you chose Jesus. In fact, it is in your suffering that you identify with Him. Because the new covenant of His blood was a painful experience that brought healing to us, take time to rest in God so that the healing process of God can take place. Remember, the best you will be a healed you.

#### Prayer:

Lord God, I realize that you gave your life for me. In my covenant relationship with you, there is healing. Help me to rest in your grace and accept the truth that you have no desire for me to serve You without You. For, it is in you that I live, move, and have my being. Thank you for your rest and for restoring my soul to serve you more gladly. In the name of Jesus, I pray, Amen.

#### Questions:

1. Have you acknowledged before God the places where you hurt and have you asked God to heal you?
2. In this new year, how can you create space to rest in God so that you can be healed?

# Healing

## Wednesday, January 12, 2022

### Day Eleven

#### Read Joshua 5:2-9

#### Key Verse:

*<sup>9</sup>“Then the LORD said to Joshua, “This day I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you.” Therefore the name of the place is called Gilgal to this day.” – Joshua 5:9 (NKJV).*

#### Key Reflections:

The word Gilgal means wheel or rolling. This is the place where God removed or rolled away the reproach of Egypt. The disobedience of the previous generation (the generation of Egypt) brought about the period of wandering and death in the desert. That generation could not inherit the land. But through the obedience to the covenant, their circumcision, this judgment could be removed from the nation. Thus, Israel was now permitted to inherit the land of Canaan (Hess, *Joshua: An Introduction and Commentary*, Vol. 6, 1996).

#### Thought:

This generation of Israel is the offspring of an unbelieving generation who could not enter into the promise because of unbelief. But by their commitment and obedience to believe, God healed the nation and vowed to fight for their God. The shedding of blood by the circumcision brought forth healing to a people. It was a history that was forgiven, and now the people can move forward. No matter what your history has been to this point. If you repent and confess your sins, the Lord will roll away the pain and bring healing to your soul so that you can walk confidently into a new year.

#### Prayer:

Lord God, thank you for giving your life for me. In this new year, I lift up the sins of previous generations before you as well as my sinful history with you. In the name of Jesus, roll away the stain and stench of disbelief, doubt, unforgiveness, and stubbornness towards you. You are my God. Willingly, I accept your grace in my life and thank you that I am forgiven. Heal my heart from the hurt of history that I and my bloodline have brought upon me. Make me new in you. In the name of Jesus, I pray, Amen.

#### Questions:

1. From what in your family's history has hurt you that you feel needs healing?
2. From what in your history with God has hurt you that you feel you need healing?

# Empowerment

## Thursday, January 13, 2022

### Day Twelve

#### Read Joshua 5:10-12

#### Key Verses:

*<sup>10</sup> "Now the children of Israel camped in Gilgal, and kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month at twilight on the plains of Jericho. <sup>11</sup> And they ate of the produce of the land on the day after the Passover, unleavened bread and parched grain, on the very same day. <sup>12</sup> Then the manna ceased on the day after they had eaten the produce of the land; and the children of Israel no longer had manna, but they ate the food of the land of Canaan that year." – Joshua 5:10-12 (NKJV).*

#### Key Reflections:

The Passover commemorated God's deliverance of His people from bondage in Egypt. This remembrance was a strengthening preparation for trusting God to work in possessing the new land (MacArthur, 2005, p. 260). Significantly, God had miraculously provided food for His people in the desert, but in the new promised land, the Israelites would no longer need manna to sustain them. Starting the day after the Passover, they would be expected to eat and care for themselves and others from the bounty of the new land as it was ready for planting and harvesting.

#### Thought:

God can and does provide miracles for us even today as needed. Still, He also expects us to use our God-given talents and resources to supply for ourselves, our families and to benefit others. If our prayers have gone unanswered, perhaps God is looking for us to seek His guidance and be obedient to His will about our requests, and God will empower us to achieve them His way. Let us self-evaluate our motives and actions and look to God for wisdom to see what He would have us do—assessing why we made our requests and how they will fulfill His mission, sustain us, benefit others, and glorify God.

#### Prayer:

Father, thank you for empowering me by your Holy Spirit. Thank you for giving me a new spirit, heart, and life desiring to obey you. I choose to let go of the past. Thank you for redefining me in this new year of 2022. I seek to let your truth define me and lead me into wholeness. In Jesus' name, I pray, Amen.

#### Questions:

1. Knowing the importance of being empowered by God, what can you do in loving obedience to God to surrender to His will so He can empower you to achieve His will?
2. How is God's Spirit making you whole as you become empowered by God?

# Worship

## Friday, January 14, 2022

### Day Thirteen

#### Read Joshua 5:13-15

##### **Key Verse:**

*<sup>14</sup> So He said, "No, but as Commander of the army of the LORD I have now come." And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped, and said to Him, "What does my Lord say to His servant?" <sup>15</sup> Then the Commander of the LORD's army said to Joshua, "Take your sandal off your foot, for the place where you stand is holy." And Joshua did so." Joshua 5:14-15 (NKJV).*

##### **Key Reflection:**

Joshua recognizes that he was standing before God and assumed a posture of worship before Him. In so doing, God enables Joshua to understand that Israel's army is only an extension of God's army. This is God's war, and His Son, the pre-incarnate Christ, is the Angel/commander of His Father's army, and Joshua acknowledges that he is God's servant leader over Israel. Much like Moses' commission at the burning bush. As we take the proper posture and enter genuine worship of God, He is pleased with our reverence of Him and fights our battles.

##### **Thought:**

"After attending church with his father one Sunday morning, before getting into bed that evening a little boy knelt at his bedside and prayed, "Dear God, we had a good time at church today, but I wish you had been there" (Green, 1989, p. 407). If we neglect to worship God daily nor seek His presence while in service on Sunday, are we committed, devoted, and sincere in our worship? Shouldn't God expect the same or better dependability from us that we give to our jobs, attention to our cars, our homes, reliability to our friends, and faithfulness to our families? Just maybe the issue is we see our reverence of God as volunteers thinking God should take what we offer (1 Corinth. 9), rather than loving thankful adopted children or faithful stewards because of His love, compassion, and favor of us (Matt. 25:21)?

##### **Prayer:**

Dear Lord, help me get my priorities right – devote myself to the worship of You and be in a close relationship with you declaring your glory whatever my circumstances, Amen.

##### **Question:**

1. Are you spending the first fruits of your time worshiping God? Why or why not?
2. What needs to happen in you to render to God what is due Him?

# Obedience

## Saturday, January 15, 2022

### Day Fourteen

#### Read Joshua 6:1-5

#### Key Verses:

*<sup>2</sup>“And the LORD said to Joshua: “See! I have given Jericho into your hand, its king, and the mighty men of valor. <sup>3</sup>You shall march around the city, all you men of war; you shall go all around the city once. This you shall do six days. <sup>4</sup>And seven priests shall bear seven trumpets of rams’ horns before the ark. But the seventh day, you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets. <sup>5</sup>It shall come to pass, when they make a long blast with the ram’s horn, and when you hear the sound of the trumpet, that all the people shall shout with a great shout; then the wall of the city will fall down flat. And the people shall go up every man straight before him.” – Joshua 6:3-5 (NKJV).*

#### Key Reflections:

In pondering today’s Scripture, it was revealed to me that humble obedience to God makes for unexplainable miracles, but God! For when we are obedient to God’s instruction and will, the unimaginable is proven to be obtainable through God. When our faith through actions is in obedience to God’s principles, He baffles the strong with the use of simple things.

#### Thought:

There are many reasons why we may obey someone, including God. What are yours? Fear? Obeying because you have to? Reward? Obeying because you get something out of it? Love and Obeying because you love Christ and through obedience, to Him, you love your fellow man? (Green, 1989, p. 253). Let’s remember obedience to God pleases God and helps keep us abiding in Christ.

#### Prayer:

Heavenly Father, Please help me obey you and adapt to the Holy Spirit’s guidance. Motivate me to follow where you lead and give me a heart of flesh to obey you and love and encourage all your people. In Jesus name, I pray, Amen.

#### Questions:

1. In what ways are you surrendering to God and being obedient to His will for your life in this new year of 2022?
2. Is your obedience to God predicated on how much He does for you?

# Healing

## Sunday, January 16, 2022

### Day Fifteen

#### Read Joshua 6:22-25

#### Key Verses:

*<sup>22</sup> "But Joshua had said to the two men who had spied out the country, "Go into the harlot's house, and from there bring out the woman and all that she has, as you swore to her." <sup>23</sup> And the young men who had been spies went in and brought out Rahab, her father, her mother, her brothers, and all that she had. So they brought out all her relatives and left them outside the camp of Israel. <sup>25</sup> And Joshua spared Rahab the harlot, her father's household, and all that she had. So she dwells in Israel to this day, because she hid the messengers whom Joshua sent to spy out Jericho." – Joshua 6:22-23, 25, (NKJV).*

#### Key Reflection:

Healing can come through loving obedience to God. Watch God work; the Israelite spies promised Rahab and her family's safety for hiding them (Joshua 2:12-21). Yet, God in His infinite mercy saw fit for Joshua to send the two spies to not only save Rahab and her family's lives but safely escort them out of Jericho. Thereby Joshua honored the spies' promise to Rahab and told the people that Rahab and her family were to live and be united with them, the people of God (Joshua 6:25). Further, it is revealed that God not only saved but elevated Rahab as she is traced in Christ's genealogy (Matt.1:5).

#### Thought:

By His sovereign grace, God can bring good out of our failures and even out of our sins. J. Stuart Holden tells of an old Scottish mansion close to where he had his little summer home. The walls of one room were filled with sketches made by distinguished artists. The practice began after a pitcher of soda water was accidentally spilled on a freshly decorated wall and left an unsightly stain. At the time, a noted artist, Lord Landseer, was a guest in the house. One day when the family went out to the moors, he stayed behind. With a few masterful strokes of a piece of charcoal, that ugly spot became the outline of a beautiful waterfall bordered by trees and wildlife. He turned that disfigured wall into one of his most successful depictions of Highland life (Swindoll, *The Quest For Character, Multnomah*, p. 49). If we let Him God can remold our marred selves into perfected pots.

#### Prayer:

"Heal me, Lord, and I will be healed; save me and I will be saved, for you are the one I praise." In Jesus' name, I pray, Amen.

#### Questions:

1. In what area of your life do you need healing? Are you ready to trust God with it?

# Obedience

## Monday, January 17, 2022

### Day Sixteen

#### Read Joshua 7:22-26

#### Key Verses:

*<sup>24</sup> Then Joshua, and all Israel with him, took Achan the son of Zerah, the silver, the garment, the wedge of gold, his sons, his daughters, his oxen, his donkeys, his sheep, his tent, and all that he had, and they brought them to the Valley of Achor. <sup>25</sup> And Joshua said, "Why have you troubled us? The LORD will trouble you this day." So all Israel stoned him with stones; and they burned them with fire after they had stoned them with stones. <sup>26</sup> Then they raised over him a great heap of stones, still there to this day. So the LORD turned from the fierceness of His anger. Therefore the name of that place has been called the Valley of Achor to this day." – Joshua 7:24-26 (NKJV).*

#### Key Reflections:

When we sin against God, disobey His word, and do not genuinely and sincerely repent of our sins, it can bring the anger of God upon us and can also be disastrous for us, as well as our family and others. Please read 1 Samuel 15:22-23 for further clarity and understanding of Joshua 7:22-26 to see the consequences of disobeying God!

#### Thought:

"When God puts a period, do not change to a question mark!" (Green, 1989, p. 253). In other words, when you know that you know what you are doing is not of God, stop. As a child of God, we are spending time with God; we know His voice. Don't rationalize to your own will and your undoing; but, stop, listen, and obey for His glory and your benefit. We might be helping more than ourselves!

#### Prayer:

Dear Abba Father, please make me a dutiful child of yours. Let me listen and obey your instructions and do whatever you ask. I don't desire to provoke your judgment with disobedience. Aid me to remember that "You are omniscient, omnipresent, and omnipotent" and judge all. In Jesus' name, I pray, Amen.

#### Question:

1. Do you need to ask God to help you avoid doing what you know is not in His will for your life?
2. What can you do to increase your intimate relationship with God to keep you grounded in His word, His will, and His way?

# Worship

## Tuesday, January 18, 2022

### Day Seventeen

#### Read Joshua 8:30-35

#### Key Verses:

<sup>30</sup> Now Joshua built an altar to the LORD God of Israel in Mount Ebal, <sup>31</sup> as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded the children of Israel, as it is written in the Book of the Law of Moses: "an altar of whole stones over which no man has wielded an iron tool." And they offered on it burnt offerings to the LORD, and sacrificed peace offerings. <sup>32</sup> And there, in the presence of the children of Israel, he wrote on the stones a copy of the law of Moses, which he had written. <sup>33</sup> Then all Israel, with their elders and officers and judges, stood on either side of the ark before the priests, the Levites, who bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD, the stranger as well as he who was born among them. Half of them were in front of Mount Gerizim and half of them in front of Mount Ebal, as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded before, that they should bless the people of Israel." – Joshua 8:30-33, (NKJV).

#### Key Reflections:

Even as we begin to reach a period of rest from trouble through faith in God, we cannot rest without adherence to God's holy law - for it is still instructive for us, the 10 Commandments, etc. Also, it becomes more beneficial as we walk in alignment with the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:1-4). So as the law was written on stones in Joshua's day, let us register them on our hearts, in our minds for use in our worship of God and our lives.

#### Thought:

"Deeply immersed in meditation during a church service, the Italian poet Dante Alighieri failed to kneel at the appropriate moment. His enemies hurried to the bishop and demanded that Dante be punished for his sacrilege. Dante defended himself by saying, 'If those who accuse me had had their eyes and minds on God, as I had, they too would have failed to notice events around them, and they most certainly would not have noticed what I was doing.'" (*Today in the Word*, March 10, 1993).

#### Prayer:

*"Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty. Everything in the heavens and on earth is yours, O Lord, and this is your kingdom. We adore you as the one who is over all things."* – 1 Chronicles 29:11, (NLV).

#### Questions:

1. What is holding you back from authentic worship and adoration of God?
2. Why do you prioritize things and others before spending time worshipping God?

**Love**  
**Wednesday, January 19, 2022**  
**Day Eighteen**

**Read Joshua 10:12-15**

**Key Verses:**

*"<sup>12</sup> Then Joshua spoke to the LORD in the day when the LORD delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel: "Sun, stand still over Gibeon; And Moon, in the Valley of Aijalon." <sup>13</sup> So the sun stood still, And the moon stopped, Till the people had revenge Upon their enemies...<sup>14</sup> And there has been no day like that, before it or after it, that the LORD heeded the voice of a man; for the LORD fought for Israel." – Joshua 10:12-13a, 14 (NKJV).*

**Key Reflection:**

When your enemies position themselves against you, threatening or tainting to throw you off purpose for God, stay in faith and prayerfully petition Him. He will strengthen you and provide you with what is needed to endure and succeed. Remember, the battle is not ours, but God's. God loves us and He is our creator – His love is unconditional!

**Thought:**

A new mother stayed with her parents for several days after the birth of her first child. One afternoon she remarked to her mother that it was surprising the baby had dark hair, since both her husband and she were fair. The grandmother said, "Well, your daddy has black hair." To which the daughter replied, "But, Mama, that doesn't matter, because I'm adopted." With an embarrassed smile, that mother said the most wonderful words her daughter had ever heard: "I always forget." All Christians are adopted children of God who are accepted by God with the same unconditional love that this mother had for her daughter." (Green, 1989, p.16).

**Prayer:**

Dear Abba Father, Thank You for loving me unconditionally through my past, in the present, and helping me to know through my experiences with You that You will love me in my future. Lord God, please help me to show that same unconditional love for others no matter what this new year of 2022. Please help me not to get weary in my love for others in Jesus' name, Amen.

**Questions:**

1. How are you thanking God for loving you unconditionally?
2. What are you doing to love others unconditionally and not conditionally?
3. Why is it essential for us to show unconditional love towards others and ourselves?

# Love (Promised Fulfilled)

## Thursday, January 20, 2022

### Day Nineteen

#### Read Joshua 21:43-45

#### Key Verses:

*“<sup>43</sup> So the LORD gave to Israel all the land of which He had sworn to give to their fathers, and they took possession of it and dwelt in it. <sup>44</sup> The LORD gave them rest all around, according to all that He had sworn to their fathers. And not a man of all their enemies stood against them; the LORD delivered all their enemies into their hand. <sup>45</sup> Not a word failed of any good thing which the LORD had spoken to the house of Israel. All came to pass.” – Joshua 21:43-45, (NKJV).*

#### Key Reflection:

Faithfully God executes His promises to unimaginable heights (v. 45). Just imagine what Shiloh, the surrounding community, and the city of Alexandria could accomplish through God as a united church working for God's purpose to fulfill His mission through the vision He has given us! My Lord, what an excellent snapshot in time that is now vivid in my mind. How about yours?

#### Thought:

“The story is told of a time when a little child in an African tribe wandered off into the tall jungle grass and could not be found, although the tribe searched all day. The next day the tribal members all held hands and walked through the grass together. This enabled them to find the child, but he had not survived due to the cold night. In her anguish and through tears, the mother cried, ‘If only we would have held hands sooner.’ It is not enough that we all share a common goal. We must all work together to accomplish it without hesitation.” (Green, 1989, p. 68). When we stand united, work together, love each other by bearing each other's burdens to the glory of God, we are blessed. That is true love and our opportunity to demonstrate “love promise fulfilled” through obedience to God.

#### Prayer:

Heavenly Father, we ask you to make us authentic lovers of you and each other through helping us to be committed and united in our learning of you, devotion in our worship to you, obedience to you, and in our work for your purpose. In Jesus' name, we pray, Amen.

#### Questions:

1. What role has God called you to perform for His purpose?
2. How are you fulfilling God's purpose and mission through the Body of Christ?
3. What ministries within Shiloh are you working? How are you using your Gifts?

# Worship

## Friday, January 21, 2022

### Day Twenty

#### Read Joshua 22:32-34

#### Key Verses:

*"<sup>32</sup> And Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest, and the rulers, returned from the children of Reuben and the children of Gad, from the land of Gilead to the land of Canaan, to the children of Israel, and brought back word to them. <sup>33</sup> So the thing pleased the children of Israel, and the children of Israel blessed God; they spoke no more of going against them in battle, to destroy the land where the children of Reuben and Gad dwelt. <sup>34</sup> The children of Reuben and the children of Gad called the altar, Witness, "For it is a witness between us that the LORD is God." – Joshua 22:32-34, (NKJV).*

#### Key Reflections:

In reflection, sometimes we perceive a wrong where there was none intended because, in our humanness, we tend to think the worst of others. But when we seek God's word to explain through submitting ourselves to the Holy Spirit, He will do His part. And we become united in understanding, (James 3:13, 17). Then we need to set a memorial and explain it to our children so that our children avoid our mistakes as in Joshua 22:32-34.

#### Thought:

God seeks and values the gifts we bring Him--gifts of praise, thanksgiving, service, and material offerings. In all such giving at the altar, we enter into the highest fellowship experiences. But the gift is acceptable to God in the measure to which the one who offers it is in fellowship with Him in character and conduct, and the test of this is in our relationships with our fellow men. We are thus charged to postpone giving to God until the right relationships are established with others. Could the neglect of this explain the barrenness of our worship? (Matt 5:24) (SermonIllustrations.com, G.C. Morgan).

#### Prayer:

El Shaddai, Almighty God, I long to worship you in total reverence. Help me be the kind of disciple who worships You out of total awesomeness and in spirit and in truth. Help me to let go and worship you freely with my entire being. In Jesus name, I pray, Amen.

#### Questions:

1. What does it mean to you to worship God in spirit and in truth?
2. Think about it, is the worship of God freeing to you? Why or why not?

# Worship Because of Love

## Saturday, January 22, 2022

### Day Twenty One

#### Read Joshua 24:14-15

#### Key Verses:

*<sup>14</sup> "Now therefore, fear the LORD, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of <sup>[a]</sup>the River and in Egypt. Serve the LORD! <sup>15</sup> And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of <sup>[b]</sup>the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD." – Joshua 24:14-15, (NKJV).*

#### Key Reflections:

In reflecting on Joshua 24:14-15, we comprehend that it is God's will that none should be lost. At every opportunity, He puts someone before us to remind us of His plan for our lives, Jesus' loving sacrifice for our sins, and the Holy Spirit's guidance and protection of us. Yet, because of the free will, He has given us, God allows us to choose to love Him. How Awesome and Amazing, what a mighty God we serve.

#### Thought:

Infantile love follows the principle: "I love because I am loved." Mature love follows the principle: "I am loved because I love." Immature love says: "I love you because I need you." Mature love says: "I need you because I love you." Erich Fromm, (Green, 1989, p.227). Worship because of love for God; is that not the best reason to worship Him?

#### Prayer:

Lord, when I think about how you have brought us through sickness, toils, and traps of the enemy, all we can do is worship you and praise you and love you because, without you, we would not live or exist. Help us to keep your words and instill them in our hearts, our minds, and our very being. In Jesus name, I pray, Amen.

#### Question:

1. Where are you on the continuum of worshipping God because of love?
2. What are your reasons for worshipping God?