

The Gift of God

We give gifts to friends and loved-ones on special occasions. But, do we know what is the most important of all gifts - the gift of God (Jn. 4:10)? Do we give the most important of all gifts - the gift of salvation (Rom. 6:23)?

The Apostle Paul wrote about the gift of God in Romans 5:12-21. We learn from this scripture that God's gift is free (v. 15), it is by grace (v. 15), it is justification (v. 16) and righteousness (v. 17), it comes at a cost (v. 18), and it is to be received (v. 17).

We must take or receive the gift that God gives. For example, God gave Canaan to the Israelites, but they had to take it (Joshua 6:2-5). God also gives salvation in Jesus, but the people have to take it (Matthew 11:28-30). A free gift is still a gift even when the one receiving it must do something in order to take possession of it.

To receive God's free gift we must hear the gospel (Ephesians 1:13), believe in Jesus (Acts 16:31), confess Jesus' name (Rom. 10:9-10), repent of our sins (Acts 2:38; 3:19), be baptized (Mark 16:16), and we must live faithfully each day (1 Corinthians 15:2). Friend, are you willing to receive God's free gift today? - *Chris Reeves*

Sentence Sermons

- The first step to training up a child in the way that he should go, is to go that way yourself.
- Small deeds done are better than great deeds planned.
- Looking ahead is a great way to keep from falling behind.
- Let God guide and he will provide.
- Do not render evil for evil.

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Sunday: 9:30 am, 10:30 am, 6 pm
Wednesday: 7 pm

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

Faith That Fell Walls

“By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they had been compassed about for seven days,” so wrote the author of Hebrews in 11:30.

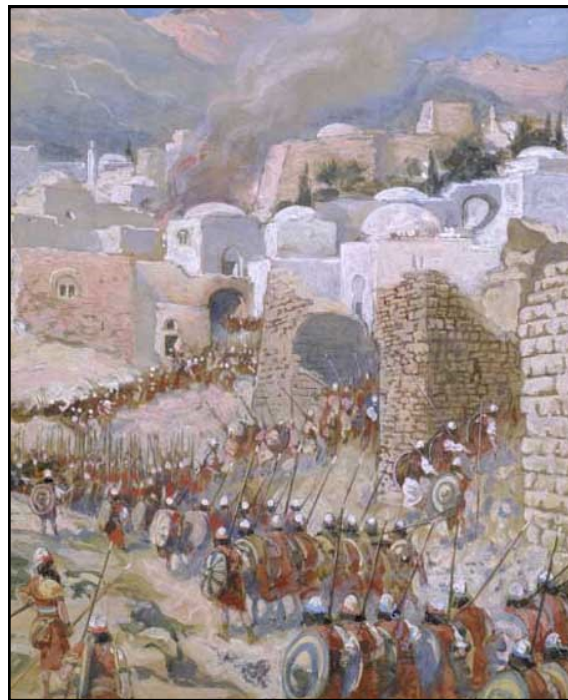
We are given Old Testament examples to learn from (Romans 15:4) and we are told about faith in the Old Testament to learn what kind of faith is necessary to be saved today from our sins (Hebrews 11). So, what can we learn from the faith that fell the walls of Jericho in Joshua 6?

When we come to Joshua 6 in our Bible, many years have passed since God gave the promise to Abraham that his descendants would come into the land of Canaan (Genesis 15:16). Also, Jericho was a large, fortified city with thick walls, and so it looked as if the Israelites would not be able to enter into the land. But, there was God and there was Israel’s faith that would fell those walls.

First, the faith that fell the walls was faith in God’s power. God had already demonstrated his power to the outsiders (Joshua 2) and to his own people in the crossing of the Jordan (Joshua 3-4). The faith that fell walls was a faith in God’s power. True faith in God is trust in his (not our) power

to save through the gospel (Romans 1:16).

Second, the faith that fell walls was faith in God’s grace. God gave Israel the city of Jericho by his gracious favor (Joshua 6:2-3, 15-16). The faith that fell walls acted in conjunction with God’s



grace. We cannot be saved without God’s grace. True faith will act in conjunction with God’s grace in order to be saved (Romans 5:2; Ephesians 2:8).

Third, the faith that fell walls was faith

in God’s way. God’s ways are not man’s ways. He told Israel to march around the city, shout, and blow the trumpets and God’s way worked (Joshua 6:3-18). The faith that fell walls followed the plain instructions of God. True faith will follow God’s instructions without question and regardless of how they may sound (Romans 10:17).

Fourth, the faith that fell walls was a faith that obeys God. God’s gift of Jericho was conditioned upon the obedience of the Israelites (Joshua 6:12-14). The faith that fell walls obeyed the instructions (conditions) of God. True faith obeys and it obeys all the instructions of God (Matthew 7:21-23; Luke 6:46).

Lastly, the faith that fell walls was faith in God’s promises. God destroyed Jericho and he kept his promise. God does not lie (Joshua 6:20-21). The faith that fell walls was rewarded. True faith will always be rewarded because God keeps his word. God’s way works (1 Peter 1:4-5; 2 Peter 1:3-4).

Friend, will you have this same kind of trusting, active, and obedient faith today in order to be saved?

- Chris Reeves -