

King James Bible Study Correspondence Course*An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries*

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**Joshua - Lesson 16
Cause for Defeat**

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Things are about to take a downward turn as we start this lesson in Joshua 9. We are going to look at the causes for defeat along with the cause for victory. The progression of down to up is how God does things in the Bible. As you study God's word, God will show you what is wrong, then He will follow up by telling you how to correct the matter, in hopes you will do what He says and thereby grow in the Lord. The Bible starts off that way from Genesis – the evening and the morning were the first day. Darkness then light. Death then life. The cross and then the empty tomb. Burial then resurrection. This is God's order in the Bible and in our lives.

Sadly, most who say that they are Christians will never change when they are shown an area in their life that is not pleasing to the Lord. They would rather get offended and haughty than change.

Joshua 9:1-6,14 *And it came to pass, when all the kings which were on this side Jordan, in the hills, and in the valleys, and in all the coasts of the great sea over against Lebanon, the Hittite, and the Amorite, the Canaanite, the Perizzite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite, heard thereof; The enemies of Israel had heard of what Joshua and his 2 million plus army had done to Jericho and Ai. They heard the reading of the Law with both the blessing and the cursing, and they were afraid. 2 That they gathered themselves together, to fight with Joshua and with Israel, with one accord. Here comes opposition. 3 And when the inhabitants of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done unto Jericho and to Ai, Joshua was not responsible for what happened to Jericho. God gave the Israelites victory at Jericho and at Ai. The world views what God did as a human accomplishment without the intervention of God. The men of Gibeon knew that unless they could be Israel's friend, they were next in line to be destroyed. So, as the world says, "When all else fails lie, cheat, deceive." And that is what they did. 4 They did work wilily, and went and made as if they had been ambassadors, and took old sacks upon their asses, and wine bottles, old, and rent, and bound up; 5 And old shoes and clouted upon their feet, and old garments upon them; and all the bread of their provision was dry and mouldy. 6 And they went to Joshua unto the camp at Gilgal, and said unto him, and to the men of Israel, We be come from a far country: now therefore make ye a league with us.*

Joshua 9:14 *And the men took of their victuals, and asked not counsel at the mouth of the Lord. 15 And Joshua made peace with them, and made a league with them, to let them live: and the princes of the congregation sware unto them.*

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Turn in your Bible to Ephesians 6:10-11 ***Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.*** That is how Jericho and Ai fell. The power, strength, and might of the Lord. It was not human strength; it was God's strength. ***11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.*** He's "wily". The devil is sneaky. The Gibeonites worked wily, operating as the devil operates. The scripture calls upon us to be aware of the devil 2 Corinthians 2:11 ***Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.***

Just a quick note here then we will go on with our lesson in Joshua.

The devil is not some creature running around in red leotards, with horns, a pitch fork, and a pointy tail. The devil is not capable of overcoming a Christian either. We have our flesh that does an adequate job of that. The devil can enter into people who do not have the Holy Spirit of God dwelling in them. In fact, those who are lost are capable of having several devils in them at one time, as in the case of the man who lived in the tombs in Gadarenes. (Mark 5:1-9)

Joshua commits a very serious error in Joshua 9:14-15 It is a three-fold mistake.

1. Self-confidence instead of God confidence. Joshua made league with the Gibeonites, the enemies that were supposed to have been destroyed. He had done the same thing earlier when he thought he could destroy Ai. He became too confident after God's victory at Jericho. Therefore, his first time into Ai, he was unable to destroy them. He had thought, "We defeated the enemy at Jericho; therefore, Ai will be no problem." They lost at Ai. Next, we see Joshua humbling himself before the Lord with his face in the dirt. He was no longer confident in his ability, might or army. In that position of humility, they re-attacked Ai and God gave them the victory. Fresh on the heels of victory at Ai, they confronted this matter of the ambassadors from a far county but not humbling themselves on their faces before God. Once again, full of self-confidence and not praying or seeking God's guidance, they make the very same mistake.

2. A neglect of prayer. They prayerfully sought the Lord at Gilgal before marching around Jericho to have God deliver that great city into their hands! They failed to pray before the first battle of Ai, only to be defeated. The second time, they did pray, and seek God, and Ai was defeated.

Here comes the devil wiling his way back into Joshua's good graces. The devil gave him some ambassadors, people garbed in old clothes, carrying some moldy bread.

It doesn't matter how the devil sets up the temptation, he is a master con-artist. What matters is whether or not you're going to pray and seek the

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Lord, or just do what **you** think is best. How many times have you heard people say things like this, "Well, I felt led..."; Well, I had peace..."; Well, all the doors were open and God did not stop me." You can make all the alibis you want, but if you're not labouring in prayer, the devil is going to trick you. He's smarter than you will ever be on your best day. He has been up to his tricks much longer than you have been alive, and he knows all the angles. You must call upon the Lord, or you will fall to his trickery.

3. The third aspect of this failure is just out-right disobedience. In the case of the battle of Ai, it was Achan, the thief, and his cover-up. In this case, it's a matter of clear disobedience to the word of God. God had said "Make no league, no agreements with those people."

Now, here is a lesson we **must** learn. The problems in our own spiritual life are not going to be new ones. They are going to be repetitions of the same problems we have faced since day one. Be honest about it. Examine your life. You are repeating the same mistakes. These are not new sins; these are the same ones, yet they approach you at different angles in different ways. Each time you commit them, think about it closely. The devil knows what areas of your life are the weakest, and he is not trying new strategies because the old ones he used in the past worked. He is using them again and again. If he can get you to sin, to wreck and ruin your testimony, then he has accomplished his goals.

The Bible speaks in Hebrews chapter 12 verse one about the sin which doth so easily beset us... *let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us.* 1 Corinthians 10:13 *There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.* Whether you are sixteen or sixty years old, your temptations are the same. They may have changed in size, color, and length, but they are still in the same area of the sin that so easily besets you.

We add to the area of defeat with our self-confidence coupled with pride. Those two are a knock-out punch, and they will continue to keep the Christian from growing, while never allowing God to conquer that sin in his or her life.

Abraham committed the sin of lying about his wife for two chapters. He wasn't committing a new sin each time, it was the same old sin he had done before, only his presentation had changed. (Genesis 12:13; Genesis 20:2)

The ole saying is, "Sin will take you farther than you want to go. It will keep you longer than you want to stay and cost you more than you want to pay." God gives all of us, saved and lost, a conscience; and when we sin, that conscience will remind us that we are doing wrong. If we continue to sin, God

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says that we can sear our conscience with a hot iron and make it hard so that the sin we did before will become easier to do again. Then when we have done it several times, our conscience will no longer bother us about that sin anymore because it has been seared. 1 Timothy 4:2 *Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;* This is exactly what has happened to the people mentioned in Romans 1:21-32.

In my conversations with addicts and drunkards, when they are sober, they tell me it started with one drink or drug, then another and another. Then they were addicted. Whatever your sin is, confess it to God, ask forgiveness, ask for His help, thank Him, and stop it today.

Self-confidence, a lack of prayer, and disobedience will be your ruin!

Simon Peter lied and said, "I don't know the Lord. Never met Him. I'm not one of His disciples." Why? Because he was surrounded by a group of Roman soldiers who weren't too fond of Jesus. Jesus later met Peter and said, "Peter, do you love me?" three times. Their relationship was restored. Peter preached on the day of Pentecost. Peter preached in Acts chapter three. Years later, with all that Bible under his belt and the Holy Spirit guiding him on his journeys serving the Lord, Peter got in a church full of Jews who were still trying to keep the law. And do you know what Peter did? He disclaimed what God showed him to be true in the house of Cornelius and started backing down on Bible truth. He was trying to fit in with the Jewish congregation because he was scared about what they might do to him. Peter didn't commit a new sin at Galatia; he committed the same sin he committed around that camp fire. You say, "Why?" Because once you sin, that same sin gets easier to do the next time. The devil will trick you into thinking you have that sin conquered in your life, but you really don't. You have deceived yourself through your self-confidence.

How about ole Samson? Wouldn't you think he had enough women trouble before he ever met Delilah? You would think that Samson would have gained some insight from his dealings with women and not fall into the same trap again. Every time Samson became interested in a girl, it messed up his life. Samson even played with sin as if it was a toy,

Judges 16:7 *And Samson said unto her, If they bind me with seven green withs that were never dried, then shall I be weak, and be as another man.*

Judges 16:11 *And he said unto her, If they bind me fast with new ropes that never were occupied, then shall I be weak, and be as another man.*

Judges 16:13 *And Delilah said unto Samson, Hitherto thou hast mocked me, and told me lies: tell me wherewith thou mightest be bound. And he said unto her, If thou weavest the seven locks of my head with the web.* Until that toy turned into a poison serpent and bit him. (Judges 16:17-20)

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In the description of Satan in the book of Job the Bible warns us about playing with evil (Job 41:5a).

Samson's self-confidence, pride, and ignorance of his sin led to some serious reaping of consequences at the end of his life. Sin had blinded his eyes to the lures of Delilah. Eventually the Philistines put out his eyes and destroyed him, along with his self-confidence, by making sport of him.

That is why we plead with teenagers - Do not ever put a drop of alcohol in your mouth. Do not ever touch a girl inappropriately. Do not ever look at pornography. Do not ever take drugs. Do not ever try sin because the first time you try it, it might not hurt, and you will try it again. But eventually it will hurt.

In high school, we used to play a game with the so-called cool kids where we held our hand over a lighter to see how long we could hold it there. If you pulled away too quickly, you were considered a whimp. So kids would end up with 3 degree burns in the palm of their hand just to fit in and not be labeled a whimp by the so-called cool kids. When I think of all the stupid stunts I tried when I was younger and didn't end up getting killed or maimed, I thank God He recused me. I grew up in a time where if I told a lie, stole, or cheated on a test, my father or mother would tan my hide. It is sad that most parents either do not care or their parents taught them that it was harmful to a child's psyche to spank. Those spankings reminded me later in life that doing sin brings consequences.

Most of you are no longer kids, and you have committed the same sins that never bothered you - until now. That is a good sign. Maybe God is getting through to you after all these years. But even if you are not convicted about sin, you know you should be. Why not stop and see how great it is to live your life pleasing the Lord.

What is the sin that so easily besets you? Lying, cheating, drinking alcohol, taking drugs, gossiping, holding a grudge, not witnessing, fornication, adultery, not going to church, looking at the opposite sex with lust, greed, not tithing, bad temper, prejudice, anger, stealing? James 4:17 *Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.*

If your heart has been hardened, by now you may have convinced yourself that the above list is not sin; however, all these and more are commanded by the Lord, whether they are things we should do or things we should not do.

God help us not to be self-confident, but God confident, not to be disobedient to His word, but to be 100% obedient to all the word of God. God help us to never neglect prayer. God help us to recognize that we tend to repeat old failures. God help us every day to obey and to please you, Lord.

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Joshua - Lesson 16**Cause for Defeat**

Name _____

(*) if asterisk is shown in question, scripture is required along with an answer in your own words.

1. Why do we tend to do the same sins over and over again, even when we know they are wrong?
2. Who is the professional con-artist in the life of every Christian?
3. What were the sins that finally led Samson to his death? *
4. Will there ever come a point in our lives that sin will not bother us when we do it?
5. Who wants you to wreck and ruin your testimony?
6. What were the mistakes that Joshua made as a leader of the Children of Israel?
7. Why can't a Christian be possessed by a devil? *
8. Can a lost person be possessed by many devils? *

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9. What was the purpose of this lesson?
10. Explain the progression of down to up. *
11. Why is it so important not to try sins?
12. What happens to your conscience when it has been seared with a hot iron? *
13. When you compare James 1:14-15 to 1 Corinthians 10:13, what would be the best route of freedom?
14. Meditate on Jeremiah 17:9 with Genesis 6:5, and then explain how you will avoid that sin that so easily besets you the next time. (use the back of this paper to explain your answer

True/false

- Our flesh can put us in bondage to sin.
- It is OK to lie if it promotes the work of God
- We must warn the wicked even if it causes us to be an outcast or labeled as a Jesus Freak.



Scripture Memorization; (write these on the back on the sheet,
Hebrews 12:1; 1 Corinthians 10:13; 2 Corinthians 2:11
Must be in KJV)

any questions?