

King James Bible Study Correspondence Course

An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries

5311 Windridge lane ~ Lockhart, Florida 32810 ~ USA

Joshua - Lesson 6 affect your life

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Read Joshua 1:7-11

God calls us here as we have seen in previous lessons where Joshua and the people that are with him to observe His word to do it by faith. Without observance, obedience, submission there can be no prosperity, no success no enjoyment of the promised blessings.

It will be well for us to reiterate the position of being saved and spiritually minded. Is there a difference? YES a great difference!

We have often heard people use the open door shut door doctrine in their explanations of God's will. Statements like: "*Well if God does not want me to buy that car, He will close the door*" This type of belief is a slap in God's face. That is why the Lord said, we are to observe to do according to all that is written in my book. God has written a book that He wants us to meditate upon day and night a book that will instruct us how to make proper decisions, so as not to turn to far to the right or left. God does not want us to follow our hearts or our gut. (Jeremiah 17:9) *The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?* (Proverbs 3:5) *Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.* (Proverbs 14:12) *There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.* Read what Paul the Apostle said (Romans 7:24) *O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?* (Philippians 3:3-4) *For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh. 4 Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more:* Here is a man that penned a third of our New Testament, who suffered for the cross of Christ and eventually was martyred for his Christian beliefs.

Proper way to meditate upon God's word is as follows: God did not just say *meditate*; He said *meditate therein*. Take the verse through the book to meditate upon. God said meditate in the word! Take a verse, compare it to another verse; compare those two to another verse; compare those three to yet another verse and if you find a place where your idea does not match the scripture, you have a wrong idea! Even if you have peace about it!

Often when speaking with the men at the Rescue Mission, they tell me that they do not think there is anything wrong with drinking, cussing, lying, fornicating, stealing because they have peace about it. Even after I show them in the Bible that these things displease God, their response is something like, "*well the Lord understands me, He knows I still love Him.*"

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There is nothing in the Bible about Peter being troubled the first or second time he denied the Lord. The Bible tells us each time we deny His commandments it is like taking a hot iron to our conscience. (1Timothy 4:2)

God is holy, right, just, pure, true, in order to stay in a right relationship with Him I have to stay in God's word my thoughts regarding God's word have to be within the confines of God's word.

Joshua 1:9 *Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.* This is a command, Verse 7 be strong, be very courageous; then verse 8 says, *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* (Now look)...*to do according to all that is written therein:* Do you see that? If my use of a verse is not in accord with the whole, I am misusing the verse. Do you see how that is laid out? God wants you to take His word; meditate on His word, so that what you learn matches the whole totality of what God has revealed. Why are people arguing about whether homosexuality is right or ordination of women or divorce and remarriage? Because somebody has a verse but they are using that verse outside the scope of the total revelation of the scriptures. How does the verse relate to the whole?

Pieces of scripture: *Judas went out and hanged himself...Go, and do thou likewise.. that thou doest do quickly. the Lord be with thee.* These quotes are in the Bible But you cannot pull something out of God's word to support a doctrine you have already decided upon.

Let me tell you another way this factors in. Not only do I need the scripture to keep me from doing wrong, I need the scripture to provoke me to do right.

A very well-known preacher once said, "I do not care what the Bible says, God told me this is what you are to believe"

But if the final authority in your life is not the scripture, *it's God speaking to you* – God always says what you want Him to. That is the thing about the Bible I just cannot think the thoughts I want to think and then sign them with God's name. "Well, you know the Bible says *whatsoever ye ask in faith believing...* We would not jump off the Brooklyn Bridge quoting that verse, why do we use it in our Christian life? The Holy Spirit was not given to you to gratify your sensual desires; and the fact that you feel right about it or have peace about it just shows the grip your old man still has on you, he has convinced you he is God. That is why we must search the scriptures.

Peter wrote, about what happened on the mount of transfiguration that they heard the voice of Almighty God from heaven – but now (2 Peter 1:19) *We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day*

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star arise in your hearts: Audible voice? I need to check it to the scripture to make sure I understand exactly what God said.

Here are three things that ought to affect our lives and we need all three.

1. 1 Thessalonians 2:13 *For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye have heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.* He said if I will believe the word of God, the word of God will have an effect upon my life. If we believe the Bible, it's going to move me, change me, alter me. God's word works effectually in them that believe!

Do you know what Jesus called the ministry of the word? He called it meat to eat. You know what the word of God is called? It is called bread. Break thou the bread of life... We need men in leadership positions not entertainers slapping us on the forehead, waving their coat at us, or blowing on us but feeding us, we cannot win spiritual battles on side-show performances. We need food God's word is the only thing that is going to change me.

2. James 5:16 *Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.* Go to any church on a Sunday or Wednesday night and you will get 40 requests from people who have physical ailments before anybody opens their mouth and asks to be healed of a spiritual defect or problem in their life. Why? We are carnally minded. We all want to feel good while we are disobeying God's word. How about getting serious about praying for our spiritual condition as we do our physical condition?

The Bible says, *The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.* Fervent prayer will have an effect upon your life. The prayer without the word of God is limited. God said two things here. You need my word – my word changed your life. My word will affect your life. Prayer will change your life. Prayer will affect your life. If you are praying without the word, you can pray yourself off the right path. If you're studying the Bible without prayer, you can study yourself off the right path. We need both study and prayer the two balance each other.

3. Ephesians 4:8,12-16 *Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.* The Lord Jesus Christ gave gifts to members of His body – that is the context. Verse 12. *For the perfecting of the saints...* None of us is yet perfected ...*for the work of the ministry* (All of us still needs some work.) *for the edifying of the body of Christ: 13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ: 14 That we henceforth be*

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no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; That is doctrine, you are studying, teaching, hearing, learning – but you're getting off the track. *15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: 16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.* Here is what happens. You have to be humble or you cannot get into Canaan. You cannot be proud and be spiritually minded

Albert loves the word of God, he has studied searching the scriptures and has come to the conclusion that the church will have to go through half of the tribulation. He has the verses to prove it too. Chris is not much in the Bible but he really loves the Lord and has been praying ten, twelve, fifteen hours a day. During his prayer time, he thinks God spoke to his heart saying *"I am going to reveal a new truth to you."* Chris meets Albert at church and Albert says, "Hey Chris, let me show you something I found in the Bible." Both get excited about hearing from God and learning something new from God's word. As Chris and Albert share their new found revelation with others, they begin to receive negative responses. Instead of Chris and Albert responding to the multitude of counsel, they get upset and withdraw into their own spiritual pride. (Proverbs 11:14) But if they both really love the Lord, they say, *"thank God for the effectual working of the body in my life."* Thank God for the ministry of my brothers and sisters to keep me in my emotion, enthusiasm, and imperfection from getting off track while I am studying the Bible. Sure glad there are people in the church to steer me away from that false doctrine of a mid-tribulation rapture. Thank you church, we appreciate it.

There are living rooms all over America filled with men & women who love the Bible, love to pray. But they are so proud, so self-righteous that they refuse to be effected by the fellowship of the saints. *"Nobody's telling me – I'm right!"*

Three things God wants for you to understand His word.

- I want my word to be your study and your meditation; it will affect your life
- I want fervent prayer to be your practice; it will affect your life
- I want the constant fellowship of the saints to be your practice and your method of living because it will affect your life.

Those three will serve as a check and a balance against one another to keep you from straying into an extreme non biblical doctrine.

notes

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affect your life

Name _____

1. What is the proper way to meditate on God's word?
2. Explain James 5:16
3. Explain how James 1:6 can be misinterpreted.
4. Why is it important to go to Church?
5. Why do most people who say they love God enjoy being entertained?
6. How can a person cuss, steal, or fornicate and still believe they are in the will of God?
7. What did Peter say about the audible voice of God?
8. What happens to you conscience each time you disobey God's word?
9. What did Jesus call the ministry of His word?

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10. What is the word of God called?

11. What are the three things God wants for you to understand His word?
 - a.

 - b.

 - c.

12. Why is it so important for us to follow these three steps in understanding God's word?

13. If you think God has revealed some new doctrine to you, what should you do?

True/false

- The belief of a mid-tribulation rapture is incorrect.
- Search the scriptures and pray are the check and balances of learning what God is trying to teach us.
- You cannot trust dreams, gut feelings or visions.



Scripture Memorization; (write these on the back on the sheet, Must be in KJV) James 5:16; Proverbs 14:12; Proverbs 3:5

any questions?