

Faith and the Walls of Jericho

Ponder: Military strategy and faith

Scripture: “By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they were encircled for seven days” (Heb. 11:30)

An old song says, “Joshua fought the battle of Jericho, and the walls came tumblin’ down.”

Well, not exactly! Read the inspired text from the book of Joshua and you’ll see that Joshua and the Israelites didn’t engage in combat with the people of Jericho. You remember the account, don’t you? God told His people to march around the city once each day for six days, then seven times on the seventh day. Upon completion of that 13th circuit, the priests were to blow their trumpets and the people were to shout. When they did, God brought the walls down.

Standard practice in ancient times was to surround a city, besiege it, and starve the inhabitants into submission. Why would anyone in his right mind think that they could just march around it for a week, blow the trumpets and shout, and the walls would fall flat so they could go in and take the city? Submit that plan to the Joint Chiefs at the Pentagon; let me know what they say (or how hard they laugh).

Joshua and the Israelites trusted God enough to obey Him even though human wisdom would say “It will never work!” Their ancestors had splattered lamb’s blood on the door to avoid a deadly plague, and had walked between walls of water that appeared ready to engulf them. Unfortunately that generation lost faith when ten of twelve spies discouraged them. But this new generation, at least for the present, trusted God and obeyed him.

The Lord hasn’t told us to march around a city or splatter blood on our door. But walking by faith still requires us to set aside human wisdom. “What good will baptism do?” None whatsoever according to worldly thinking. “That mega-church is growing! Why can’t we worship like they do?” We not only can, we should, if we’re trusting in ourselves.

Question: Will you conform to human wisdom, or will you trust God and obey His word?

Song: “Faith is the Victory”

Prayer: Almighty God, You have proven Yourself worthy of our absolute trust and obedience. Forgive our foolishness when we stray. Restore a right spirit within us we pray, in Jesus’ name, Amen.