

## **GET ON YOUR FEET!**

After two great victories over the flooded Jordan River and Fort Jericho, Joshua and the Israelites suffered a devastating defeat at Ai. They were so confident of their military evaluation of Ai that they sent an Army of 3000.

Ai was a demoralizing defeat for Joshua and his leadership. The Bible records that they fell on their faces before the Ark of the Covenant with dust upon their heads appealing to God in prayer for some explanation for such a defeat (Josh.7:6-9).

These words from the Lord came to Joshua, “Rise up (qum/ kal impv)! Why is it that you have fallen on your face?” (Josh.7:6-97:10)

We will examine our lesson text by the following four homiletical points.

- Stand (Josh.7:6-97:10) Command to change thinking
- Sin (Josh.7:6-97:11-12) Chastisement (Josh.6:18) [be specific with confession] (1 John 1:9)
- Stand (Josh.7:6-97:13) Command to correct sin-discipline problem
- Search (Josh.7:6-97:14-15) Chain of command down the ranks

Note that Joshua was commanded twice to GET ON HIS FEET while lying on his face (Josh.7:10, 13).

- The first command was to GET ON HIS FEET and deal with the sin-discipline problem hindering future victories (Josh.7:10-13).
- The second command to GET ON HIS FEET was to consecrate the Israelites and to deal with the person or persons violating the war ban of Josh.6:18 (Josh.7:13-15).

**This lesson will study SEVEN aspects of the importance of Joshua and the elders getting off their faces and GETTING ON THEIR FEET to resolve the sin-discipline problem.**

### **1. When God told Joshua to get on his feet, what was he doing? (Josh.7:6-9)**

You might ask, “What’s wrong with praying?” The answer would be nothing is wrong with praying but the appeal and the content of the prayer had been covered and heard (1 John 5:15). What spiritual purpose would remaining on his face in prayer serve?

But Joshua needs an explanation for the defeat (James 1:5-8/ lack wisdom). What he doesn’t realize is that he has the doctrinal answer in him (Josh.6:18). But because of old man subjective thinking, he is unable to think it through doctrinally. To remain on your face without resolution, amounts to old man dysfunctional thinking.

Joshua’s prayer also reminds us of the danger of the false assumption principle. Do you recall Joshua’s false assumption recorded in Josh.7:6-9?

### **2. We are reminded that God answers prayer according to His will, in His way, and at His time.**

“And this is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.” (1 John 5:14-15) What spiritual purpose would Joshua gain from staying on his face when it creates only more questions and frustrations (Matt.6:27)?

**3. Joshua correctly believed God caused the defeat at Ai. His struggle was with “why?”**

**Principle:** God cannot act against His essence. This is a common mistake made by believers that leads to blaming.

God had promised Joshua “I will not fail you or forsake you.” (Josh.1:5; Heb.13:5) God is immutable and truthful regarding His promises to us (Titus 1:2; Heb.13:8). This has not changed –“If we are faithless, He will remain faithful.” (2 Tim.2:13; 1 Cor.1:9)

**Principle:** There is always a positive purpose in the action of God in the life of believers (Rom.8:28)

**4. For Joshua to remain on his face without a doctrinal resolution, is old man dysfunctional thinking. Many believers get stuck in this unhealthy place for months and even years.**

Since Joshua believes this defeat is a God thing, it will be important for him to think objectively towards the essence of God and CBD. In order to do this, he must get on his feet and apply faith cycle to the truth of God’s word (1 Cor.10:13).

**5. The defeat at Ai wasn’t due to sin in the life of Joshua or the elders but somewhere down the ranks, somewhere within the 3000 soldiers that fought against Ai**

This lesson teaches us that God acts in righteousness and justice. However this can sometimes appear as God working against us or is not answering our prayer.

Even when God disciplines us, He is working with a positive purpose toward the believer (Heb.12:5-11).

**6. The command was for Joshua as supreme commander to get on his feet and start new man thinking from general categories to specific categories of bible doctrine.**

- General – War with Ai, defeat when promised victory, and category of suffering.
- Specific – divine discipline, sin, violation of Josh.6:18 ban. Did the ban have a divine discipline clause?

“All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.” (2 Tim.3:16-17)

**7. At this point, God intervened to teach Joshua spiritual leadership skills for working through a crisis, doctrinally and through the faith cycle (Josh.7:10-15). At what point? (Don’t go to sleep on me!)**

We will follow the Lord instructions on five spiritual leadership skills given to Joshua (Josh.7:10).

- **Disobedience** (Josh.7:11) Think down the chain of command for the reason of defeat
- **Discipline** (Josh.7:12) Think the correct category of suffering
- **Devotion** (Josh.7:13) Think of the importance of relationship with The Holy God (concentrate to consecrate)
- **Discovery** (Josh.7:14) Think how to treat everyone as innocent while proving someone guilty
- **Destroy** (Josh.7:15) Think the judgment side of justice of God – **getting on you feet** can involve some tough decisions and many difficult responsibilities.

Joshua must think and act as God’s appointed leader of the theocracy. If Joshua fails to honor the Word of God regarding dealing with the violation of the ban, he will perpetuate divine discipline and defeat upon the priest-nation (Josh.7:15)