

Entering

Deuteronomy 8 ...go in and possess the land which the LORD has given you.

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Joshua 6:1-5 • Entering the Promised Land

Joshua 3:14-17 — Israel's miraculous crossing through the Jordan River began when the priests carried the Ark of God on their shoulders, took the first step and stood in the water. The miraculous always begins with that first step of obedience!

Joshua 5:9-12 — Before Israel went to war they had to renew the Covenant through circumcision. We can also renew our covenant with God by “circumcising the flesh nature,” those areas that may have become a distraction in our devotion to Him.

Important note: *Although God has called us to peace, it is only obtained through victory in the Spirit. The Hebrew word, “Shalom,” clearly states that “peace comes when you destroy the authority that establishes chaos.”* (Scan QR code)



Israel possessed the Promised Land by *dispossessing* their enemies, beginning with the fortified city, Jericho. In the same way, we possess God's Promises by dispossessing the enemies of sin, fear, unbelief, rebellion, anxiety, etc. (2 Corinthians 10:3-5)



The following are a few elements of spiritual warfare. (Scan QR code on the Armor of God)

1. **Put on God's battle gear and be clothed in our spiritual armor.** (Ephesians 6:10-18) The characteristics are:
 - A. The belt of TRUTH is a correct perception of reality.
 - B. The breastplate of RIGHTEOUSNESS represents our right behavior from a right character.
 - C. With the (Roman military) shoes of PEACE we stand firm in the battle and have peace in God's outcome.
 - D. The shield of FAITH defends us against the devil's flaming arrows.
 - E. We can change our thoughts and trust in God's deliverance with the helmet of SALVATION.
 - F. Using the sword of the SPIRIT, the “Rhema” Word of God, we can conquer all the power of the enemy!

2. **Discern the source.** It may appear at times that people are our enemy as they project their antagonism against us. We must understand that our real (invisible) enemy is manipulating things in the background. Time to use the “belt of truth!”
 - Ephesians 6:12 *For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.*
3. **Overcome evil with good.** Romans 12:14,17-21 instructs us to overcome evil such as hurts, offenses, etc.) with an opposite action. Instead of reacting, ask the Spirit to develop the ability to respond and act in a Biblical manner (win/win).
 - Matthew 5:43-48 reveals Jesus’ teaching on this subject.
4. **Keep short accounts with God and with people.** (Matthew 5:23-25)
 - Acts 24:16 *In view of this, I also do my best and strive always to have a clear conscience before God and before men.*
5. **Turn to the LORD.** When we experience challenges of any kind, *immediately* turn to the Lord. Scripture abounds in illustrations of God’s people overcoming aggressive and devastating situations in a way dramatically different than the way of the world.
 - When Lot left Abraham and chose the better land, God reaffirmed His promise to Abraham and told him to lift up his eyes and walk the Land of Promise! (Genesis 13:8-18)
 - When David returned to Ziklag, he found it utterly devastated. As his men were about to stone him out of deep discouragement and anger, David encouraged himself in the Lord. (1 Samuel 30:1-6)
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:18 *...IN everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. We are not necessarily asked to give thanks FOR but IN every difficulty.*

*LORD, develop within us the character of a victorious warrior,
prepared and ready for Kingdom work. Cleanse us from our own ways.
Fill us with Your Holy Spirit and make this a year of miraculous accomplishments!
In Your Name we pray! Amen*

