

Victorious Life Believe God's Promises

Joshua 2:8-11

June 8, 2025

Rev Joe Sanders

First Baptist Church Coshocton, Ohio

At some point in our lives we have all made a deal with God. We stated that we would do something if God would answer a specific prayer. But who do we think we are? What leverage do we have in any negotiation with God? The creator of the heavens and the earth holds all the cards. We're the creation trying to strike a deal with the creator? That's absurd. The One who spoke and there was life, the stars, the animals and everything including the angels has no need that we can meet. We have nothing that God needs. When God wanted something God created it.

The victorious life is being strong and courageous by speaking God's Word, calling God's name, and believing in God's promises. Today we are looking at Joshua chapter two and a woman named Rahab. Joshua has been commanded by God to lead the people, the Israelites into the promised land. This means first taking the city of Jericho. Being a good leader Joshua wants to know as much as he can about this city. Two spies are sent over the Jordan River and told to find out as much as possible, then return with a report. They leave the camp and head west into the valley scouting all the territory and then enter Jericho. They are taken in by the woman Rahab, who is a prostitute. We'll talk more about why Rahab later. While in the city they have been seen and the king sends messengers to her home demanding the two spies. Rahab lies, makes up a story about the spies and sends the messengers on their way. Rahab lived in the walls of Jericho, which was not uncommon. The roof of her home was used to dry out the harvest.

Joshua 2:8–11 (NLT) Before the spies went to sleep that night, Rahab went up on the roof to talk with them. "I know the Lord has given you this land," she told them. "We are all afraid of you. Everyone in the land is living in terror. For we have heard how the Lord made a dry path for you through the Red Sea when you left Egypt. And we know what you did to Sihon and Og, the two Amorite kings east of the Jordan River, whose people you completely destroyed. No wonder our hearts have melted in fear! No one has the courage to fight after hearing such things. For the Lord your God is the supreme God of the heavens above and the earth below."

A victorious life awaited Rahab because she had faith that only Yahweh is God. Rahab went seeking salvation, she just didn't know what kind of salvation. She set out to save herself and her family from the destruction that everyone saw coming. All of Jericho, men, women, and children, were terrified of what was about to happen. Just as the Lord had planned word spread about His mighty actions against Egypt; the crossing of the Red Sea; the wilderness miracles; the defeat of two kingdoms. She realized that there was one God. He was Lord of all the things of heaven. He was the Lord over everything on earth.

The residents of Jericho having heard this news made a mistake. In light of God's power and authority, His overwhelming capacity to do the impossible, the people in Jericho cowered in fear. They were so frightened that they could not think. Their fear paralyzed them emotionally, physically, and spiritually. They had given up on their own gods and idols, knowing they were powerless against the Lord. They chose inaction instead of confession, repentance, and faith. They determined that they could not be forgiven. Maybe this is because they were unwilling to change, to turn away from their sin, to believe in the one and only God of heaven and earth.

I want you to understand that the Lord God of creation, the Lord of salvation, the God of power and grace already knew this about the men, women, and children of Jericho. They were incapable of confession, repentance, and faith. They had made their bed and would die in it. They decided it was better to die in their sin than it was to give themselves to the Lord. This was not a choice forced upon them. They were not victims. They were sinners who rejected the Lord of life deciding death and eternal separation was their best choice.

To our ears Rahab's confession doesn't sound like repentance and faith. We might be expecting to hear "I'm a sinner, blot out my sin, have mercy on me." That's not what Rahab said. She didn't know all of her sins. She wasn't aware of everything God held against her. But she did know that what she had believed in the past was nothing compared to the God of Israelites. She knew her old gods and idols were empty, meaningless, and only lead to death. They could not save her or her family.

She knew her only hope was to turn to the God of the Israelites. Their God was the Lord of all things. Their God was Lord of the sea and the wind, the dry land and sky. Their God could do miracles and great wonders. Their God saved them regardless of their enemy or their trouble. She knew that she wanted that God on her side. She wanted to be on the same side as the God of the Israelites. She wanted to be saved. Her proclamation that the Lord is the God of heaven and earth set her on the path to a victorious life.

Joshua 2:12–13 (NLT) “Now swear to me by the Lord that you will be kind to me and my family since I have helped you. Give me some guarantee that when Jericho is conquered, you will let me live, along with my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all their families.”

On the downside we're like Rahab, we don't know how to stand on God's Promises. Rahab didn't trust the spies and didn't know the promises, the grace, the love of God. She went to make a deal with the spies. Making deals, negotiating, bartering is what she knows. When it's all you know that's what you do. Rahab believed the only way for her, and her mom and dad, her brothers and sisters, her nieces and nephews to be saved was through negotiation, by striking a deal. She had learned the life lessons that the winners are the best deal makers. She could see the need to protect herself and her family. She willingly took the risk of protecting the spies and believing they would keep their promise.

All of that demonstrates her faith in the God of these spies. But, without knowing the promises of God to make a great nation her attitude was to negotiate. Since she had only experienced the power and authority of God a deal needed to be made. Throughout her life she had experienced selfishness and not love so she looked for leverage.

The Lord God of creation, of heaven and earth, the one who holds life and death in His hands, is not a negotiator. Rahab had nothing to negotiate with. The Lord had the upper hand. It was only through His promises and by His grace and mercy that she was saved. The Lord would have provided a hiding place for His spies. The Lord would have provided an escape for the spies. The Lord had already won the battle. The Lord wanted Rahab with her family to live the victorious life. God gives grace, makes and keeps promises, because He loves those He has created. We have no position from which to negotiate.

I don't know about you, but as for me, my first reaction is to be in control. When life starts to go haywire my instinct is fight or flight. If I'm fleeing it's out of self-preservation. That's the losing way. If

I'm fighting my first reaction is to fight my way. That's always the losing way. Whenever I try to be in control I lose. If the Lord allows me to have the illusion, like Rahab, that I'm in control, then I might win. But, that isn't the victorious life. I end up thinking I was in control, that I had the upper hand.

So, what I'm saying is what the spies and the Israelites had learned is it's not fight or flight, but it's speaking the Word of God, calling upon the name of the Lord, and standing on God's promises. The spies had believed the message from God given centuries before that they would be victorious in life and live in the promised land. They had seen God at work. They learned the hard way in wilderness for forty years. They now believed the truth. They trusted God to keep His promises. They were about to have the victory. They were living the victorious life.

Joshua 2:14 (NLT) The men agreed, "We offer our own lives as a guarantee for your safety. If you don't betray us, we will keep our promise and be kind to you when the Lord gives us the land."

Living the victorious life is a mutual agreement between us and Jesus. Rahab was looking for salvation, the spies agreed. She negotiated a deal that had greater wealth than she could imagine. She may have thought the spies were in danger. In actuality she was in peril of losing her family and her life. The spies speaking with confidence behind their own understanding finalized the deal. They knew they were safe and secure. They recognized the power and the authority of the Lord. They had no doubts, their faith was strong. The spies promised with their own lives that Rahab and her family would be saved.

This promise may sound extreme or even flippant. They knew the victory was already given to them. They were willing to sacrifice their own lives to give her the victory. The spies spoke with an authority that was greater than their own words. Even though people were speaking, this promise was bigger than two people. The confidence with which they made the promise came from an authority greater than Joshua. The authority for this woman and her family to be saved came from the Lord. They may not have even known that God planted this idea on their lips. The Lord was using this moment to bless one family for the faith of this one woman in contrast to the rejection of God by all the other people in the city of Jericho. God would save one who was faithful out of the many who were sinners, rejecting God.

Rahab's life was victorious. She was saved. God redeemed her from destruction. Rahab's victorious life and faith are preserved forever. We're thousands of years removed and we are talking about the faith and salvation, the victorious life of a prostitute who trusted the Lord for her salvation. This was no random meeting between two spies and a prostitute in Jericho. This was a God planned and fulfilled moment. In this moment God made an agreement to save this woman giving her a victorious life if she would be faithful to God. This victorious life is bigger, more important, of greater significance than the destruction of Jericho. All of the world for all of history has the testimony of a sinner being saved by the God of power, grace, and love.

Do you see a parallel between this agreement and your relationship with Jesus? A city is filled with sinners. Total destruction is inevitable for the city and all of it's residents. Salvation is given to the one person, a woman, who puts her faith in the savior. Our world, our city is filled with sinners. Destruction, death, total separation from God is inevitable. An end can be seen even by those who willfully close their eyes to their own sin. In the midst of the impending destruction Jesus offers salvation. He asks in return that those who confess Him as Lord remain faithful to Him.

His offer of salvation is free – can't be earned. A sinner is a sinner no matter the sin. A sinner remains a sinner until they call upon Jesus to save them. Then the sinner is a saint with the promise of a victorious life while they remain faithful. Jesus offered His life to save you. When you confess your sins, Jesus saves you.

Joshua 2:23–24 (NLT) Then the two spies came down from the hill country, crossed the Jordan River, and reported to Joshua all that had happened to them. “The Lord has given us the whole land,” they said, “for all the people in the land are terrified of us.”

Live the victorious life by claiming, standing, believing God's victory is already won. The Lord wants to bless you and empower you. The people of Jericho and throughout the promised land could only see the power of God. Their hearts and minds were closed to seeing the Lord the way Rahab saw Him. This resulted in their bodies and spirits rejecting God. They could not open their eyes to the God who wanted them to turn their fear into faith. God wanted them to seek mercy and grace from the Lord of heaven and earth.

This is the trouble with focusing on only one aspect of God. The Lord did demonstrate His power. His power was the result of His judgment. Egypt was not worthy of salvation. Their sin was their rejection of God in light of His demonstration of His power. But, God was merciful and gracious to the Israelite people. They did nothing to be worthy of God's salvation. Even before they would repent the Lord was ready to forgive them. God's power, mercy, grace and love were demonstrated to Israel for the people of the world to trust the Lord. Power, mercy, grace and love are all aspects of God's character. The Lord's desire is for every person to experience His power, mercy, grace, and love. Once each person has had this experience of God they will accept the victorious life the Lord is offering.

As every situation good or bad, uneventful or a crisis happens believe God's promises. The Lord has spoken His promises in His Word. Therefore let the Word of the Lord be on your lips. Dig into God's Word and discover His promises. Make them part of your life on Sunday morning and everyday of the week.

You may or may not find yourself in a city faced with inevitable destruction. But if and when that happens make the promises of God known. Speak them aloud to that others may hear the truth and trust God. As you are experiencing the blessings of God, receiving His grace, and embraced by His love let God's promises ringing in the ears of those who stand near you. Your life will be one victory after another as you stand firmly upon the promises God has made.

Even as you are in the midst of the battle you are about to win stand firm. Don't waiver or give in to the crisis. Don't take for granted the victories God will provide. But praise the Lord for what He is about to do next. It's not important for me or you to know what God will do next. What is important is to believe God already knows what is about to happen.

God is walking with you before He's works are made visible. The Lord is giving you the strength while you are resting. God is providing for you the resources physically, emotionally, and spiritual. The Lord's salvation is waiting for you to proclaim His promises. Stand firm, believe, and receive the victorious life in Jesus Christ.