

**The Pressure of the Process
Prepares You for the Weight
of the Promise**

THE BATTLE IS STILL THE LORD'S

JOSHUA 10:42

DR. DARRYL T. CANADY

10.11.26

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Title: The Battle Is Still the Lord's

Sermon Summary: What happens when the battles of life keep showing up just when we think we have finally caught our breath? In this powerful message drawn from Joshua chapter 10, we are reminded that the journey from promise to possession is rarely a straight line. The Israelites had already crossed the Jordan, brought down the walls of Jericho, and recovered from setbacks at Ai, yet five kings and five armies joined forces against them. The central truth that emerges is both sobering and liberating: progress does not eliminate problems. In fact, our growth and victories can sometimes provoke greater opposition. But here is where the message turns from challenge to triumph. Before the first sword was ever raised, God spoke to Joshua in the past tense, declaring that the enemy had already been given into his hand. That kind of promise-before-the-battle confidence is exactly what we need as we navigate our own fourth quarters.

We are called not to be paralyzed by the size of the opposition but to remember that the same God who carried us through every previous season has not changed. The battle, no matter how fierce it looks, still belongs to the Lord. Set against the backdrop of the final quarter of the year, the sermon challenges believers to finish strong, trusting that the same God who carried them through previous battles is still fighting on their behalf. The central theological assertion is that the battle belongs to the Lord, not to the believer, and that divine power ultimately secures the

victory. Faith is not passive but must be matched with action, sacrifice, and communal participation. The sermon weaves together personal testimony, congregational encouragement, and biblical exposition to affirm that God's faithfulness is not diminished by the size of the challenge.

Chapters

Chapter 1: Finishing Strong in the Fourth Quarter

We are reminded that just because God made us a promise does not mean we will avoid battles, and that we must commit to finishing strong regardless of the challenges we face.

Chapter 2: The Problem That Confronted Them

Five kings joined forces against Israel, showing us that progress does not eliminate problems and that opposition often intensifies as God's blessings increase in our lives.

Chapter 3: The Promise That Comforted Them

Before the battle even began, God declared the victory already accomplished, reminding us that His promise is greater than any opposition we face.

Chapter 4: The Power That Conquered Them

God's supernatural power, demonstrated through confusion and hailstones, conquered Israel's enemies, showing us that faith requires action and that God fights battles in ways far beyond our own resources.

Key Points:

- Progress does not eliminate problems; in fact, spiritual advancement can attract greater opposition
- God often speaks of future victory in the past tense, indicating that His promises are already secured before the battle is fought
- Fear must be confronted before the enemy is confronted, because battles can be lost in the mind before they are ever fought on the field
- Faith is demonstrated through action, not merely through prayer or praise; Joshua marched all night before God intervened
- God's power is not limited to the resources visible to the believer; He can use elements and circumstances beyond human capability
- The congregation is called to collective participation in the vision, with equal sacrifice rather than equal giving
- The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the ultimate proof that God has power over every opposing force, including death itself

Scripture Reference:

- Joshua 10:42, which affirms that Joshua conquered these kings and their lands in one campaign because the Lord, the God of Israel, fought for Israel
- Joshua 10:5-8, which describes the coalition of five Amorite kings attacking Gibeon and God's assurance to Joshua not to fear them
- Joshua 10:9-14, which recounts God throwing the enemy into confusion, sending hailstones, and the declaration that the Lord was fighting for Israel

- Supporting references include Isaiah 41:10, 1 Corinthians 16:9, James 1:2-4, 2 Corinthians 4:8, Psalm 27, Nehemiah 6:3, and Joshua 1:3-5

Stories:

- The journey of Israel from the Jordan River through Jericho, Ai, and Gibeon is rehearsed as evidence of God's sustained faithfulness throughout the series
- The illustration of a wedding ring is used to describe how pressure and process are necessary to transform raw ore into something beautiful, paralleling how God uses trials to develop character
- A personal story about asking his wife to dance is used to illustrate the principle that a strong person makes things happen rather than waiting passively
- A reference to Mike Tyson's psychological dominance over opponents, particularly his 91-second knockout of Michael Spinks, is used to illustrate how fear can defeat an opponent before the fight even begins
- A humorous personal anecdote about being asked for a military discount at a restaurant is used to illustrate the believer's identity as a soldier in the army of the Lord
- The crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ are referenced as the defining battle in which God demonstrated ultimate power over sin, death, and the grave

Scripture References from the Sermon

Directly Cited References

Joshua 1:3 - God's promise to give Israel every place their feet would tread

Joshua 1:5 - God's promise to never leave nor forsake Joshua

Joshua 10:8 - God tells Joshua not to fear the five kings, declaring the victory already given

Joshua 10:9-11 - Joshua's all-night march, God throwing the enemy into confusion, and hailstones defeating the enemy

Joshua 10:14 - The declaration that the Lord was fighting for Israel

Joshua 10:42 - Joshua's conquest of kings and lands in one campaign because God fought for Israel

1 Corinthians 16:9 - A great door of effective work has opened, though many oppose

2 Corinthians 4:8-9 - Pressed but not crushed, perplexed but not in despair, struck down but not destroyed

James 1:2-4 - Counting trials as joy because testing produces perseverance and maturity

Isaiah 41:10 - God's command not to fear, promising strength and help

Nehemiah 6:3 - Nehemiah's declaration that he is doing a great work and cannot come down

Psalms 27:1-3 - The Lord as light and salvation, confidence despite enemies and war

Hymns and Songs Referenced

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness" - Traditional hymn

"The Battle Is the Lord's" - Yolanda Adams

"Because He Lives" - Traditional hymn

QUOTES:

Just because God made you a promise does not mean that you don't have to fight some battles before you possess it.

Don't allow what you see to make you forget what God said. Don't allow your present problem to make you forget about God's faithfulness in the past.

Fear can defeat you in your mind before the enemy ever defeats you on the battlefield.

Faith doesn't mean you can't see the problem. Faith means you refuse to let the problem block your view of God.

God's promise is not an excuse for you not to do something. I'm waiting on the Lord. He already told you what to do. Get off your dairy air and do it.

Joshua had an army, but God had the elements. Joshua had soldiers, but God had a storm. Joshua fought with what he had, but God fought with what he had because God has all power in heaven and earth.

When God gets involved, he is not limited by the resources you can see. He is not limited by the weaknesses that you possess. He is not limited by the options that you understand.

Sometimes, God allows the pressure of the process to prepare you for the weight of the promise.

We are not asking for equal giving. We're asking for equal sacrifice. Everybody may not have the same resources, but everybody can perfectly consider how to use their gifts for what God has given to them.

I don't care what it looks like. I don't care what it sounds like, what it feels like. God is still fighting.

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5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

Based on the Sermon Series: "From Promise to Possession -- The Battle Is Still the Lord's"

Day 1: God Is Faithful Even When You Are Not

Reading: Joshua 10:1-8

Devotional: The journey from promise to possession is rarely a straight line. Joshua and the Israelites had already crossed rivers, brought down walls, and survived their own mistakes -- yet new opposition kept rising. Still, God remained faithful. Before the battle even began, God told Joshua that the victory was already secured. This is the nature of God's faithfulness: it does not depend on your perfect record. You have not

dotted every I or crossed every T, yet God has kept you, provided for you, and opened doors you could not open yourself. Today, resist the temptation to measure God's faithfulness by the absence of difficulty. Instead, look back at how far He has already brought you. The same God who carried you through every previous battle is the same God standing with you in this one.

Personal Reflection: What is one moment in your life when God was faithful even though you were not? How does that memory strengthen your trust in him today?

Practical Application: Write down three specific instances where God made a way for you when you could not see one. Keep that list visible this week as a reminder of His faithfulness.

Day 2: Do Not Let the Problem Block Your View of God

Reading: Isaiah 41:8-13

Devotional: Fear is one of the enemy's most effective weapons -- not because it changes your circumstances, but because it changes your perspective. When God spoke to Joshua before the battle, the first thing He addressed was not the five kings or the five armies. He addressed Joshua's fear. God said, "Do not be afraid of them," before He said a single word about the enemy's defeat. That sequence is intentional. Fear can defeat you in your mind long before the enemy ever defeats you on the battlefield. Isaiah reminds us that God promises to strengthen us, help us, and hold us with His righteous right hand. Faith does not mean you cannot see the problem. Faith means you refuse to let the problem block your view of God. Whatever opposition has assembled against

you, God is not intimidated. He has already spoken your victory in the past tense.

Personal Reflection: What fear is currently distorting your view of God's power and presence? What would it look like to trust His word over your circumstances today?

Practical Application: Identify one fear you have been carrying. Write it down, then write beside it a specific promise from Scripture that directly contradicts that fear. Pray over that promise daily this week.

Day 3: The Pressure of the Process Prepares You for the Weight of the Promise

Reading: James 1:2-8

Devotional: Nobody signs up for the difficult parts of faith. When we first come to Jesus, we imagine fellowship and joy. We do not always anticipate the warfare, the waiting, or the weight of the journey. But James teaches us that the testing of our faith is not a sign of God's absence -- it is a tool in his hands. The pressure of the process is what produces perseverance, and perseverance is what develops the character we need for the assignment ahead. Just as a rough piece of ore must be melted down and shaped before it becomes something beautiful, God uses the heat of our trials to form us into something useful and strong. The difficulties you are facing are not wasted. They are working something in you that comfort alone could never produce. Do not despise the process. God is preparing you for a promise that requires the person you are becoming.

Personal Reflection: What current trial or difficulty might God be using to build perseverance and character in your life? How does viewing it through that lens change your response to it?

Practical Application: Share with a trusted friend or mentor one area where you have grown through a past hardship. Allow that testimony to encourage both of you as you face present challenges.

Day 4: Faith Without Action Is Incomplete

Reading: Joshua 10:9-14

Devotional: God gave Joshua a promise, but Joshua did not sit down and wait for something to happen. He marched his army all night long. He moved with urgency and purpose toward the very thing God had already promised to give him. This is a critical lesson for every believer: God's promise is not an excuse for inaction. You cannot expect God to bless what you refuse to participate in. You cannot pray for a better marriage while refusing to invest in it. You cannot ask God to expand a vision while declining to support it. Faith is demonstrated not only by what you say or sing, but by what you do in response to what God has said. When Joshua moved, God moved with him -- throwing the enemy into confusion, sending hailstones from the sky, and fighting in ways that went far beyond anything Joshua's army could have produced on its own. Move in faith, and watch God do what only God can do.

Personal Reflection: Is there an area of your life where you have been waiting for God to act while remaining passive yourself? What step of faith is God calling you to take this week?

Practical Application: Identify one concrete action you have been postponing that aligns with a promise or calling God has placed on your life. Commit to taking that step this week, trusting that God will meet you in your movement.

Day 5: The Battle Is Still the Lord's -- Finish Strong

Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:7-18

Devotional: We are pressed on every side but not crushed. Perplexed but not in despair. Persecuted but not abandoned. Struck down but not destroyed. Paul's words in 2 Corinthians 4 are not the words of a man who never suffered -- they are the words of a man who suffered greatly and discovered that God's power is made perfect in human weakness. You are an earthen vessel, ordinary and fragile, but you carry something extraordinary inside. The same God who fought for Israel at Gibeon, who sent hailstones from heaven, who gave Joshua victory over five kings in a single campaign -- that God is fighting for you. We may be in the fourth quarter, but the game is not over. Your greatest victories may still be ahead. Do not quit. Do not throw in the towel. Keep trusting, keep praying, keep serving, keep giving, and keep believing. The battle is not yours -- it belongs to the Lord. And the Lord does not lose.

Personal Reflection: As you reflect on this week's readings, what has God revealed to you about his faithfulness, his power, and his presence in your current season? How will you carry these truths into the days ahead?

Practical Application: End this week by writing a personal declaration of faith based on what God has spoken to you through these five days. Read it aloud each morning for the next week as a reminder that the

battle belongs to the Lord and that you are committed to finishing strong.

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Small Group Guide: "The Battle Is Still the Lord's"

Based on Joshua 10 | Series: From Promise to Possession

Overview

This week's sermon reminded us that the journey from God's promise to its fulfillment is rarely without opposition. Using Joshua 10 as the foundation, Pastor Canady challenged us to finish the year strong, trust God's faithfulness in every season, and remember that the battle ultimately belongs to the Lord. This guide is designed to help your group go deeper into those truths together.

Key Takeaways

- Progress does not eliminate problems. In fact, your growth may attract new opposition.
 - God often speaks of future victories in the past tense, declaring the outcome before the battle begins.
 - Fear can defeat you in your mind before the enemy ever defeats you on the battlefield.
 - Faith is not passive. God's promise is not an excuse for inaction -- it is a call to move forward with confidence.
 - God is not limited by your visible resources. He fights with what He has, and He has everything.
 - The battle belongs to the Lord, but everyone still has a part to play.
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Opening Activity (5-10 minutes)

Before diving into discussion, take a moment to go around the group and have each person finish this sentence in one or two words:

"When I face a difficult battle, my first instinct is to _____."

This is not a time for long answers -- just a quick, honest check-in to set the tone for the conversation.

Discussion Questions

Section 1: The Problem That Confronted Them

1. Pastor Canady said, "Progress does not eliminate problems. In fact, you may get more problems because you're making some progress." Can you think of a time in your own life when moving forward in faith actually brought more opposition, not less? What did that feel like?
2. In Joshua 10, five kings joined forces specifically because they heard about Israel's victories. Why do you think growth and success sometimes provoke opposition from others? How have you experienced this personally?
3. Pastor Canady referenced James 1:2-4, which teaches that trials produce perseverance and perseverance produces maturity. How does that reframe the way you think about your current challenges? Is there a difficulty you are facing right now that you can begin to see differently through this lens?
4. Nehemiah 6:3 describes a leader who refused to abandon his assignment despite distraction and opposition, declaring that the work was too important for him to step away from. What is your equivalent of "a great work" that you cannot afford to come down from right now?

Section 2: The Promise That Comforted Them

5. In Joshua 10:8, God told Joshua not to be afraid before the battle even began. Why do you think God addressed Joshua's fear before addressing the enemy? What does that tell us about how God views our emotional and spiritual state?

6. God spoke of the victory in the past tense before it happened. What promises from Scripture are you currently holding onto that have not yet been fulfilled in your life? How does it change your posture to know that God has already declared the outcome?
 7. Pastor Canady said, "Don't allow what you see to make you forget what God said." What are some specific things God has said -- through Scripture, through prayer, through community -- that you need to return to right now when fear or doubt creeps in?
 8. The sermon pointed out that Joshua faced five kings but had one God. How does the character and power of God reframe the size of the opposition in your life? What would it look like practically to shift your focus from the size of the battle to the greatness of God?
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Section 3: The Power That Conquered Them

9. Joshua marched all night before the battle. He did not sit and wait for the victory to arrive. Pastor Canady said, "God's promise is not an excuse for you not to do something." Where in your life might you be waiting passively for God to act when He is actually waiting for you to move?
10. The sermon emphasized that more of the enemy died from the hailstones than from the swords of the Israelites, meaning God fought in ways that went beyond what Joshua's army could produce. Can you share a time when God made a way that was clearly beyond your own ability or effort? What did that do for your faith?

11. Pastor Canady challenged the congregation to move from being spectators to participators -- in the church, in the vision, and in the work of ministry. What is one specific way you can contribute to what God is doing in your church or community in this final quarter of the year?
 12. The sermon closed by pointing to the cross -- the ultimate battle that God won on behalf of all of us. How does the resurrection of Jesus give you confidence that God can bring victory in the battles you are facing right now?
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Practical Applications

Choose one or more of the following to commit to before your group meets again:

- **Write it down.** Identify one promise from Scripture that speaks directly to a battle you are currently facing. Write it somewhere you will see it every day this week and speak it aloud each morning.
- **Take a step.** Identify one area where you have been waiting passively for God to move. Determine one concrete action you can take this week in faith, even if the circumstances have not changed.
- **Examine your fear.** Reflect honestly on whether fear has been shaping your decisions more than faith. Bring that fear to God in prayer and ask Him to replace it with the confidence that comes from knowing He has already declared your victory.
- **Do your part.** Identify one way you can contribute to your church, small group, or community this quarter -- whether through prayer, giving, serving, encouraging, or showing up consistently.

- **Encourage someone.** Think of someone in your life who is in the middle of a hard battle. Reach out to them this week with a specific word of encouragement rooted in Scripture.
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Closing Reflection

Pastor Canady reminded us that we are in the fourth quarter, but the game is not over. Some of our greatest victories have not come in the early stages of the journey -- they come when we make up our minds to finish what we started.

As a group, take a moment to pray together. Ask God to:

- Replace fear with faith in every member of your group
 - Bring clarity to the promises He has spoken over each person's life
 - Give each of you the courage to keep moving forward even when the battle is hard
 - Remind you that He is fighting on your behalf
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Memory Verse for the Week

Joshua 10:42 -- In this verse, the writer summarizes that Joshua's campaign of conquest was successful not because of the strength of Israel's army, but because the Lord God of Israel was fighting for His people.

Carry this truth with you: God is not a spectator in your battles. He is an active participant, and He fights for those who belong to Him.

The battle is still the Lord's. Finish strong.

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. The pastor reminds us that progress does not eliminate problems and may even invite more opposition — how have you seen this pattern play out in your own spiritual journey, and what did it reveal about your faith?
2. God told Joshua not to be afraid before the battle even began, addressing his fear before addressing the enemy — in what areas of your life do you need to hear God speak to your fear before you can move forward in obedience?
3. The sermon emphasizes that God spoke of Joshua's victory in the past tense before it was experienced — how does understanding that God operates outside of time change the way you pray about and wait for promises that have not yet come to pass?
4. Pastor Canady draws a distinction between equal giving and equal sacrifice, calling every member to do their part in the shared work of the church — what does it look like practically for you to move from being a spectator to a participator in your community of faith?
5. The pastor warns that fear can defeat you in your mind before the enemy ever defeats you on the battlefield — what thought patterns or narratives are you allowing to wage war against you internally, and how might Scripture help you counter them?

6. Joshua marched all night rather than waiting passively after receiving God's promise — how do you discern the difference between trusting God to act and using that trust as an excuse to remain inactive in the face of a challenge?
7. The sermon points out that more of Israel's enemies were destroyed by God's hailstones than by the soldiers' swords, suggesting that God's resources far exceed our own — how does this truth reshape the way you assess what is and is not possible in your current circumstances?
8. The pastor encourages the congregation to remember God's past faithfulness as a source of confidence for present and future battles — what specific moments of God's faithfulness in your own history do you need to revisit and hold onto right now?
9. Nehemiah's declaration that he was doing a great work and could not come down is used to challenge the church not to be distracted from its divine assignment — what distractions or discouragements are tempting you to step down from something God has called you to build or sustain?
10. The sermon closes with the resurrection as the ultimate proof that God has power over every enemy, including death itself — how does the reality of Christ's victory on Sunday morning give you courage to face the specific battle you are walking through in this season of your life?