



ROCK ETERNAL CHURCH



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WINNING BY WORSHIP

This week we are going to focus on winning by worship. We all want to win, we all want to overcome, we all want to progress in life, but not in new ways but in old ways. We want God to give us victory in the ways we know. The world also teaches us some ways. We want to win, but we want to win in old ways or in ways known to us.

Dear children of God, God opens a new way for us – Winning by worship! Not winning by working, or fighting or slogging. Winning differently.

I once read about a man who was about to commit suicide by jumping over a bridge. A policeman came by to save him. He said “Don’t do this. This is not the end of life.” Then the man started narrating his story to the policeman. “Do you know why I am about to die?” and so saying he explained to the policeman for half an hour. This continued to the extent that the policeman drowned himself with the man in the river. They both jumped together.

Sometimes, this is how life is. We tend to listen to others’ problems and jump along with them.

People tend to move their problems onto us. Don’t let problems, or people with problems to influence you.



Today we are going to look at the wall of Jericho. We all know the story. We will understand why it is important to win by worship. Now, the Israelites had come close to the promised land. It had been nearly 500 years since the Lord had promised Abraham. They had come to the Jericho wall which was between them and the promised blessing. The blessings seemed impossible because of the wall. It appeared that the wall was blocking the blessings that were due to the people.

In those days it was the walls of Jericho, but today we too have Jerichos in our lives that stop us from receiving or inheriting the blessings that God has kept for us. Jericho could be anybody or any person or anything. You could be facing a Jericho in any form and I want to encourage you that we are going to win this Jericho by worship and not fighting. Why is Jericho such a difficult obstacle?

Let us look at the following:

Joshua 6:1–5 Now Jericho was securely shut up because of the children of Israel; none went out, and none came in. 2 And the LORD said to Joshua: “See! I have given Jericho into your hand, its king, and the mighty men of valor. 3 You shall march around the city, all you men of war; you shall go all around the city once. This you shall do six days. 4 And seven priests shall bear seven trumpets of rams’ horns before the ark. But the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets. 5 It shall come to pass, when they make a long blast with the ram’s horn, and when you hear the sound of the trumpet, that all the people shall shout with a great shout; then the wall of the city will fall down flat. And the people shall go up every man straight before him.”



This shows how strong the walls of Jericho were and that no one could go inside. God did not command Joshua to fight or destroy the city of Jericho. He asked them to blow the trumpet and let the priests carry the horns. It meant that He wanted them to worship. He wanted Joshua and the people of Israel to go around and worship because they were about to receive the blessing. There is a big hurdle, but at this time He says, “ I want you to worship.” Today also God is speaking to many saying that there is a big hurdle before you. You don’t know what is going to happen, your future is blocked by the wall in front of you. God says, “Right now, I don’t want you to do anything, just march around and worship.” God wants you and me amidst all this chaos and pandemic to worship Him. In this time of trouble and not allowing us to progress in life, God says “just worship”.

WHAT DOES WORRY DO TO US?

1. WORRY STOPS YOUR WORSHIP:

WHEN YOU WORRY, YOU CANNOT WORSHIP. WORRY STOPS OUR WORSHIP AND THAT’S THE ROLE OF WORRY IN OUR LIVES. WE ARE DEMOTIVATED WHEN WE LOOK AT OUR JERICHO’S AND ARE DISCOURAGED NOT TO WORSHIP. HISTORY TELLS US THE DIMENSIONS OF THE JERICHO WALLS. 12 TO 17 FT IN HEIGHT AND 6 TO 8 FT IN WIDTH. THERE WAS A TOWER FOR 28 FT. IT IS SAID THAT A CHARIOT COULD BE DRIVEN WITHIN THE WIDTH OF THE WALL. SO, IMPREGNATING THE WALL OF JERICHO WAS A HIGH IMPOSSIBILITY. SIMILARLY WHEN WE SEE THE PROBLEMS IN OUR LIVES, WE BECOME THOROUGHLY DEMOTIVATED.

SOMETIMES WE TOO MAY FEEL THAT AFTER SO MANY DAYS OF PRAYERS NOTHING HAS CHANGED. WE CANNOT PROCEED BEYOND THIS. IT APPEARS AS A DEAD END PREVENTING US TO MOVE FORWARD. THIS WORRY WILL STOP US FROM WORSHIPPING.



The more we look at the walls the more bigger they will look. The more closer we get to the wall the more it appears big and your worship gets stopped. Let me tell you today, the more you get close to this wall and worship the faster it is going to fall.

The role of worry is to stop worship. The enemy knows that the moment you start worshipping, doors will start opening. That is why he brings in worries to stop your worship by magnifying your problems.

Dear children of God, we will go close to the wall and we will shout and we will worship and the walls will come down. We need to understand this, the job of a Jericho wall is to stop the worship in your life, but the job of worship is to break down that Jericho wall. So, don't let your Jericho walls stop your worship. When you see your Jericho walls, you must start to worship.

2. WORSHIP IS A POWERFUL OFFENSIVE WEAPON:

The Word of God says in

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.



Dear children of God, many a time we do not know the value of praising God amidst the time of trouble. We may think of way and means that we know to win but God tells us to leave all these known ways and use a different way of praising and winning. We will win by worship.

3. WORSHIP HELPS US SEE THINGS THE WAY GOD SEES IT:

When we worship we will start seeing things the way God sees it. This is the most important thing.

God says: *Joshua 6:2 And the LORD said to Joshua: "See! I have given Jericho into your hand, its king, and the mighty men of valor."*

God tells Joshua to take the trumpets and blow it and circle around the walls. Let's think of this logically. Let us focus on how we think when we worship and when we have problems and try to worship. When we praise amidst our problems, we start to understand God's plan. But when we think normally, we are not able to understand His plans. God was teaching the Israelites to worship before the miracle. If you see, the Israelites would sing, dance and worship after the miracle. But now God wanted to change it.

Isn't it the same with our testimonies too? But God is teaching us that we need to praise Him before a miracle. God is speaking to you.

Go closer to your problem and obstacle and start praising God. Many a time, whenever I feel weak, I start praising God and speaking in tongues.

You will start thinking when you worship and you will understand God's plan.



4. WORSHIP IS SOMETHING THAT WE NEED TO DO EVERYDAY:

Joshua 6:12–14 And Joshua rose early in the morning, and the priests took up the ark of the LORD.

13 And seven priests bearing seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the LORD went on continually, and blew with the trumpets: and the armed men went before them; but the rereward came after the ark of the LORD, the priests going on, and blowing with the trumpets. 14 And the second day they compassed the city once, and returned into the camp: so they did six days.

Your worship should not stop. It should be done on a daily basis. No matter what comes our way. That's when we experience this. There is a French proverb "A good meal ought to begin with hunger." You can enjoy a meal only when you are hungry. If you really want to enjoy worshipping God, you really need to have a hunger for it. You need to have an appetite for it and you need to do it every day.

When you do this, all our Jericho walls automatically fall down.

5. WORSHIP SHOULD ALWAYS BE REAL AND GENUINE:

Joshua 6:20–21 So the people shouted when the priests blew with the trumpets: and it came to pass, when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city. 21 And they utterly destroyed all that was in the city, both man and woman, young and old, and ox, and sheep, and ass, with the edge of the sword.



We should have genuine worship. Worship is not only praising God, even living a life of testimony is very important. In order for your worship to be effective, it should be real and genuine. That is when the Jericho walls will fall flat.

There was a big ditch 9 ft deep and the wall fell down. They did not have to fight for it. They won differently, they won by worship. Winning by worshipping. You may be surrounded by many problems and have no idea what the future is going to be. We had so many plans for the year 2020.

Today I tell you, this COVID-19 has become a very big Jericho wall in our lives, but we will go close and just keep praising.

Worship is not just singing. Worship is faith, obedience, glorifying God, trusting God even though I do not know how it is going to happen.

At Jericho, there was no battle at all. Only praise. We will just win with worship.

A pilot got his licence recently and taken his flight alone. There was a lot of thunder and lightning and he contacted the signal tower for guidance. They kept continuously giving him instructions, but he panicked. He suddenly heard a voice that said, “kindly follow the instructions while we take care of the obstructions”. Similarly, God is telling us “ Just follow the instructions my child, and I will take care of the obstructions”.



Do you know what His instruction is today? You will win by worship. Don't look at the depth, height and width of your problems. Start worshipping the Lord. You don't have to fight or quarrel or argue or slog, just worship and the Lord will give you victory. Amen.

