

Joshua 5:13—6:27

## HOW TO BREAK DOWN STRONGHOLDS IN YOUR LIFE

### **Study Questions from 17.02.2019 sermon**

#### **1. Get into the presence of God**

- i. Where do we particularly see the presence of God in this passage?
- ii. How do you think God's presence would have prepared Joshua to take Jericho?
- iii. God's presence prepares us to break down strongholds, such as:
  - sin that entangles us
  - negative emotions which suffocate us
  - damaging attitudes which drag us down
  - achieving something impossible, like forgiving.

How do we get into God's presence? Share with your group what helps you be still and listen to God.

#### **2. Get passive; own the impossible**

- iv. Read Joshua 6:1. Why did the writer insert this short statement?
- v. Where is the passivity in Joshua 6:12—15 and why is it there?
- vi. Discuss why, in order to break down strongholds, it is important for us to be passive and to 'own the impossible'.

#### **3. Get active; attempt the impossible**

- vii. God's power would break down Jericho's walls, but they still had to actively attack (6:20—21). God's power will break down our strongholds, but we still have to actively participate with God (1 Thess. 5:15). Imagine you are speaking to a young Christian who is struggling to defeat a particular sin. Discuss how you might use the Jericho story to teach them how to obtain victory.
- viii. How does growing tomatoes illustrate the principle here?

#### **Epilogue: what about when we fail?**

- ix. Although we will see many victories in our Christian lives, we will experience many defeats and failures too. God has the power to help us be victorious all the time. So why does he allow us to struggle and fail? What does he love more than giving us present perfection?
- x. Read 2 Corinthians 4:7 and discuss how our failures lead us to our treasure.