



STEPPING UP AND STEPPING OUT
Refines us for courageous action

¹¹ But the land into which you are about to cross to possess it, a land of hills and valleys, drinks water from the rain of heaven, **Deuteronomy 11:11**

²⁷ So the Lord was with Joshua, and his fame was in all the land. **Joshua 6:27**

BUT the sons of Israel acted unfaithfully in regard to the things under the ban..... **Joshua 7:1**

....for Achan, the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, from the tribe of Judah, took some of the things under the ban, therefore the anger of the Lord burned against the sons of Israel. **Joshua 7:1**

DOES NOT COMPLETELY PREVENT STUMBLING

² Now Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is near Beth-aven, east of Bethel, and said to them, "Go up and spy out the land." So the men went up and spied out Ai. ³ They returned to Joshua and said to him, "Do not let all the people go up; *only* about two or three thousand men need go up to Ai; do not make all the people toil up there, for they are few." ⁴ So about three thousand men from the people went up there, but they fled from the men of Ai. ⁵ The men of Ai struck down about thirty-six of their men, and pursued them from the gate as far as Shebarim and struck them down on the descent, so the hearts of the people melted and became as water. **Joshua 7:2-5**

HAPPENS ON THE FOUNDATION OF GOD'S WORD

⁸This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success. **Joshua 1:8**

¹⁸But as for you, only keep yourselves from the things under the ban, so that you do not covet *them* and take some of the things under the ban, and make the camp of Israel accursed and bring trouble on it. ¹⁹But all the silver and gold and articles of bronze and iron are holy to the Lord; they shall go into the treasury of the Lord.” **Joshua 6:18-19**

PROTECTS US FROM FEAR AND DOUBT

⁷Joshua said, “Alas, O Lord God, why did You ever bring this people over the Jordan, *only* to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us? If only we had been willing to dwell beyond the Jordan! ⁸O Lord, what can I say since Israel has turned *their* back before their enemies? ⁹For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land will hear of it, and they will surround us and cut off our name from the earth. And what will You do for Your great name?” **Joshua 7:7-9**

HAPPENS IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. ²Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change and though the mountains slip into the heart of the sea; **Psalm 46:1-2**

⁶Then Joshua tore his clothes and fell to the earth on his face before the ark of the Lord until the evening, *both* he and the elders of Israel; and they put dust on their heads. **Joshua 7:6**

¹⁰⁻¹²God said to Joshua, “Get up. Why are you groveling? Israel has sinned: They’ve broken the covenant I commanded them; they’ve taken forbidden plunder—stolen and then covered up the theft, hoarding it up with their own stuff. The People of Israel can no longer look their enemies in the eye—they themselves are plunder. I can’t continue with you if you don’t rid yourselves of the cursed things. “**Joshua 7:10-12 MSG**

REQUIRES US TO BE THOROUGH IN OUR DEALING WITH SIN

It shall be that the one who is taken with the things under the ban shall be burned with fire, he and all that belongs to him, because he has transgressed the covenant of the Lord, and because he has committed a disgraceful thing in Israel. **Joshua 7:15**

²⁹ If your right eye makes you stumble, tear it out and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. ³⁰ If your right hand makes you stumble, cut it off and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to go into hell. **Matthew 6:29-30**

⁹ A little leaven leavens the whole lump *of dough*. Galatians 5:9

IS REWARDED BY ODEIENCE

Now the Lord said to Joshua, “Do not fear or be dismayed. Take all the people of war with you and arise, go up to Ai; see, I have given into your hand the king of Ai, his people, his city, and his land. ² You shall do to Ai and its king just as you did to Jericho and its king; you shall take only its spoil and its cattle as plunder for yourselves. Set an ambush for the city behind it.” **Joshua 8:1-2**