

Date: 11 Aug 2024 | Speaker: Ps Lam Zheng Xin | Topic: Faith | Scripture: Joshua 10:1-15

SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

At the end of the sermon discussion, cell members will:

1. Understand that knowing the Word is not the same as believing in it.
2. Express our faith through our works.

SERMON SUMMARY

We are to bring God's love and shalom into our families, our workplaces, our neighbourhoods, and to the nations. We do this by our faith in God, and then working out what God has called us to do.

Joshua and the Israelites overcame the Amorites by faith. Through God's Word to them, they went into battle knowing that God will fight for them. But they still needed to take action and fight. Faith alone was not sufficient. Their faith needed to be expressed through their works.

The message today was built on 3 points:

- Our faith is based on God's Word to us.
- Our faith is expressed through our works.
- Our works is to be done in faith.

SERMON RECAP

1) Our faith is based on God's Word to us

- Our faith is rooted in God's Word, as demonstrated by Joshua's faith, which came from God's promise in **Joshua 10:8**. God's Word provides the assurance and confidence needed to face challenges. It is about knowing and trusting in who God is and what He says. Our faith is based on His character and promises.
- Our faith is built up from hearing the rhema word of Christ (**Romans 10:17**). Hearing God's Word involves more than just listening; it requires spiritual understanding and receptivity. It is essential to hear God speaking to us personally through Scripture, allowing it to transform our beliefs. Remember that knowing God's Word is different from believing in it.
- Faith involves believing in what we cannot see with our natural eyes, trusting that God is working in the unseen (**Hebrews 11:1**). Therefore, we are to believe that God loves us and is working in our lives, even when circumstances suggest otherwise.

2) Our faith is expressed through our works

- Joshua responded to the Gibeonites' plea for help by honouring the covenant with them, despite its flawed origin. He understood that a wrong should not be corrected with another wrong, and that keeping promises was crucial.
- God supported Joshua's faith-driven actions in three ways: causing confusion among the Amorite army, sending hailstones that targeted only the enemies, and halting the sun to ensure victory. This highlights the partnership between divine intervention and human effort. Faith involves trusting God to act, while works involve us taking action aligned with that trust. Both are necessary to achieve God's purposes.
- We should avoid the extremes, i.e., living solely by faith without action, or relying only on works without faith. Balance is essential, where faith inspires our actions, and our actions are grounded in faith.
- God desires to partner with us in our endeavours. We are called to work diligently while relying on God's wisdom and provision, recognising that our efforts are enhanced by His presence and support.

3) Our works is to be done in faith

- **Hebrews 11:6** emphasises that faith is essential to please God. God desires us to live by faith, recognising His presence in our daily lives and trusting in His guidance. This relationship is personal and unique for each individual.
- Obedience to God involves both faith and works. We pursue our goals and overcome challenges by trusting God and taking action. We should regularly assess whether we are living by faith or relying solely on our efforts. Do we seek God's guidance and believe in His promises, or do we depend only on our abilities?
- God is constantly working in ways we may not perceive, and faith requires trusting in His invisible actions. We live out that faith by stepping out in obedience when He calls.

Discussion Questions

- 1. What areas of your life do you find it challenging to trust in God's promises, and how might hearing God's word strengthen your belief and trust in Him?**

Leader's Notes

"Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ."
– **Romans 10:17**

Reflect on the times when you struggled to believe in God's love, provision, or guidance. Consider how immersing yourself in God's Word can transform doubt into trust. How can the stories and promises in Scripture help you overcome disbelief and strengthen your faith in God's presence and promises?

Transition

When we are doubtful, we must turn to His Word to regain our faith.

- 2. How can we discern when to wait for God's timing versus when to take action, and what role does faith play in that discernment process?**

Leader's Notes

In life, we often face moments where we are unsure whether to act or wait. Discuss how faith can guide you in discerning God's timing. What signs or confirmations do you look for to know that it's time to move forward or hold back?

Reflect on Biblical examples where individuals either waited on God or took bold steps in faith. How do prayer, seeking counsel, and reading Scripture help in understanding God's will in these situations? Share personal experiences where you faced similar decisions and how you balanced waiting with action.

Transition

Discernment comes from knowing the word of God and being sensitive to the Holy Spirit.

- 3. Identify one area of your life where you need to balance faith with action. What specific steps can you take to trust God and to actively work towards achieving your "Promised Land"?**

Leader's Notes

Reflect on a specific area in your life (such as your career, relationships, or spiritual growth) where you've been praying a lot but not taking action. How can you actively involve God in this situation while taking concrete steps forward? Discuss how you can incorporate both faith and works and consider how living in this balance can help you reach your "Promised Land" and fulfil God's purposes for you.

Closing

Joshua and the Israelites knew that the war is already won. Yet, they still had to take action in order to win it. May we do likewise as we seek to reach and conquer our own "Promised Land".

Consider dividing the group into micro-groups for a deeper time of sharing as well as praying for the following items:

1. Sermon Application

- Pray for that the men will live out their God-given responsibilities with spiritual authority.
- Pray that we will obey and respect the authorities that God has placed over us.
- Pray for our family members and friends, especially for those who have yet to know Him.
- To commit 2024 to God and allow Him to work in us and through us as we continue to seek Him.

2. RiverLife

Let us continue to pray for God's hand to be upon our church, its leaders and that all its members will grow in maturity.

3. World

- Continue to pray for the various nations that are at war:
 - a. Russia and Ukraine
 - b. Myanmar (Civil War) – Pray for the situation where military service was made compulsory for man and woman between the ages of 18 and 35.
 - c. Israel & Hamas – For any retaliation from Hamas and Iran as a result of the killing of Hamas' leader
- Continue to pray for countries that have an escalated conflict situation:
 - a. Japan, China and the Philippines in the South China Sea
 - b. North & South Korea
- Continue to pray for countries recovering from recent natural disasters:
 - a. Taiwan (Earthquake)
 - b. Indonesia (Volcanic Eruption)
 - c. South East Asia – Heatwave across various countries
 - d. North Korea – Flooding
 - e. Japan – Earthquake (and the possibility of a megaquake)
 - f. India – Heatwave
- Pray for Singapore
 - a. Pray for PM Lawrence Wong and his cabinet as they begin a new chapter for Singapore
 - b. Pray for a stability in the cost of living in Singapore
- Other Global Issues
 - a. Pray for the United States of America as they recover from the assassination attempt of Donald Trump
 - b. Pray for the Britain as it battles racist riots

4. Opportunities for Outreach

- € Ask the Lord to bless us as we step out to reach a pre-believer.
- € Ask the Lord to grant you opportunities to reach out to a non-believing loved one, friend, or colleague this week as we seek to mature in Christlikeness.

1. Volunteering with RCS.

a. *Maths Tutor for Primary 1 to 4. Serve from now until end Oct*

Come alongside and provide academic support for our beneficiaries as they prepare for their year-end exams. Sessions will be online via Zoom for 1.5 hours, once a week. Day and time can be discussed and confirmed between volunteer and student as per their schedules.

b. *BLESS Family Volunteer. Serve for a minimum of 6 months.*

Journey with a family in need through building friendship and supplying month groceries and necessities. You will serve once a month and an hour each time. Specific time and date to be arranged at your convenience.

Registration: rlc.sg/rcs-serve24

2. **Marriage Retreat. 23-25 Nov.** Forest City Marina Hotel. Cost: \$600 per couple. A meaningful weekend retreat for married couples to spend unhurried and uninterrupted time with each other to learn together, and evaluate and strengthen their marriage. Registration: rlc.sg/mr (Capacity: 40 couples. Closing Date: 30 September)

3. **The Parents Gathering. Sat, 17 Aug. 2.30pm-6pm, Grace Chapel.** Focus On the Family will be running two sessions in our upcoming gathering:

1) Raising Resilient Kids

We live in an increasingly fast-paced and competitive world, where the pressure to succeed academically and perform can leave our children feeling panic-stricken and overwhelmed. Discover how you can help your child by understanding your child's stressors, relishing the gift of failure and building psychological resilience.

2) Raising Relationally-Smart Kids

Talking about sex can be one of the most daunting tasks for parents, especially if we never had the subject broached with us when growing up. How then can we confidently discuss healthy sexuality, love, and relationships with our children? Discover how you can equip your child to make wise decisions from young for their body and in their relationships.

Speaker

Joshua Liong is an international speaker and trainer on issues of youth, sexuality, marriage and parenting. Currently the Principal Trainer at Focus on the Family Singapore he loves connecting with young people and has spent more than 20 years strategising on ways to better equip them for life and relationships.

About RiverLife's Parents Gathering

All parents are invited to come together quarterly to connect with and support one another through the journey of parenting. As we discover more about ourselves and our children, may we grow to become parents that God intended us to be.

For more info & to register: rlc.sg/pg *There is no cost to join the gatherings.*

4. **Join the RiverLife Choir.** The choir meets twice a month for rehearsals and serve once a month at our English service. As a RiverLife Choir member, you will:

- Lead God's people in worship. This is a calling, a joy and a privilege!
- Develop the voice God has given you to praise Him
- Be part of a team and get to serve with fellow RiverLifers

Announcements

You will be invited for an Audition & Interview on Sat, 17 Aug upon sign up.

Sign up now: rlc.sg/serve (Kindly select 'Choir' under 'Worship & Music Ministry' in the signup form.)

5. **Alpha At RiverLife (Chinese Run)**. 24 Aug – 26 Oct 2024, 9 In-Person Sessions. Alpha brings you on a journey to explore life's biggest questions - Who are you and why are you here on earth? If there's a God, what would you ask Him? All your questions about life, faith and God are welcomed at Alpha. Join us at our next run!

- Find out more: rlc.sg/alpha-chi
- Sign up online: rlc.sg/join-alphachi

6. **Current Sermon Series (7 July – 25 August): The Book of Joshua: Walking with God in Faith & Obedience**. As we continue to trek the Israelites' journey after entering the Promised Land, we realise we are far from the end of their story. There were still battles to fight, enemies to defeat and above all – there was a choice to be made. A choice to obey God fully and walk with Him daily. A choice to believe the Promise Keeper would not fail them. This series of messages will help us recognise that we're presented with the same choice today. In Joshua's last words to the people he led, he urges them to cling tightly to the Lord and be very careful to love Him. Perhaps he knew it would be a choice they had to make every day to see God's promises fulfilled. Every day, we have a choice to make. Would we choose to love God, trust in Him and walk in His ways? When we do so as His people, our lives will testify of who God is. This second part of our series based on the book of Joshua covers chapters 5 to 24.

Catch up on Part 1 here: rlc.sg/joshuapart1

7. **SPYCES (Spiritual Parenting of Young Couples)**. 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 Sep 2pm-5pm. Online via Zoom Fees: \$10 per participant. SPYCES is a series of five workshop sessions where participants will connect with fellow parents in the same season, and learn Biblical and practical ways of relating to their children and grandchildren.

For more info: rlc.sg/spyces-info

8. **RiverLife Missions**. Mission trip schedule for 2024 is out now on our Missions website! Discover how you can sow into the nations this year: rlc.sg/missions

1. YA Gatherings (For Young Adults in their 20s). First Saturday Every Month, 5pm-8.30pm Victory Chapel (Level 1).

The YA Gathering is a space where young adults can get together to connect and build community. This gathering is made up of two components – Community Conversations & Communal Dinner – both with a focus on relationship building and life conversations. If you are interested in joining the gatherings and would like to find out more, connect with us on our Telegram Channel: [rlc.sg/ya](https://t.me/rlc.sg/ya).

Gathering Dates: 7 Sep, 5 Oct, 2 Nov

Christmas Outreach: 14 Dec

2. RiverLife Prayer Meetings.

- *RLC Prayer Room.* Tue, 8-9.30pm, Victory Chapel. (Livestream: rlc.sg/rpr-watch)
- *Revive Nights.* Wed, 8pm – 9.30pm, Victory Chapel. (Livestream: rlc.sg/revivenights)

We encourage you to set aside every Wednesday for a time of fasting.

3. Quarterly Calendar for Key English Adult Congregation Events

**Some dates are tentative and subjected to change. Stay updated via our digital bulletin and our social media channels for the latest information.*

Quarter 3	Quarter 4
<p><u>August</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17 Aug – Parents Gathering #3 • 24 to 25 Aug – RLC 33rd Anniversary Weekend <p><u>September</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 07 Sep – YA Gathering • 14 Sep – Caleb Ministry Gathering • 01 to 15 Sep – Marriage Preparation Course #3 • 01 to 29 Sep – SPYces • 06 to 15 Sep – Equipping #2: Numbers • 14 Sep – Caleb Ministry Gathering • 22 Sep – EA Mid-Autumn Lunch Outreach • 21, 22, 28 & 29 Sep - RTF Activation 	<p><u>October</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 05 Oct – YA Gathering, Water Baptism Class #3 • 06 to 20 – Marriage Preparation Course #3 • 12 Oct – Caleb Ministry Gathering • 13 Oct – Discipleship @ Home for Pre-School Parents (Parents Equipping) • 16 to 23 Oct – Feast of the Tabernacles • 19 Oct – Fun Day (Youth) • 26 Oct – Local Outreach (Youth) <p><u>November</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 02 Nov – YA Gathering • 7 to 9 Nov – Ministry Orientation Camp for Sec 1s (Youth) • 9 Nov – Caleb Ministry Gathering • 10 Nov – Discipleship @ Home for Primary School Parents (Parents Equipping) • 10 Nov – Water Baptism Service #3 • 23-25 Nov – Marriage Retreat <p><u>December</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14 Dec – YA Christmas Outreach, Caleb Ministry Gathering • 19 to 21 Dec – Youth Conference • 21-22 Dec – Christmas Outreach Weekend • 28 Dec – Parents Gathering #4 (TBC)

Ministry & Opportunities



1. The 9M Ministry.

This ministry provides prayer support for expectant mothers on their 9-month journey of pregnancy. Sisters-in-Christ who are fellow RiverLifers are assigned as Prayer Buddies to walk alongside mums who sign up to receive prayer support.

- Receive Prayer Support: rlc.sg/9m
- Provide Prayer Support: rlc.sg/serve

2. Missions Microsite.

Discover how you can go, give and pray for the nations. Let's make a difference in the nations together! For more information, visit rlc.sg/missions.

3. RiverLife Cares Opportunities.

Enquiries/Registration: rlc.sg/serve-rlcar

4. Prayer Ministry.

If you require prayer ministry for any issues you face (eg. fear, worry, etc), you can sign up for RiverLife's RTF ministry: rlc.sg/rtf

1. Bible Reading Plan.

The church has provided 3 undated Bible Reading plans that will serve as a resource for those who wish to follow a Bible Reading plan. Link: rlc.sg/brp

- 2 Year Chronological Bible Reading Plan.
- 3 Year Bible Reading Schedule (Alternating readings between Old and New Testament passages)
- Redemptive Historical Bible Reading Plan (At your own pace, focusing on the redemption story)

2. RiverLife Podcast.

The RiverLife Podcast allows you to listen to RiverLife content anytime, anywhere! The link to go to is rlc.sg/podcast or simply search 'The RiverLife Podcast' on Spotify.

3. Spiritual Growth Resources.

We have put together a curated list of recommended resources for the RiverLife family. These resources (books, articles, podcasts and videos) are recommendations for the various spiritual growth stages as you seek to grow deeper in the River of God this year. You can access them at rlc.sg/resource. This list will be continually populated throughout the year.

4. Testimony.

If you have a testimony to share, you can write to us at stories@riverlife.org.sg to share with us your testimony as an encouragement to others.

5. Stay Connected with RLC.

Follow us to stay updated on latest church news and happenings.

WhatsApp Broadcast: rlc.sg/wachannelinvite

Telegram Channel: t.me/RiverLifeChurch

Facebook & Instagram: [@riverlifechurchsg](https://www.instagram.com/riverlifechurchsg)

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