



# PERSPECTIVE IN THE FACE OF CHALLENGE

PROMISED LAND WEEK 11 | DAVE D'ANGELO

**Question:** What's your challenge right now?

## **Joshua 5:13**

When Joshua was by Jericho, he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, a man was standing before him with his drawn sword in his hand. And Joshua went to him and said to him, "Are you for us, or for our adversaries?"

Our questions about our challenges reveal our perspective.

→ Our questions are automatic, but are they beneficial?

## **Proverbs 14:12**

There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.

## **Joshua 5:14a**

And he said, "No;"

Joshua 5:14a in other translations:

- "No"—ESV
- "Neither"—NIV
- "Neither one"—NLT
- "False"—DST (Dwight Schrute translation)

## **Joshua 5:14b-15**

"but I am the commander of the army of the Lord. Now I have come." And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped and said to him, "What does my lord say to his servant?" And the commander of the Lord's army said to Joshua, "Take off your sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy." And Joshua did so.

**Christophany:** a pre-incarnate Christ in the OT

→ Jesus comes in divine intervention to show Joshua his challenge isn't tactical, it's spiritual.

**Question:** How do you see your challenge?

We're spiritual beings having a physical experience. **Our challenges must first be seen from a spiritual perspective.**

### **1 Corinthians 2:6-8**

Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

Religious leaders had Jesus killed because they saw Him as a political problem.

### **1 Corinthians 2:12a, 16b**

Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God....But we have the mind of Christ.

### **Romans 8:5-6**

For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.

The promised land isn't without challenges. We have the Holy Spirit at work inside of us, empowering us, teaching us how to see it differently and respond differently. We can have peace and victory in the face of challenges.

→ To live according to the Spirit is to see our challenges first as spiritual.

### **Joshua 14b**

And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped and said to him, "What does my lord say to his servant?"

### **When we work out our salvation through challenges God will:**

1. Teach us more about Him

#### **Proverbs 3:5-8**

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord, and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones.

2. Transform us to be like Him

#### **Exodus 34:6-7a**

The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin..."

3. Train us to tell others about Him

**2 Corinthians 1:3-4**

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.