



# Biblical Manhood

Remembering Our Legacy, Fulfilling Our Destiny  
September/October, 2017

## Learning To Lean

The Bible says in **Proverbs 3:5**, “Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.” God calls His people to forsake depending on themselves and to depend on Him. Yet, how do you grow in the ability to depend on the Lord? How do you learn not to lean on yourself but on the Lord?

The people of Israel found themselves in this position. They had to forsake confidence in themselves and put their trust in the Lord. Israel had entered the land of Canaan and now faced the city of Jericho. From the human point of view, there was no way that they could attack and overtake Jericho. Yet, by trusting in the Lord and not in themselves, they received the victory over this mighty enemy.

How were they able to put their trust in the Lord? What happened to bring them to the place that they turned away from themselves to trust in the Lord? I would ask you to consider four insights that this passage gives us. These insights can help us move from depending on ourselves to depend on the Lord.

### *Insight#1:*

*Acknowledge and be honest about your weakness*

In order to grow in our ability to trust God, we have to acknowledge our weakness – our inability to face the enemies and trials of our lives. We have to be honest with ourselves. We often depend on ourselves because our pride blinds us to our weakness.

The true Commander of Israel’s army had a unique plan for this battle (**6:1-5**). God wanted them to march around the city once a day for six days. On the seventh day, they were to march around it seven times. Then they were to shout and God would give them the victory.

Why would God command them to do this? It was to show them how impossible it would be for them to take Jericho. God wanted to give them an object lesson. He desired to show them that there was no possible way for them to attack and defeat Jericho. Each day as they marched around this city, they would see and know with greater clarity how absurd it was to think that they could take Jericho by themselves.

This gives us insight on how to grow in the ability to trust God. We have to put away our pride. We must acknowledge our weakness. We have to be honest about our inability to do any spiritual good and to face our enemies and trials.

Learning to lean on the Lord grows out of acknowledging our weakness. As we confess this, it moves us away from trusting ourselves and trusting the Lord. Getting honest about our weakness helps us to focus on the Lord and His mighty power to save, help, and deliver us.

### *Insight #2:*

*Obey God without question*

When God gives this command, Joshua obeys without question (**6:6-7**). He doesn’t hesitate to obey this command. At the same time, the people obeyed without question (**6:8-9**). For six days straight, they marched around the city

one time. On the seventh day, they marched around the city seven times and shouted just as Joshua commanded them (6:11-15, 20-21).

Humanly speaking, this seemed to be a ridiculous strategy. High walls don't fall to the noise of tromping feet. Cities aren't won by the shout of a people. Yet, this is how God determined to give Israel victory. This strategy would give great glory to God; it would show that He is the only One who deserved the credit.

This also gives us insight on how to grow in our ability to trust God. Obeying God forces us to forsake depending on ourselves. When we obey God, we have to trust in His wisdom, His power, and His way. We have to renounce our wisdom, power, and way. As we strive to obey God, we continually have to forsake our way to trust His way, to renounce our ability and trust in His ability. Obedience attacks our pride and self-sufficiency. It moves us away from leaning on ourselves to trust in the Lord.

***Insight #3:  
Practice silence***

As the people marched around the city, they were to remain silent, "But Joshua commanded the people, 'You shall not shout or make your voice heard, neither shall go out of your mouth, until the day I tell you to shout. Then you shall shout'" (Joshua 6:10).

Why did Joshua command the people to be silent? I believe one of the reasons is that it afforded them the opportunity to focus – to focus on the Lord and on the seemingly impossible task ahead of them. This silence gave them time to meditate. It provided them time to see and know that they could not take Jericho and that only the Lord could.

Silence is a self-sufficiency killer. It strikes at the root of our pride and self-dependence.

Why? Because it gives us time to focus on the Lord and ourselves and our circumstances. It affords us the opportunity to acknowledge who God is and His ability. At the same time, it provides us opportunity to see our inability.

F.B. Meyer wrote these words about silence, "That our voice should not be heard; that no word should proceed from our mouth; that we should utter our complaint to God alone – all this is foreign to our habits and tastes. As death is the last enemy to be destroyed in the universe of God, so is the restraint of the tongue that last lesson learned by his children . . . It is only the still heart that can reflect the heaven of God's overarching care or detect the least whisper of his voice through its quiet atmosphere, or know his full grace and power." Silence before the Lord is crucial to learning to lean on the Lord and receiving His full grace and power.

***Insight#4:  
Know that God is powerfully present with you.***

When God gave Joshua his instructions, He made it clear that they were to carry the ark as they marched around Jericho (6:4). Joshua obeyed this command (6:11). They carried the ark with them every day for these seven days. Why did God want them to carry the ark with them? The ark was a symbol of the presence of the Lord. It was a visible reminder that He was powerfully present with them. The purpose of these daily parades is to focus on the ark and therefore the Lord.

This is something that they needed to know! God is with His people in their very midst, to accomplish victory for them. He is not remote or at arms length. He is powerfully present, leading His people and giving them victory. The ark was an object lesson to show

them that God was in their midst and He alone would give them the victory.

The walls of Jericho would come down only by the power of their Lord. The power of their covenant Lord alone could bring down the walls of Jericho and give them victory. Seeing the ark every day on these parades reminded them of the Lord in their midst. It emphasized to them that He was there and would give them the victory. God did this to turn them from themselves to trust in God.

This too offers us insight on learning how to depend on the Lord. He is powerfully present with us. He is not far off or remote. He is with His people to lead them and give them victory. Just as they focused on the ark, we must focus on this truth. We must saturate ourselves with the truth that God is with us – powerfully present to intervene on our behalf.

If the Lord is powerfully present with us, what should this teach us? It should teach us that He alone can save, help, and deliver us. The very fact that He is with us is a reminder that we are not able to stand or fight against any enemy.

God desires that we learn to depend on Him. Our calling is to lean on the Lord. May God help us to live in daily dependence on Him!

Learning to lean,  
Learning to lean,  
I'm learning to lean on Jesus,  
Finding more power than I've ever dreamed,  
I'm learning to lean on Jesus.

**World Prayer Guide**

**November**

- 1-Turks and Caicos Islands
- 2-Tuvalu
- 3-Uganda-The Church
- 4-Uganda-The Lost
- 5-Ukraine-The Church
- 6-United Arab Emirates

- 7-United Kingdom-The Church
- 8-United Kingdom-The Lost
- 9-United Kingdom-Spiritual Awakening
- 10-England
- 11-Northern Ireland
- 12-Scotland
- 13-Wales
- 14-United States-The Church
- 15-United States-The Lost
- 16-United States-Spiritual Awakening
- 17-United States-Missionary Fervor
- 18-United States-Government
- 19-United States-Spiritual Unity
- 20-Uruguay
- 21-Uzbekistan
- 22-Vanuatu
- 23-Venezuela-The Church
- 24-Venezuela-The Lost
- 25-Vietnam-The Church
- 26-Vietnam-The Lost
- 27-Vietnam-Open Doors
- 28-Virgin Islands
- 29-Revival In Caribbean
- 30-Wallis and Futura Islands

**December**

- 1-Yemen-The Church
- 2-Yemen-The Lost
- 3-Yugoslavia
- 4-Bosnia
- 5-Hercegovina
- 6-Montenegro
- 7-Serbia
- 8-Macedonia
- 9-Zaire-The Church
- 10-Zaire-The Lost
- 11-Zambia
- 12-Zimbabwe
- 13-Africa
- 14-Asia
- 15-Caribbean
- 16-Eurasia
- 17-Europe
- 18-Latin America
- 19-Middle East
- 20-North America
- 21-Pacific
- 22-The Fall of Islam

- 23-The Fall of Hinduism
- 24-Bible Translation and Distribution Across the World
- 25-That The Glory and Power of Jesus Would Be Seen Across The World
- 26-More Missionaries
- 27-Believers With A Heart For The World
- 28-Increase In Giving To Mission Efforts
- 29-Destruction of Satan's Grip Over the Nations
- 30-Worldwide Prayer For World Evangelization
- 31-The Soon Return Of Jesus

**Dr. Kevin Meador, President**  
**The Prayer Closet Ministries, Inc.**  
P. O. Box 278, Hickory, MS 39332  
(601) 635-2180 (601) 646-5960

**EMAIL:**  
[prayer@prayerclosetministries.org](mailto:prayer@prayerclosetministries.org)

**WEB PAGES:**  
[www.prayerclosetministries.org](http://www.prayerclosetministries.org)  
[www.kingdompraying.com](http://www.kingdompraying.com)