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NOVEMBER '26



WHEN THE WALLS COME DOWN

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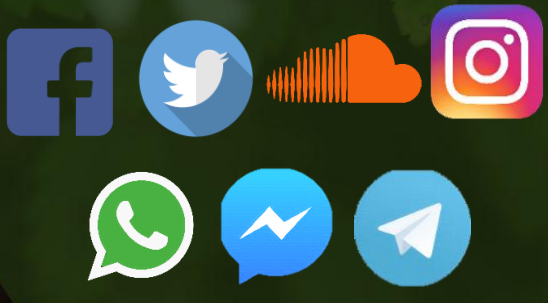
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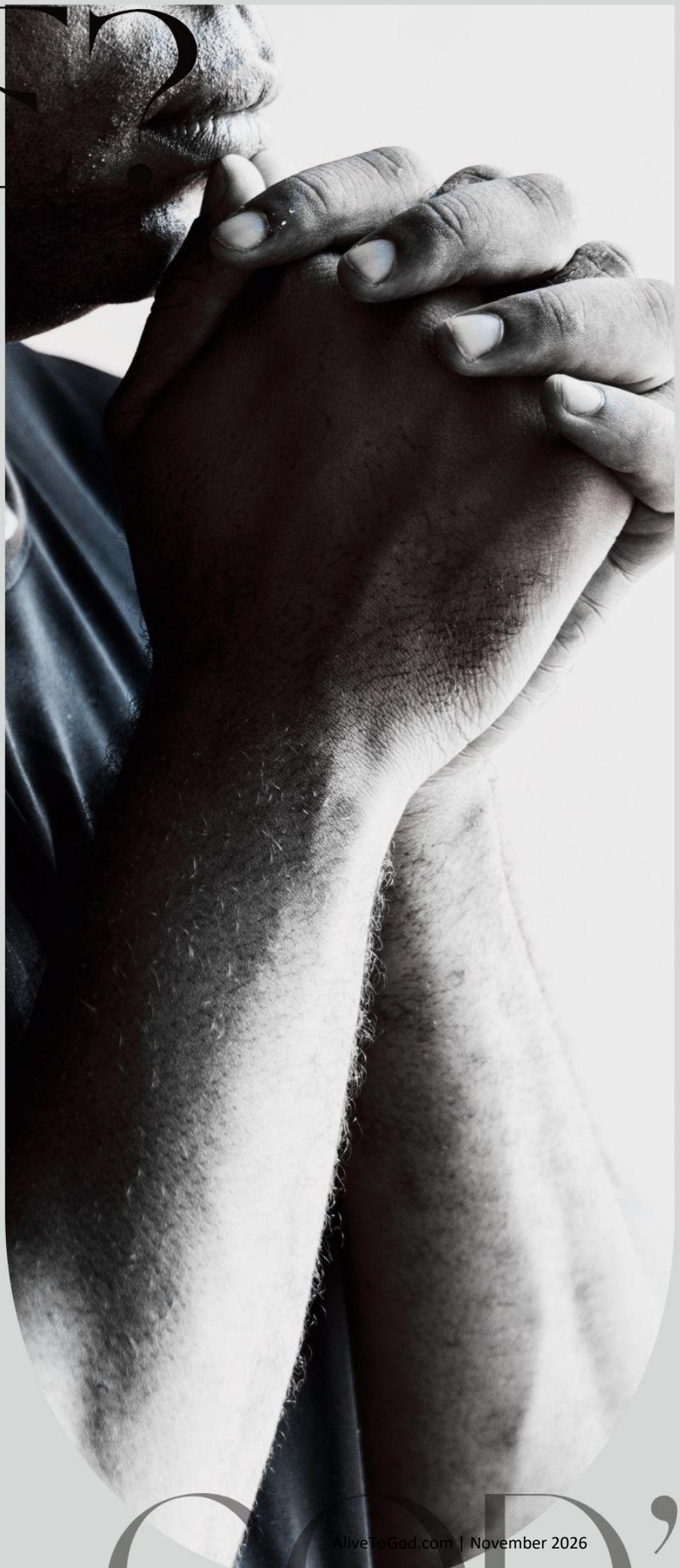
What does SEEK it mean to GOD'S FACE?

BY: GOTQUESTIONS.ORG

Many times in Scripture, God's people are encouraged to seek the face of God. A familiar verse declares, "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land" (2 Chronicles 7:14). If we can't see God's face, how do we seek God's face?



SEEK GOD FACE?



The Hebrew word for "face" in the Old Testament is often translated "presence." When we seek the face of God, we are seeking His presence. The call to seek God's face was issued to His people because they had abandoned Him and needed to return to Him.

A person's face reveals much about his or her character and personality. We see the inward emotions of a person expressed outwardly on the face. We recognise a person by looking at his or her face. In a sense, one's face represents the whole person. For the writers of the Bible, the human face could represent the entire person.

In Psalm 105:4, God's faithful ones were called to "seek his face always." Even if we have not abandoned God, there are times when we neglect to pursue Him. God's face, His holy character, is often obscured by our human condition and fleshly desires. That is why the Lord urges us to seek His face continually. The Lord desires to be our constant companion in every experience of life. He wants us to know Him through and through. If we draw close to Him, God will draw close to us: "Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world" (James 4:8, NLT).

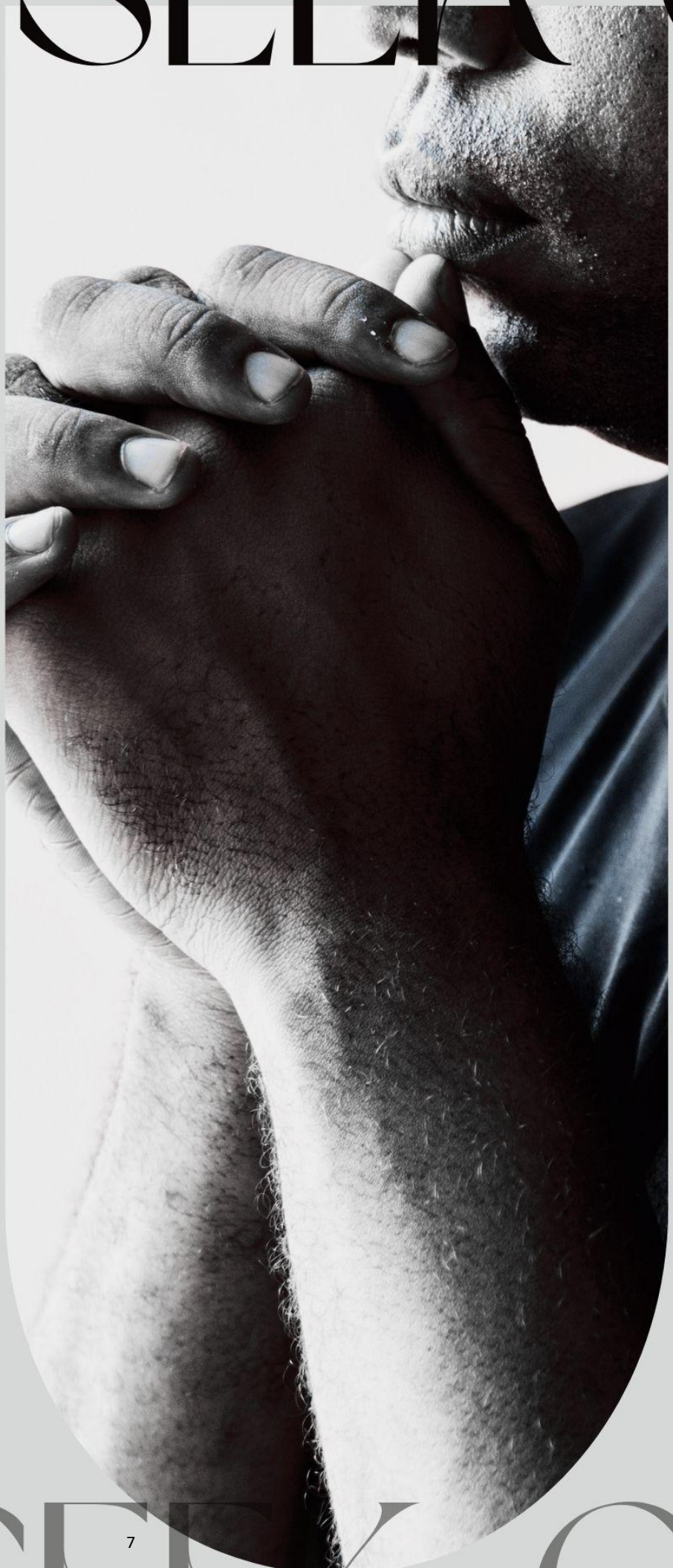
SEEK GOD
FAC

When we approach God in prayer, we are seeking His face: "Who may ascend the mountain of the LORD? Who may stand in his holy place? The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not trust in an idol or swear by a false god. They will receive blessing from the LORD and vindication from God their Saviour. Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek your face, God of Jacob" (Psalm 24:3–6).

SEEK GOD'S



SEEK GOD'S FACE



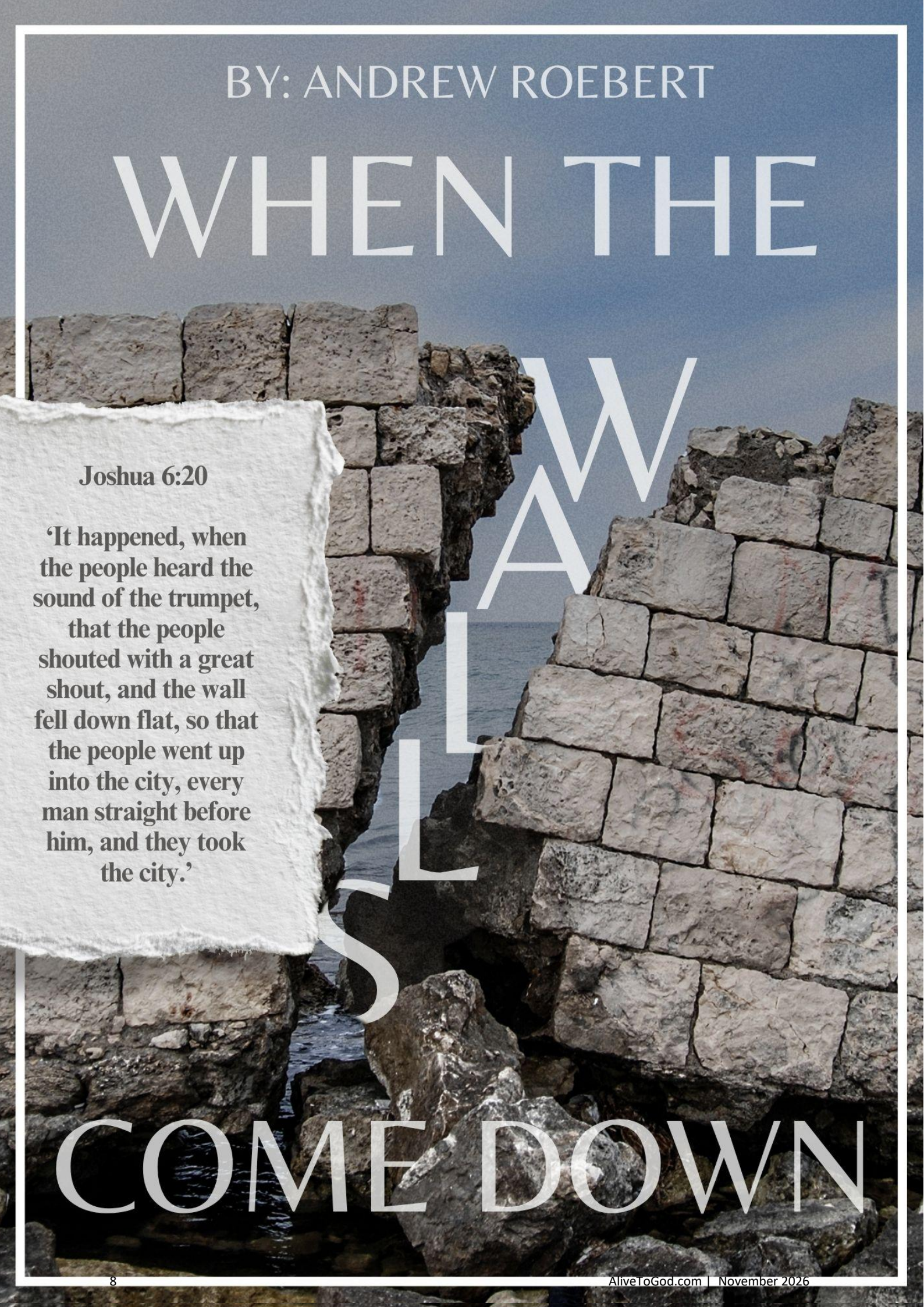
The true nature of worship is to seek God's face. The Christian walk is a life devoted to seeking God's presence and favour. The Lord wants us to humbly and trustingly seek His face in our prayers and in our times in His Word. It requires intimacy to look intently into someone's face. Pursuing God's face is equivalent to developing an intimate relationship with Him: "O God, you are my God; I earnestly search for you. My soul thirsts for you; my whole body longs for you in this parched and weary land where there is no water. I have seen you in your sanctuary and gazed upon your power and glory. Your unfailing love is better than life itself; how I praise you!" (Psalm 63:1–3, NLT).

Having God's face smile on us is an expression of His blessing, love, and favour: "May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you" (Numbers 6:25, NLT; see also Psalm 80:3, 7, 19). When we draw close to God, we are blessed with His shining favour. We do not pursue Him only to give Him a list of wants and needs because we know God is already aware of what we need (Matthew 6:7–8, 32–33). We trust that He will take care of us.

Seeking God's face means desiring to know His character and wanting Him— His presence —more than any other thing He can give us.

BY: ANDREW ROEBERT

WHEN THE WALLS COME DOWN



Joshua 6:20

‘It happened, when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, that the people shouted with a great shout, and the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city.’



The conquering of Jericho was one of the great victories in Israel's history. After years in the wilderness, God's people had crossed the Jordan River and entered the Promised Land. Standing before them was the fortified city of Jericho, with its walls and gates. Yet God had already declared that He was giving them the victory.

Joshua 6:2-3
Then the LORD said to Joshua, 'See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands, along with its king and its fighting men. March around the city once with all the armed men. Do this for six days.'

God's instructions were unusual. The people were to march around the city once a day for six days and seven times on the seventh day. Then the priests would sound the trumpets and the people would shout. As they obeyed, the walls collapsed, and they took the city. The victory came through God's power as His people followed His instructions. There were three things God expected of them: WAIT, OBEY AND TRUST. We also face situations that resemble the walls of Jericho: challenges, opposition, fears and circumstances that threaten our progress. But God's purposes for our lives extend beyond what we can see in front of us. The God Who brought down the walls of Jericho is still able to make a way where there seems to be no way.

THERE ARE TIMES WHEN WE HAVE TO WAIT

Waiting is often one of the most challenging parts of our walk with God. We want answers and progress, but God's timing is not always the same as ours. Imagine how the Israelites felt as they marched around Jericho day after day. The walls remained standing, the gates were closed, and nothing appeared to be changing. Yet every day of waiting was also a day of obedience. Sometimes we feel as though we are walking around the same problem without making progress. We pray, trust and continue doing what is right, but the situation remains unchanged. It is during these seasons that patience and perseverance are developed.

James 1:4
'Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.'

Waiting can teach us endurance, humility and a deeper dependence on God. The process may be uncomfortable, but it is not necessarily unproductive. Don't allow the waiting season to discourage you or cause you to give up. When nothing appears to be happening it doesn't mean that God is doing nothing.

THERE ARE TIMES WHEN WE HAVE TO OBEY

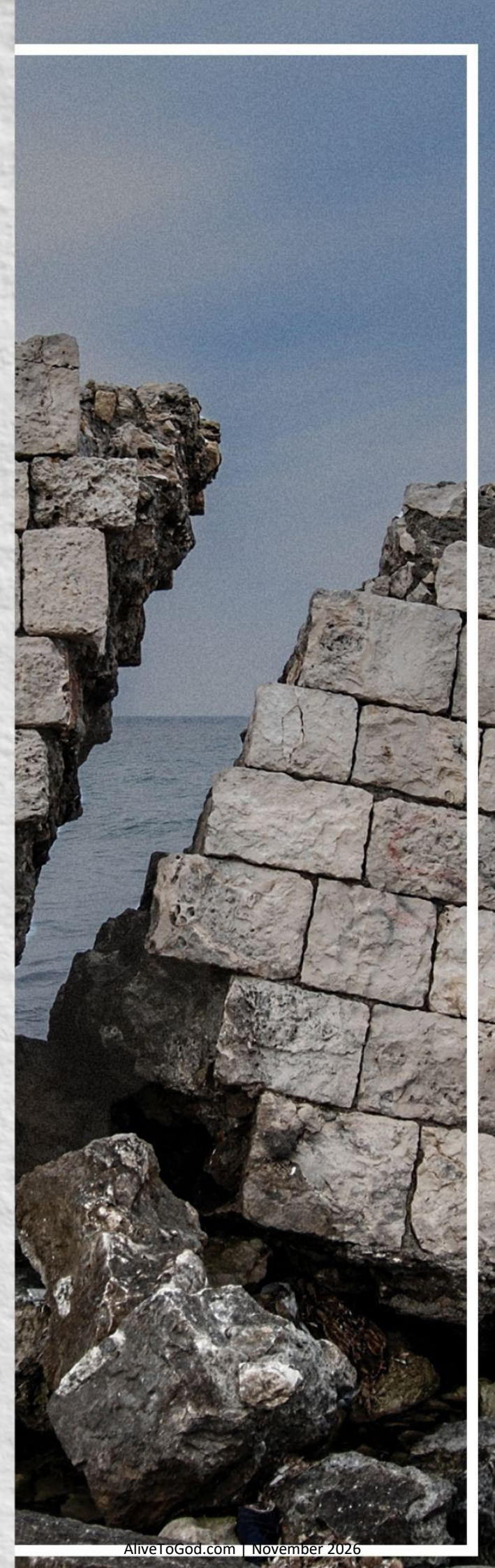
God's instructions to Joshua were certainly not a conventional military strategy. The people could have questioned the instructions or insisted on doing things their own way, but they chose to obey. They did not need to understand every detail of God's plan; they needed to follow His instructions. Obedience does not always require complete understanding. Sometimes God leads us in ways that do not make immediate sense to us. We may feel tempted to take control or force an outcome instead of submitting to His leading.

Proverbs 3:5-6
'Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.'

Obedience means trusting that God knows what we do not know. The Israelites' obedience positioned them to experience what God had promised. We cannot expect to enjoy the benefits of God's direction while refusing to follow His instructions. Keep doing what God has told you to do. Keep following His Word and walking in His ways. Obedience today may be preparing the way for something you cannot yet see.

THERE COMES A TIME TO ACT IN FAITH

There are times to wait and obey, but there also comes a moment when faith must move into action. For the Israelites, that moment came on the seventh day. After marching around the city seven times, the priests sounded the trumpets and Joshua instructed the people to shout.



Joshua 6:16
‘Shout, for the LORD has given you the city!’

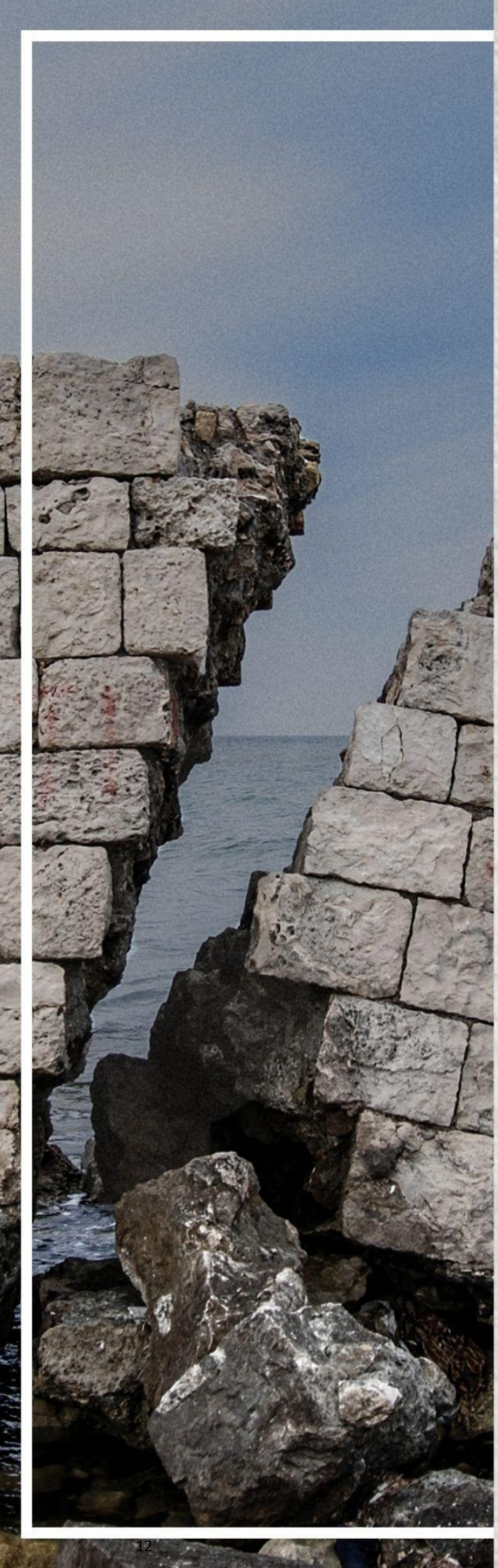
Notice that Joshua did not tell the people to shout because the walls had already fallen. Their shout was an expression of faith in what God had promised. They had to believe before they saw the result.

Hebrews 11:30
‘By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they were encircled for seven days.’

Faith is not simply believing that God is able; it is responding when He tells us to move. Perhaps you have been waiting for perfect circumstances before taking the next step. But faith does not always wait for everything to be perfect. The Israelites did not bring the walls down through the volume of their shout. God brought the walls down, but they had to respond in faith. When God says it is time, don’t allow fear to keep you from taking the next step.

GOD IS ABLE TO BRING DOWN THE WALLS

Jericho was a formidable obstacle, but it was not greater than God. The walls that seemed so strong and permanent collapsed when God intervened. This reminds us that what appears immovable to us is not immovable to Him. We all face walls of one kind or another. There may be walls of fear, discouragement, opposition or uncertainty. Sometimes these situations have been present for so long that we begin to accept them as permanent.



Luke 1:37
'For with God nothing will be impossible.'

We should never allow the size of our challenges to cause us to underestimate the greatness of our God. The Lord may remove an obstacle, open another way, or give us the strength and wisdom to overcome it. Our responsibility is to trust Him and follow His leading. Don't become so focused on the walls that you lose sight of the Lord.

DEAL WITH WHAT LIES DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF YOU

There is an interesting detail in the account of Jericho that we can easily overlook.

Joshua 6:20
'…the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city.'

When the walls fell, each person moved forward into the city directly in front of him. They did not need to run around looking for another place to enter. There is a valuable lesson for us in this. Each of us has our own responsibilities, challenges and opportunities. We can become so concerned about what others are doing that we neglect what God has entrusted to us. There is an old Afrikaans saying: 'Elke huis het sy kruis.' In English: 'Every home has its own cross to bear.' Sometimes we imagine that others have easier lives, but everyone has their own journey and challenges. Comparison can distract us from what God has called us to do.

Galatians 6:5
'For each one shall bear his own load.'

Focus on what God has placed before you and take responsibility for your part. When each person faithfully fulfils their responsibilities, great things can be accomplished. Don't become distracted by someone else's journey while neglecting the path God has prepared for you.

THE WALLS ARE NOT YOUR DESTINATION

Jericho was an obstacle along Israel's journey, but it was not their ultimate destination. Beyond Jericho lay the land God had promised to His people. If they had allowed the walls to intimidate them, they could have stopped short of what God had prepared.

Sometimes we become so absorbed by present difficulties that we lose sight of the future. But what you are facing today does not have to determine your tomorrow. God had not brought Israel through the wilderness and across the Jordan simply to abandon them outside Jericho. He was leading them forward into His purposes.

Philippians 3:13-14
'…forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead.'

Keep your eyes on the Lord and remain willing to follow Him into the next season of your life. The walls were never meant to be the end of the journey.

CONCLUSION

The story of Jericho reminds us of the importance of waiting, obeying and trusting. The Israelites followed God's instructions and witnessed His power at work. Our journey of faith also calls for patience, perseverance and a willingness to act when God leads us. We need to remain focused on what He has placed directly in front of us. Your test can become your testimony, and your stumbling block can become a stepping stone towards the things God has prepared for you.

Joshua 6:27
'The LORD was with Joshua, and his fame spread throughout the land.'

The victory became a testimony to God's presence and power in Joshua's life. In the same way, our lives can become a testimony of His faithfulness. Keep waiting when He asks you to wait, obeying when He asks you to obey, and moving forward in faith when He calls you to act. The Lord Who led His people to victory at Jericho is the same faithful God Who will guide you as you follow Him.

Guidance from God's Word

By: Pastor Steven Dollenberg

EARLIER THIS YEAR, MY WIFE AND I FOUND OURSELVES TRAPPED IN THE MIDDLE EAST FOR 21 DAYS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE WAR, WITH NO WAY TO GET HOME TO OUR KIDS. BECAUSE WE CONSTANTLY HAD TO SHELTER IN PLACE, I WOULD OFTEN HEAD ONTO THE ROOF, AS CHRISTIANS HAVE DONE IN THE MIDDLE EAST FOR CENTURIES, AND PRAY THROUGH SCRIPTURE.

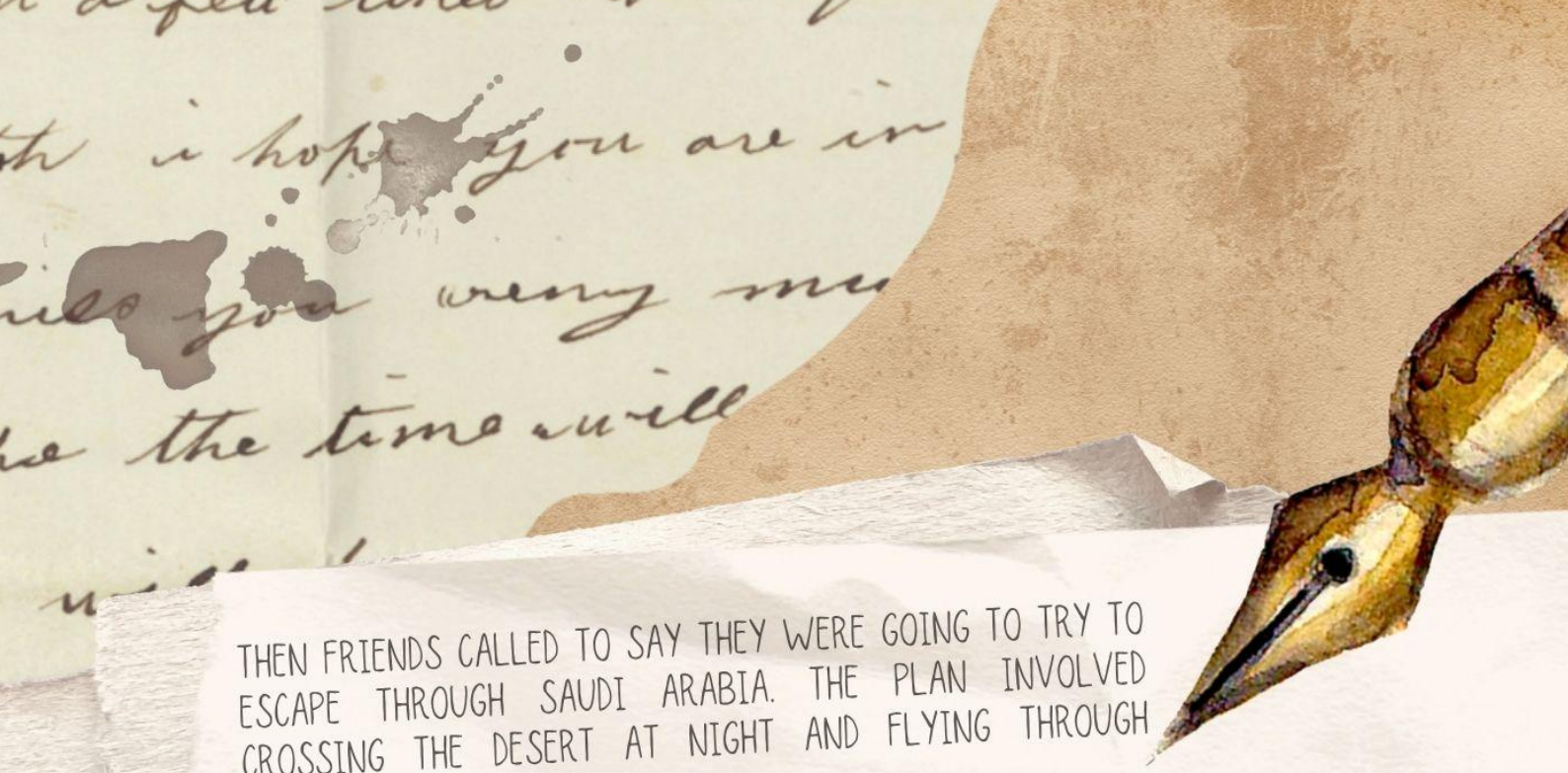
ON ONE OCCASION, I WAS PAGING THROUGH MY BIBLE TO START MY READING PLAN WHEN A HEADING CAUGHT MY EYE: **"THE SIEGE LIFTED."**

THE ACCOUNT IN 2 KINGS TELLS OF A CITY SURROUNDED BY ENEMIES, WITH NO WAY OUT. AS I STUDIED THE STORY, TWO THINGS CAUGHT MY ATTENTION. THE FIRST WAS THAT THE CITY SURVIVED MOMENTS LIKE THESE BECAUSE OF A TUNNEL DUG TO BRING WATER FROM AN OUTSIDE SPRING INTO THE POOL OF SILOAM. THE SECOND WAS ELISHA'S EXTRAORDINARY STATEMENT UNDER SIEGE: **"ABOUT THIS TIME TOMORROW..."**

IT GOT ME THINKING.

THE CHAPTER ONLY CAME UP IN MY READING PLAN IN A FEW WEEKS' TIME, BUT IT FELT LIKE GOD HAD PUT A MARKER ON THE CALENDAR.

MEANWHILE, THE SOUTH AFRICAN AMBASSADOR CONTACTED ME DIRECTLY, AS HE AND OTHER OFFICIALS SUGGESTED I USE MY DAUGHTER'S ILLNESS IN SOUTH AFRICA TO HELP GET US HOME. BUT I FELT THAT WE WOULD BE FORCING THINGS, PLUS IT DIDN'T ALIGN WITH MY SENSE TO WAIT.



THEN FRIENDS CALLED TO SAY THEY WERE GOING TO TRY TO ESCAPE THROUGH SAUDI ARABIA. THE PLAN INVOLVED CROSSING THE DESERT AT NIGHT AND FLYING THROUGH ETHIOPIA TO GET HOME.

BUT THERE WERE SERIOUS CONCERNS.

WE HAD HEARD HORROR STORIES OF TRANSFER-DRIVERS BEING ARRESTED MID-TRANSFER AND LEAVING PASSENGERS STRANDED, AS WELL AS BORDER POSTS REFUSING ENTRY. ON TOP OF THAT, I WASN'T RECEIVING OTPS, SO I COULDN'T BUY PLANE TICKETS AND FACED THE DANGER OF BECOMING STRANDED IN RIYADH. YET WE WERE ENCOURAGED TO FLEE BEFORE THINGS ESCALATED FURTHER. THE CHAOS, STRESS AND PRESSURE IS HARD TO EXPLAIN. BUT IN SHEER DESPERATION, I WENT BACK TO THE ROOF AND PRAYED.

WHEN I CAME BACK INTO THE ROOM, MY PHONE WAS RINGING. IT WAS A RANDOM CALLER WHO INTRODUCED HIMSELF AS MICHAEL. HE WAS A LEADER IN AN UNDERGROUND CHURCH IN SAUDI AND WANTED TO HELP.

HIS FIRST WORDS WERE, **"I BELIEVE YOU ARE TRYING TO GET OUT OF THE WAR?"**

I DIDN'T KNOW WHO HE WAS. I HAD NO IDEA HOW HE HAD EVEN HEARD OUR STORY. THEN HE CONTINUED: "I WILL HELP YOU BUY TICKETS, COME AND FETCH YOU, TAKE YOU TO THE AIRPORT AND GET YOU HOME."

AND THEN CAME THE WORDS THAT GOT MY ATTENTION...



HE COULD GET US TICKETS FOR A FLIGHT OUT ON **FRIDAY.**

FRIDAY WAS THE VERY DAY MY BIBLE READING PLAN WOULD TAKE ME TO THE ACCOUNT IN 2 KINGS WHERE ELISHA HAD SAID,
"ABOUT THIS TIME TOMORROW..."

BUT FIRST MORE CHAOS.

THE MORNING MICHAEL WAS MEANT TO FETCH US, ALTHOUGH THE AIRSTRIKES HAD INTENSIFIED, THE AMBASSADOR URGENTLY CALLED TO GET US ONTO THE EXPATRIATION FLIGHT, BUT WE HAD TO GET TO THE AIRPORT IMMEDIATELY TO SECURE OUR SEATS.

IT CAUSED PANIC AND CONFUSION. WE WOULDN'T MAKE IT IN TIME—AND THOSE WHO TRIED, DISCOVERED THEY WEREN'T ALLOWED TO BOARD ANYWAY. OUR HOSTS INSISTED WE TRY THAT OPTION RATHER THAN RISK SAUDI ARABIA, WHILE FRIENDS WERE PUSHING US TO DECIDE, AND MICHAEL HAD BEEN SO GENEROUS TO OFFER HELP.

BUT I HAD BEEN ON THE ROOF THAT MORNING. I HAD JUST READ **DANIEL 10:**

"BUT THE PRINCE OF THE PERSIAN KINGDOM RESISTED ME TWENTY-ONE DAYS. THEN MICHAEL, ONE OF THE CHIEF PRINCES, CAME TO HELP ME..."

TWENTY-ONE DAYS.
MICHAEL.
PERSIA, WHICH IS MODERN DAY IRAN!

WE TOOK HOLD OF DANIEL 10 AND WAITED FOR MICHAEL WHO DROVE 10 HOURS TO FETCH US, TURNED THE CAR AROUND AND TOOK US 10 HOURS BACK ACROSS THE BORDER, ALL THE WAY TO RIYADH. WE ARRIVED AT THE UNDERGROUND CHURCH WITH JUST ENOUGH TIME FOR A HOME-COOKED MEAL BEFORE LEAVING.

AFTER 21 DAYS, WE WERE FINALLY GOING HOME. AS I WALKED OUT THE CHURCH TO HEAD TO THE AIRPORT, I SAW THE CHURCH'S NAME ON THE WALL. THE NAME OF THAT UNDERGROUND CHURCH IN SAUDI ARABIA? **SILOAM.**



Genesis 15 records a key moment in God's unfolding plan for Abraham and all who would follow after him. God had promised Abraham that he would become the father of a great nation (Genesis 12:1–3), yet Abraham and Sarah were still childless. Years had passed, Abraham had grown old, and the promise seemed impossible. Amid this uncertainty, God confirms His Word, telling Abraham that his descendants would be as numerous as the stars. Genesis 15:6 records Abraham's response: "And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness" (ESV).



What does it mean that

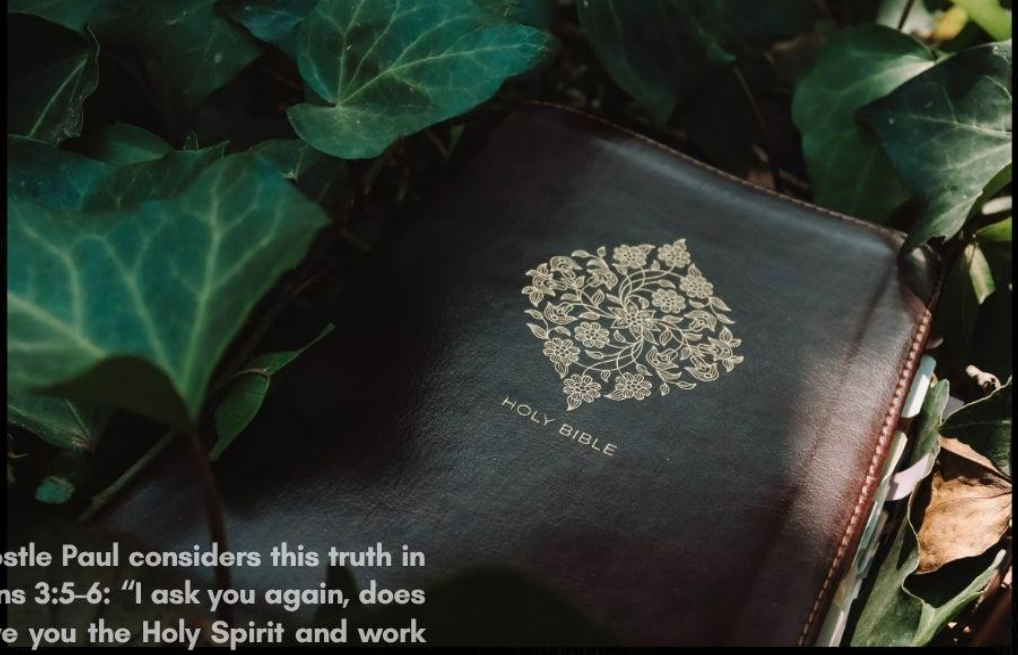
ABRAHAM BELIEVED

and it was accounted to him as righteousness (Genesis 15:6)?



BY: GOTQUESTIONS.ORG

This statement is among the most theologically important in the Bible about how a person enters into a right relationship with God. Abraham did not earn righteousness through obedience, religious ritual, personal merit, or moral achievement. Instead, God "accounted" (NKJV), "counted" (ESV), or "credited" (NIV) righteousness to Abraham because he trusted God's promise. This term carries the sense of an accounting transfer or accrediting of status—God regarded Abraham's faith as equivalent to the righteousness Abraham did not possess. In other words, God placed righteousness into Abraham's ledger, not because he earned it, but as a gift.



The apostle Paul considers this truth in Galatians 3:5–6: "I ask you again, does God give you the Holy Spirit and work miracles among you because you obey the law? Of course not! It is because you believe the message you heard about Christ. In the same way, 'Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith'" (NLT). James agrees, stating that "Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith" (James 2:23, NLT), explaining that Abraham's faith was genuine and that he later expressed that faith through obedience.

Paul builds on Genesis 15:6 in Romans 4, explaining that Abraham's faith was not passive agreement but active, confident trust in God's character. Abraham believed despite impossible circumstances and unfulfilled promises. He was nearly one hundred years old, Sarah's womb was barren, and human logic offered no hope. Yet Paul says, "Even when there was no reason for hope, Abraham kept hoping—believing that he would become the father of many nations" (Romans 4:18, NLT). Abraham's faith never wavered but grew stronger to the glory of God because "he was fully convinced that God is able to do whatever he promises" (Romans 4:21, NLT). This kind of faith that trusts God when circumstances contradict His promise is the model of Christian faith (see Hebrews 11:1–12:2).



Paul uses Abraham to teach the doctrine of justification by faith. In Romans 4:3–5, he explains that people can never earn righteousness like wages. Wages are earned through work and owed as an obligation to a worker, but righteousness is credited to the one who does not work but trusts in God "who justifies the ungodly." Abraham did not possess righteousness on his own; God graciously accounted it to him. His faith was not a meritorious work but trust in God's promise. For Paul, faith means trusting God rather than performing works to earn acceptance. David captures this same idea, but with a twist: "Blessed is the one whose sin the LORD does not count against them" (Psalm 32:2). Justification by faith means that God not only credits us with righteousness we have not earned but also refuses to count against us the sin that we deserve.



In Romans 4:9–11, Paul stresses that God declared Abraham righteous before he was circumcised. Circumcision later became a sign of the righteousness he already had through faith. This order of events matters because it shows that righteousness comes through faith, not through law-keeping or religious rituals. Paul concludes that the promise to Abraham "is received by faith" (Romans 4:16, NLT), not by obeying the law. God regarded Abraham as if he had offered perfect obedience, even though he simply believed.









Paul insists that Genesis 15:6 was written not only for Abraham's sake but for all who believe in God today: "And when God counted him as righteous, it wasn't just for Abraham's benefit. It was recorded for our benefit, too, assuring us that God will also count us as righteous if we believe in him, the one who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead" (Romans 4:23–24, NLT). Abraham's experience is the pattern for Christian salvation: God declares believers righteous when they trust in Christ's finished work.



Abraham's faith revealed that righteousness is a gift from God, received by trusting His promise. Just as Abraham looked forward to God's fulfillment through Messiah, Christians look back to the resurrection of Jesus as the guarantee of God's saving power. Abraham believed God's Word, and God counted him righteous. God offers that same gift of righteousness to everyone who believes in Christ.

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