



The Joshua Project is a “Cry Out” to the believers to repent, turn from our wicked ways, and return to the Lord in humility, obedience, and reverence, making Jesus Lord of our lives and of the church again.

Joshua 7 teaches that God’s people lose battles not because the enemy is strong, but because the people of God have drifted. The modern church mirrors this pattern through compromise, presumption, and diluted truth. But just as God restored Israel, He will restore His church when we return to holiness, obedience, and the fear of the Lord.

What We Can Learn from Joshua's Defeat at Ai

Why God's People Lost at Ai — and Why the Church Is Losing Today

1. Hidden Sin Weakens God's People

Joshua 7:

- Achan secretly took what God forbade.
- The sin was hidden, tolerated, and unaddressed.
- One person's compromise weakened the entire nation.

Today:

- Private sin and moral compromise are often ignored.
- When the church tolerates what God condemns, spiritual authority disappears.
- Compromise in individuals weakens the whole Body.

Bottom Line Dynamic: Unconfessed sin drains spiritual strength.

2. Presumption Replaces Dependence

Joshua 7:

- Israel assumed Ai would be easy after Jericho.
- They relied on momentum instead of seeking God.
- Presumption replaced humility.

Today:

- Churches rely on past blessings, traditions, or reputation.
- Decisions are made without prayerful dependence.
- Self-confidence replaces God-confidence.

Bottom Line Dynamic: Yesterday's victory does not guarantee today's power.

3. Leaders Are Confused by Defeat

Joshua 7:

- Joshua fell on his face, confused and discouraged.
- God revealed the issue was internal, not external.
- Correction had to come before progress.

Today:

- Many pastors are bewildered by decline and cultural hostility.
- The church often blames culture instead of examining itself.
- Renewal requires repentance, not new strategies.

Bottom Line Dynamic: Spiritual defeat rarely comes from external enemies.

4. God's People Lose Power When They Drift from Purity

Joshua 7:

- Israel violated God's clear commands.
- God said He would not be with them unless sin was removed.
- Purity had to be restored before victory returned.

Today:

- Biblical truth is often softened to avoid offense.
- God's presence rests on holiness, not popularity.
- The church must recover conviction and courage.

Bottom Line Dynamic: God's power rests on purity.

5. Restoration Comes Through Repentance

Joshua 7:

- Achan's sin was exposed and removed.
- After cleansing, God restored victory.
- The Valley of Achor became a turning point.

Today:

- The church must return to accountability and repentance.
- When God's people turn back to Him, He restores authority.
- Today's crisis can become the doorway to awakening.

Bottom Line Dynamic: Repentance always precedes restoration.

What's Next?

1. Have a talk with Jesus. Confess your sins and ask for forgiveness. Pray for a renewed spirit and a fresh filling of the Holy Spirit.
2. Meet with the pastor of your church. If he does not accept the truth that the church needs to repent, replace him or attend a church meeting place that preaches against sin and teaches forgiveness of sin through Jesus Christ.
3. As you live your life, share what you have learned here. Make copies of this teaching lesson and pass it on to others. You have a responsibility to the Lord to be a living witness.

Hear the Word of the Lord

<https://fpcjackson.org/resource-library/sermons/achan-lost-the-battle-of-ai/>