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# Words of Truth

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## Hebrews 11:29-30

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As we progress in our studies of this chapter of the Hebrew epistle, the language changes. Instead of talking about Moses, we now see the word “they” in the passages we are going to discuss. These are general passages talking about the children of Israel. Israel passed through the Red Sea while Moses was alive (Exodus 13:17-14:31). However, at the time the walls of Jericho fell down (Joshua 6:1-27) they were being led by Joshua as Moses had died at that point (Joshua 1:1-3). Here is what we are going to look at in this article: *“By faith they passed through the Red sea as by dry land: which the Egyptians assaying to do were drowned. By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days”* (Hebrews 11:29-30).

Before all of the plagues on Egypt, Moses and Aaron spoke to the children of Israel. The record states this: *“And the LORD said to Aaron, Go into the wilderness to meet Moses. And he went, and met him in the mount of God, and kissed him. And Moses told Aaron all the words of the LORD who had sent him, and all the signs which he had commanded him. And Moses and Aaron went and gathered together all the elders of the children of Israel: And Aaron spake all the words which the LORD had spoken unto Moses, and did the signs in the sight of the people. And the people believed: and when they heard that the LORD had visited the children of Israel, and that he had looked upon their affliction, then they bowed their heads and worshipped”* (Exodus 4:27-31). Following that, the children of Israel had seen the great works of the Lord done upon Egypt (Exodus 5:1-12:51). So, they had plenty of evidence that God was able to do wondrous things. Therefore, some might discount the fact that they were willing to cross the Red Sea believing they would not drown. Is that fair to them?

If seeing miracles were a given as assurance of faith, we would not read that we walk by faith and not by sight (II Corinthians 5:7). Many people saw miracles and still did not act in faith (John 12:37-43). In fact, some had the ability to perform miracles and still did not have the kind of faith it takes to walk out onto the sea. Consider the Apostle Peter. The Apostles had been partially given the ability to perform miracles (Matthew 10:1-8). Yet, notice this: *“And straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitudes away. And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone. But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary. And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea. And when the*

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*disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear. But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid. And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt? And when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased. Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God” (Matthew 14:22-33).*

In addition to the children of Israel crossing the Red Sea, the next generation went on to take the land God had promised to their fathers (cf. Genesis 12:1-7). I say the next generation because those whom had faith enough to cross the Red Sea later failed in faith and were made to wander in the wilderness until most of that generation died (Numbers 3:1-14:38). We have covered that already in our study of the book of Hebrews (Hebrews 3:7-4:10). In their efforts to inherit the land God promised to their fathers, they came to Jericho. Right from the start of the taking of Jericho, God’s work was visible.

*“And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand: and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, Art thou for us, or for our adversaries? And he said, Nay; but as captain of the host of the LORD am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What saith my lord unto his servant? And the captain of the LORD'S host said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy. And Joshua did so” (Joshua 5:13-15). If you read the reference earlier in this article, as you should have (Joshua 6:1-27), you know what happened.*

The same point applies here as did with the crossing of the Red Sea. So what that they had seen great wonders up to this point? So what that their forefathers had witnessed and told them of the wondrous works they had seen? Being told to compass the city for six days and all that was to happen thereafter was a test of their faith. If it was not, the Hebrew writers would not have recorded it. Imagine how silly this looked to the people of Jericho.

The Apostles of our Lord witnessed great wonders by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. They later told of what they saw (Acts 2:29-32, Acts 3:14-15, Acts 5:30-32, Acts 10:38-39, etc.). Yet, after seeing all those things and meeting face to face with our Lord after His resurrection, we read the following: *“Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted” (Matthew 28:16-17).* Witnessing great things and following because of what a person has seen is one thing. Following instructions from God to do what may seem silly to others, that is faith! Thankfully, Israel displayed their faith and we can read about it.