

Faith In Action Part 6

“31 By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace.” (Hebrews 11:31 KJV)

Joshua and the Israelites when they took Jericho they devoted the entire city to the Lord and they killed everyone small or big, man and animal except Rahab the prostitute and her household. What is the story of Rahab the prostitute and what she did that credited to her as righteousness? Why she and her household were spared from being killed with the rest of the people of Jericho? Her life and story was put in the Bible to inspire us to walk in faith and obedience unto God. Her name is mentioned in the New Testament for more than one time, ***“3 And Judas begat Phares and Zara of Thamar; and Phares begat Esrom; and Esrom begat Aram; 4 And Aram begat Aminadab; and Aminadab begat Naasson; and Naasson begat Salmon; 5 And Salmon begat Booz of Rachab; and Booz begat Obed of Ruth; and Obed begat Jesse;” (Matthew 1:3-5 KJV)***

The book of James speaks about the faith and the actions of Rahab the prostitute that was considered to her as righteousness: ***“25 Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way?” (James 2:25 KJV)*** Faith without deeds is dead, and Rahab was not justified by faith only but also by her deeds in receiving, believing and protecting the spies that were sent to her.

Let us read ***Joshua 2***, to know the full account of what Rahab the prostitute did and accomplished to God and for the people of God. As we will read we will explain and conclude the good works or the faith in action that Rahab did: ***“1 And Joshua the son of Nun sent out of Shittim two men to spy secretly, saying, Go view the land, even Jericho. And they went, and came into an harlot's house, named Rahab, and lodged there. 2 And it was told the king of Jericho, saying, Behold, there came men in hither to night of the children of Israel to search out the country. (Notice here no other house in the city received them but Rahab only. Why? They did not agree nor consent to their mission and the message or the teaching that were carrying with them. But Rahab opened her life and her house to the people of God and showed hospitality to them; she gave food and lodging. She received them in peace, she agreed with them, and she knitted her heart with them. Rahab expressed her faith in action by showing hospitality and willingness to spend and feed the spies, “14 What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, 16 And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? 17 Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.” (James 2:14-17 KJV) Therefore, “24 Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only. 25 Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way? 26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.” (James 2:24-26 KJV)*** Rahab not only gave lodging to the spies but she protected them also from the enemies. Jesus said, ***“11 And into whatsoever city or town ye shall enter, enquire who in it is worthy; and there abide till ye go thence. 12 And when ye come into an house, salute it. 13 And if the house be worthy, let your peace come upon it: but if it be not worthy, let your peace return to you. 14 And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet. 15 Verily I say unto you, It shall be more***

tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrha in the day of judgment, than for that city.” (Matthew 10 11-15 KJV) Out of the whole city of Jericho was one house and one family responded. ***In repentance life needed to be changed and do the good works that God wanted the people to do.*** Rahab welcomed the spies, that mean she welcomed their mission and agreed with them, and agreed with Joshua who sent them, and agreed with God who gave them the land. Jesus said, ***“40 He that receiveth you receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me.” (Matthew 10:40 KJV)*** ***3 And the king of Jericho sent unto Rahab, saying, Bring forth the men that are come to thee, which are entered into thine house: for they be come to search out all the country. (Rahab placed herself under the risk of the king. She did not delight to keep her friendship with the king, because she decided to believe in the King of kings, Jesus, our Joshua to bring us into eternal life). 4 And the woman took the two men, and hid them, and said thus, There came men unto me, but I wist not whence they were: 5 And it came to pass about the time of shutting of the gate, when it was dark, that the men went out: whither the men went I wot not: pursue after them quickly; for ye shall overtake them. 6 But she had brought them up to the roof of the house, and hid them with the stalks of flax, which she had laid in order upon the roof. 7 And the men pursued after them the way to Jordan unto the fords: and as soon as they which pursued after them were gone out, they shut the gate.” (Joshua 2:1-7 KJV)*** Rahab worked it out to hide them and protect them from the king of Jericho, and she succeeded in doing that. Some they say that she told lie. That was not a lie that God will consider as sin, but that was mandatory to protect the people of God. ***Faith in action is not to give any information to the enemies, even to the false brethren who work with the devil which want to destroy the church. We should hide serious information as the wise men from the east hid the place of the birth of Jesus when they did not return back to Herod who was looking for Jesus to kill Him.***

Rahab had heard the good news about the Lord and she also expressed to the spies her faith and her trust in the only true God our Lord. She also believed that God would give the land to His people, the Israelites for their inheritance as He promised them: ***“8 And before they were laid down, she came up unto them upon the roof; 9 And she said unto the men, I know that the LORD hath given you the land, and that your terror is fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land faint because of you. 10 For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red sea for you, when ye came out of Egypt; and what ye did unto the two kings of the Amorites, that were on the other side Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom ye utterly destroyed. 11 And as soon as we had heard these things, our hearts did melt, neither did there remain any more courage in any man, because of you: for the LORD your God, he is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath.” (Joshua 2:8-11 KJV)*** All the inhabitants of the city they heard about the Israelites and what God did for them, but they did not repent and they did not surrender their life to God and to those whom God sent to them, except Rahab.

Part of Rahab's faith in action was her pleading for her family to be saved, ***“12 Now therefore, I pray you, swear unto me by the LORD, since I have shewed you kindness, that ye will also shew kindness unto my father's house, and give me a true token: 13 And that ye will save alive my father, and my mother, and my brethren, and my sisters, and all that they have, and deliver our lives from death.” (Joshua 2:12-13 KJV)*** Rahab asked for the salvation of her family members, her father, and her mother, her brothers and sisters to be saved. Rahab when pleaded for the life of her family she worked to impart the same faith to her household. Like the jailer whom he and his household received salvation, when he pleaded with Paul for his life: ***“30 And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? 31 And they said,***

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.” (Acts 16:30-31 KJV) Rahab in pleading for her family she pleaded for her life also; in this way she expressed to be part of the Israelites, God’s church, and to be in God’s kingdom, willing to live in holiness.

Rahab repented of her sins; she knew that the God of Heaven will not approve sin but will welcome sinners who repent. Rahab expressed her repentance when she did not plead for the life of her boyfriends and those men who attended her in her business to be saved; that was another prove of her repentance and another clue that shows her true conversion and her willingness to live in holiness and away from sin. Rahab was not married and she knew that to come to the true God and to be with His people then she needed to depart from any illicit extramarital relationship. Many who come to Christ, speak about their old boyfriends or their old girlfriends. **Boyfriend and girlfriend are similar to extramarital relationships and are considered immoralities.**

The Word of God tells us the following, ***“17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” (2 Corinthians 5:17 KJV)*** God had a good plan for Rahab and God has good plans for those who come to Christ and He wants them to live the new plans that He has for them. Rahab forgot her old life and decided to live her new life for God therefore she decided to leave her old life, her relationships with other men, and even her profession.

The example of Rahab can be applied to the life of the church today. Many come to the Lord Jesus Christ and in that decision and as part of their repentance they need to leave the old life in pertaining to the boyfriend and girlfriend relationship and the rest of the extramarital affairs.

The spies assured Rahab about her request if ***First***, she will not utter their business to others: ***“14 And the men answered her, Our life for yours, if ye utter not this our business. And it shall be, when the LORD hath given us the land, that we will deal kindly and truly with thee. 15 Then she let them down by a cord through the window: for her house was upon the town wall, and she dwelt upon the wall. 16 And she said unto them, Get you to the mountain, lest the pursuers meet you; and hide yourselves there three days, until the pursuers be returned: and afterward may ye go your way.*** (She gave them intelligence in order to protect them. Her heart was with the people of God and no more with her own people; these all shows the changes that took place in her). ***17 And the men said unto her, We will be blameless of this thine oath which thou hast made us swear. 18 Behold, when we come into the land, thou shalt bind this line of scarlet thread in the window which thou didst let us down by: and thou shalt bring thy father, and thy mother, and thy brethren, and all thy father's household, home unto thee. 19 And it shall be, that whosoever shall go out of the doors of thy house into the street, his blood shall be upon his head, and we will be guiltless: and whosoever shall be with thee in the house, his blood shall be on our head, if any hand be upon him. 20 And if thou utter this our business, then we will be quit of thine oath which thou hast made us to swear. 21 And she said, According unto your words, so be it. And she sent them away, and they departed: and she bound the scarlet line in the window.” (Joshua 2:14-21 KJV)*** Rahab agreed and applied with faith the instruction the spies instructed her in order to receive what she was promised with; she was sure of the promises of God and she expressed that with her immediate and full obedience.

The spies stressed on Rahab, ***Second***, to do this very thing, to bind the scarlet thread on her window: ***“17 And the men said unto her, We will be blameless of this thine oath which thou hast made us swear. 18 Behold, when we come into the land, thou shalt bind this line of scarlet thread in the window which thou didst let us down by.” (Joshua 2:17-18 KJV)*** And, ***Third***, the spies gave her permission only to bring in her father’s household, ***“18 And thou shalt bring thy father, and thy mother, and thy brethren, and all thy father's household, home unto thee.” (Joshua 2:18 KJV)*** **In the same way, we as church should not allow the new convert to bring in with them their boyfriends or their girlfriends; we should not allow or condone immoralities in the life of the church.**

Regarding marriage for the new convert, God had a new plan for the new believers in Christ and He will not consider their old previous foolish fruitless affairs. You may ask how they will marry? This is the answer: They will marry as Rahab got married. Rahab truly repented and she understood the lesson quickly. She wanted all her family to be saved; therefore she needed to be bound with her commitment so that the salvation of God will flow in the life of her family. **Simply, Rahab will neither be able to be accepted by the people of God, nor she will be able to introduce the holiness of God into the life of her family unless she would get rid of her old extramarital affairs and her old prostitution, profession and business.** Immediately she put the scarlet line in the window, and for sure Rahab immediately went ahead and cleansed her life and her house from things unpleasant to God, and she brought all her kindred into her house to bring them to God. That is real and true repentance and faith in action.

The city of Jericho after its wall collapsed, everything in that city was destroyed and devoted to God. But Rahab was not killed because she was obedient to God rather than to men. Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace. Rahab was willing to take the risk and disobeyed the command of the king of the land in order to hide the spies, She was willing to be even persecuted and willing to pay the cost in obedience to God, the same of what the apostle did and said, ***“29 Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.” (Acts 5:29 KJV)*** *** Believing in Jesus but without serving Him and taking the risk and giving the commitment to God, to His Word, to His church and to His work is not the true faith. Faith should be accompanied by good deeds. The question that is directed to you is this: What had you achieved to God till now?**

Rahab was truly rewarded for her repentance and good deeds. The spies came to Joshua son of Nun and told him everything that had happened to them. Therefore at Jericho battle Joshua instructed the soldiers with the following: ***“17 And the city shall be accursed, even it, and all that are therein, to the LORD: only Rahab the harlot shall live, she and all that are with her in the house, because she hid the messengers that we sent.” (Joshua 6:17 KJV)*** And when Jericho’s walls fell down all the city was devoted to God except Rahab and her family, ***“22 But Joshua had said unto the two men that had spied out the country, Go into the harlot's house, and bring out thence the woman, and all that she hath, as ye sware unto her. 23 And the young men that were spies went in, and brought out Rahab, and her father, and her mother, and her brethren, and all that she had; and they brought out all her kindred, and left them without the camp of Israel. 24 And they burnt the city with fire, and all that was therein: only the silver, and the gold, and the vessels of brass and of iron, they put into the treasury of the house of the LORD. 25 And Joshua saved Rahab the harlot alive, and her father's household, and all that she had; and she dwelleth in Israel even unto this day; because she***

hid the messengers, which Joshua sent to spy out Jericho.” (Joshua 6:22-25 KJV) Joshua, when he took the city, Rahab and her father’s household were spared and were put outside the camp to be further checked and verified, **“23 And the young men that were spies went in, and brought out Rahab, and her father, and her mother, and her brethren, and all that she had; and they brought out all her kindred, and left them without the camp of Israel.” (Joshua 6:23 KJV)** **The church should be cautious and examine carefully the life of the new believers who are coming to Christ. The church should not immediately give a ministry to those who are new comers and the new converts unless after they are well examined and their spiritual status is cleared.**

Rahab did not put in her mind the fear of losing the old relationships with other men, and she did not request the spies if they can arrange for her to have a husband and family. **You should not be afraid to leave the old life and the old relationships. You need to trust God that He has a good plan for you.** Paul said to the Corinthians, **“2 For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.” (2 Corinthians 11:2 KJV)** **Living for Christ should be the only motive and the purpose of coming to God, and no other reason. And as you obey in such a way as Rahab did, a reward from God is waiting for you and sure you will receive it.**

The obedience of Rahab, her true repentance, and her faith in action and good deeds can be traced further:

- Rahab gave up her profession and her source of income for the sake of God.
- Rahab gave up her boyfriends and the rest of her friends for the sake of God.
- Rahab lost her house which was in the wall of Jericho for the sake of God.
- Rahab lost all her countrymen and her city that she was grown up for the sake of God.
- Rahab trusted God, that even the wall shall fall and even she was in her house which was in the wall of Jericho, she still believed that God can and will save her and those who were with her from the collapsed wall.

For all her obedience, as you read here, Rahab was rewarded and integrated into the people of God and she was given a family and a ministry, **“3 And Judas begat Phares and Zara of Thamar; and Phares begat Esrom; and Esrom begat Aminadab; and Aminadab begat Naasson; and Naasson begat Salmon; 5 And Salmon begat Booz of Rachab; and Booz begat Obed of Ruth; and Obed begat Jesse.” (Matthew 1:3-5 KJV)** The husband of Rahab or Rachab was Salmon the son of Nahshon who was the leader of the tribe of Judah in the wilderness, **“10 And Ram begat Amminadab; and Amminadab begat Nahshon, prince of the children of Judah; 11 And Nahshon begat Salma, and Salma begat Boaz.” (1 Chronicles 2:10-11 KJV)** For Rahab’s faith and action God rewarded her further with a ministry and rewarded His church with that marriage. Rahab was integrated with the people of God, the church; she became the mother of Boaz, who is in the genealogy of David, as we can read in the Scripture: **“5 And Salmon begat Booz of Rachab; and Booz begat Obed of Ruth; and Obed begat Jesse; 6 And Jesse begat David the king; and David the king begat Solomon of her that had been the wife of Urias.” (Matthew 1:5-6 KJV)** For from Rahab King David came and later on, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the head of the church and the captain of our salvation. **The Lord has always a good plan for you and His church. This plan will unfold and will come true only when His church and you be willing to fully obey Him and do His will in following the principles of His Word and applying the preparations for Godly**

marriages then we can see new Godly marriages and families take place and new Godly children raise and the ministries of God and His will and His church continue.

My Dear and Beloved: Rahab had a great testimony and her repentance and faith in action had encouraged the people of God and increased their faith and encouraged them to go forward to take the city of Jericho. She imparted faith to the Israelites and even to us today. With her actions and the encouraging words that she spoke to the spies assured them and the rest of the army that the Lord had given them the city. The spies reported the following to Joshua: **“22 And they went, and came unto the mountain, and abode there three days, until the pursuers were returned: and the pursuers sought them throughout all the way, but found them not. 23 So the two men returned, and descended from the mountain, and passed over, and came to Joshua the son of Nun, and told him all things that befell them: 24 And they said unto Joshua, Truly the LORD hath delivered into our hands all the land; for even all the inhabitants of the country do faint because of us.” (Joshua 2:22-24 KJV)** The information that Rahab passed to the two spies and her stand with them and her support to their mission had encouraged and revived the whole Israelites to go forward to serve God. Repentance, faith, commitment and deeds all integrated in the life of Rahab; the very thing that you can learn and apply in your life. **Your repentance and your faith in action, standing with God and His church and your input in whatever way, are of great impact on the life of the church and the ministry.**

Let us come now to the Lord and be willing to repent from all our sins and renounce them. Let us be willing to reproduce the fruit of repentance. Let us yield to God and to the teaching and the instruction that we received in this message. Let us have faith with actions. Let us commit ourselves to live to God and to do His will and to start to serve Him and live our lives for Him. Let us pray

My Prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the Cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word that showed me clearly the sins that I need to repent from, and the actions that I needed to take to show my faith in you. Lord thank you for all the teaching, the corrections, the rebukes and the admonishments we received from you.*

Repent and renounce all your sins. Repent of your worldliness and your love for material things. Repent of your greed and the love of money. Repent of your stubbornness and delay obedience. Repent of your lust and your immoralities. Repent of your lack of faith and your lack of trust in God. Repent of doing your own will and plan. Repent of your non willingness to stand firm and to be persecuted for Christ. Repent of your fear of man and not the fear of God. Repent of your lack of prayers and lack of reading God’s Word in the Bible. Repent of your bad example and your lack of service and ministry unto God. Lord I repent and renounce the following sins _____

Lord I commit my life to serve you and open my life for you and your people. Lord I put my faith into action and I am willing to do whatever you put ahead of me to do in order that your Word will reach the lost. Even Lord I ask you the salvation of my family and household. Lord I am inspired by your Word and the life of Rahab how you used her mightily. Lord take me and use me in the way that you ordained for me so that my life will bring you the fruit that you desire to see. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.

Lord I pray for my Brothers and Sisters who committed their lives to live for you. Lord bless them, protect them and provide all their needs. Lord grant them joy and peace. Lord fill them with the Holy Spirit and give them the spiritual gifts that they need in their lives to go on and serve you. Lord make them fruitful and their lives good testimony to others to follow you.

Lord bless us as a church and lead us and open to us new doors to evangelize and share our life testimonies with others so they will know you, repent of their sins and follow you. Lord enable us to go and make new disciples and to baptize in water those who had repented. Lord lead us and help us to train new workers to serve you. Lord help us to plant new Bible studies and new congregations for the church. Lord prepare us for your coming to go with you when you come to take us. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God.' Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

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