



Out of the wilderness

Who fights your battles? Some battles begin before there is a fight. That's the thing with God. He knows where a path begins and should end. How we get there is a complex series of free will events. The Israelites leaving Egypt is the beginning of a path into the wilderness. Yet, the fight is the Lords alone. Let's go back, way back. Moses died and his companion Joshua is left to take his place. Those are big shoes to follow. God knows this and comes to the rescue.

Joshua encounters a walled city named Jericho. As a side note. Archeologists are confused over the placement and time period of this city. There are many sites and they have pottery from different periods. In a way, this event messes with history. All we really have is the Bible account and some scattered relics from several so-called Jericho's. In the Bible's version of Jericho, God approaches Joshua and tells him how to win the city.

How to make a God warrior? Give them a taste of winning. Later on, Joshua tries to take the city of Ai and loses. He consults God and they win. How to make a God warrior. Give them a taste of losing. God also likes to do it himself. In Joshua 10, God makes the sun stand still. He throws the armies into confusion. God then sends hail on them. Joshua then takes the remaining army down. In every way, God lays the path.

My point of this one is how God makes his warriors. He leads by example through the wilderness. At church once, they asked a girl why she is so focused now. She replied "time in the wilderness." God is not just going to grant your prayer or wish like a genie. He is not going to give anything easy. Faith takes work and time. So, does growing a trust in the Lord. God makes paths. He will even help out. Yet, God makes sure you work for it.

God also wants you to be sure who leads. When Joshua carried the ark across the Jordan. The ark went first. For Moses, God lead by a pillar of fire. He also defended with the pillar too. Yet, we have to ask of God. We have to trust in his ways. There are many cool paths of God in the Bible. Many of the future Kings of Israel learned this the hard way.

1 Chronicles 20:15 **"He said: "Listen, King Jehoshaphat and all who live in Judah and Jerusalem! This is what the LORD says to you: 'Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God's."**