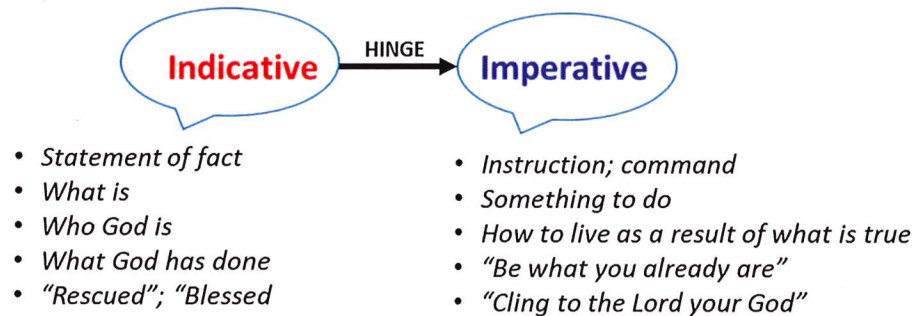


Joshua 23

Joshua's Charge to Israel's Leaders

	CHAPTER	TOPIC
Entering the Land	1	God commissions Joshua
	2	Rahab hides the spies
	3	Israel crosses Jordan River
	4	Twelve memorial stones
Taking the Land	5	New generation circumcised Commander of the Lord's army
	6	Fall of Jericho
	7	Israel defeated at Ai The sin of Achan
	8	The fall of Ai Joshua renews the covenant
	9	The Gibeonite deception
	10	The sun stands still Five Amorite kings executed
Possessing the Land	11-22	Division of the land among the tribes
Retaining the Land	23	Joshua's charge to Israel's leaders
	24	Covenant renewal at Shechem

Two theologically loaded words:



The Word of God does not command us to do or be something before it says that we are that something; rather, it tells us we are something before it tells us to do or be that something.

Commands (**the imperative**) are based upon the present realities of who we are in Christ (**the indicative**).

IF WE GET THIS ORDER WRONG—we lose Christianity

IF WE GET THIS ORDER RIGHT--- our struggle for obedience improves.

Joshua's Charge to Israel's Leaders

23 A long time afterward, when the LORD had given rest to Israel from all their surrounding enemies, and Joshua was old and well advanced in years, ² Joshua summoned all Israel, its elders and heads, its judges and officers, and said to them, "I am now old and well advanced in years. ³ And you have seen all that the LORD your God has done to all these nations for your sake, for it is the LORD your God who has fought for you. ⁴ Behold, I have allotted to you as an inheritance for your tribes those nations that remain, along with all the nations that I have already cut off, from the Jordan to the Great Sea in the west. ⁵ The LORD your God will push them back before you and drive them out of your sight. And you shall possess their land, just as the LORD your God promised you. ⁶ Therefore, be very strong to keep and to do all that is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, turning aside from it neither to the right hand nor to the left, ⁷ that you may not mix with these nations remaining among you or make mention of the names of their gods or swear by them or serve them or bow down to them, ⁸ but you shall cling to the LORD your God just as you have done to this day. ⁹ For the LORD has driven out before you great and strong nations. And as for you, no man has been able to stand before you to this day. ¹⁰ One man of you puts to flight a thousand, since it is the LORD your God who fights for you, just as he promised you. ¹¹ Be very careful, therefore, to love the LORD your God. ¹² For if you turn back and cling to the remnant of these nations remaining among you and make marriages with them, so that you associate with them and they with you, ¹³ know for certain that the LORD your God will no longer drive out these nations before you, but they shall be a snare and a trap for you, a whip on your sides and thorns in your eyes, until you perish from off this good ground that the LORD your God has given you.

¹⁴ "And now I am about to go the way of all the earth, and you know in your hearts and souls, all of you, that not one word has failed of all the good things that the LORD your God promised concerning you. All have come to pass for you; not one of them has failed. ¹⁵ But just as all the good things that the LORD your God promised concerning you have been fulfilled for you, so the LORD will bring upon you all the evil things, until he has destroyed you from off this good land that the LORD your God has given you, ¹⁶ if you transgress the covenant of the LORD your God, which he commanded you, and go and serve other gods and bow down to them. Then the anger of the LORD will be kindled against you, and you shall perish quickly from off the good land that he has given to you."

Joshua's Headline for the speech:

- Cling to Obedience & Love for God
 - **How? What's my motivation?**
 - Be motivated by **grace** (past & future)
 - Be motivated by **fear** (warnings of disaster)

Obedience is fueled by PAST GRACE

³ And you have seen all that the LORD your God has done...

Principle #1

Obedience flows from grace...we don't obey in order to obtain grace.

If obedience flows from grace, then we must be well-versed in all the ways God has blessed us.

Obedience is fueled by FUTURE GRACE

⁵ The LORD your God will push them back before you and drive them out of your sight. And you shall possess their land, just as the LORD your God promised you.

Job 23

**⁸ "Behold, I go forward, but he is not there,
and backward, but I do not perceive him;**

**⁹ on the left hand when he is working, I do not behold him;
he turns to the right hand, but I do not see him.**

**¹⁰ But he knows the way that I take;
when he has tried me, I shall come out as gold.**

Principle #2

Obedience is fueled by God's future grace. We can settle down and rest even when uncertain about future plans, because we are certain in God's unchanging character.

Joshua Reviews what Obedience Looks Like

Obedience is fueled by God's Warnings

Principle #3

God's warnings to His people are harsh and real. Understand them this way:

- God is jealous for His own glory and for our good
---and---
- It's still the grace of God toward restoration