

An Unusual Battle Plan by Valorie Cole, ABWM President of Indiana

"No, O people, the Lord has told you what is good, and this is what He requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God." - Micah 6:8 (NLT)

God had a specific plan for Joshua and the Israelites when God told Joshua they were to conquer the city of Jericho. It was an unusual and unconventional idea. And it probably didn't make much sense to Joshua and God's people when God told them what God wanted them to do. But they did it.

They were to walk around the walls of Jericho once a day for six days. Then, on the seventh day, they were to walk around the walls seven times. After the seventh time walking around the walls, the priests were to sound the trumpets, and the entire army was to shout.

Though Joshua and the Israelites may not have understood, they still followed the Lord's instructions—and they were victorious as a result! Everything God promised them at the end of the seven days was delivered to them.

God could have brought those walls down, but God chose a different way. Throughout the Bible, we see many different and strange requests from God. Read through your Bible to learn more about God's different way of doing things...your eyes will be opened, your heart will be amazed, and you will be blessed!

God wants to see what's in your heart. God wants to know if you'll trust God no matter what! Another great scripture is Romans 8:28, which says, *"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him."* If you know that God has your best interest at heart, you have that blessed assurance from God, then it's easy to trust God and to follow God's instructions...even in impossible situations.

As we battle our Mission Focus this year and next, "Let the Walls Fall Down," call on the Lord. Ask God for wisdom. Trust God. We have great battles ahead of us. But we, as American Baptist women, are strong and mighty through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Just like Joshua, we need to listen to God, learn from God, and obey God. It is hard to stand up to all the evil in this world. Remember, all this evil is from Satan and his followers, our fellow human beings, people we love. But follow God's plan. Stand firm and know that you will be well on your way to victory through our Lord and Savior.

