

Recovery from Spiritual Failure

(Moving on from Forgiveness)

Joshua 8

I. Regrouping after Defeat - Forgiveness and Encouragement: God tells Joshua to plan for victory over Ai (Joshua 8: 1-9)

- Because God forgives, we can be encouraged and again enjoy His promises.

Two Kinds of Forgiveness

1. Eternal Forgiveness – Have I trusted in Jesus Christ that He took the eternal punishment for my sin? *Am I saved?* (John 3:16)
2. Continual Forgiveness – As a believer, have I confessed my known sins? *Am I living in fellowship with God?* (1 John 1:7-9)

II. Resuming Victory – Forgiveness and Moving On: Joshua leads Israel to victory over Ai & Bethel (Joshua 8:10-29).

- God has a plan for us to be victorious in the same area where we have previously experienced defeat.
- When we know we are forgiven we can move on to do what God wants us to do next.

Pictures of God's forgiveness

- *Whiter than snow/like wool* – Psalm 51:2, 7; Isaiah 1:18
- *Removed... as far as the east is from the west* – Psalm 103:12
- *Swept away like a cloud... like the morning mist* – Isaiah 44:22
- *Hurled into the depths of the sea* – Micah 7:19

III. Renewing our Commitment – Forgiveness and Newness: Renewal of the covenant at Mt. Ebal and Mt. Gerazim (Joshua 8:30-35).

- Maintaining spiritual victory means making a new commitment to God's word.