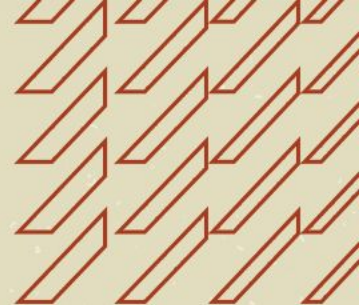




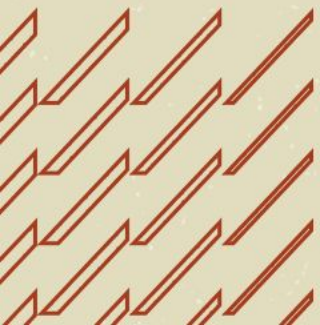
# Responding After Failure

Joshua 8







What does it look like to move forward? How should we, as the people of God, respond after confession and repentance? What does a renewed commitment to God look like?



# Joshua 1:1-2

The Lord said to Joshua, "Do not be afraid or discouraged. Take all the troops with you and go attack Ai. Look, I have handed over to you the king of Ai, his people, city, and land. Treat Ai and its king as you did Jericho and its king, except that you may plunder its spoil and livestock for yourselves. Set an ambush behind the city."

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1. The Penalty of God is Satisfied (7:26–8:2)
  2. The Promise of God is Sure (8:3–17)
  3. The Power of God is Sufficient (8:18–29)
  4. The Precepts of God are Sacred (8:30–35)



# 1. The Penalty of God is Satisfied (7:26–8:2)



# 1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.



## 2. The Promise of God is Sure (vv.3-17)



# Joshua 8:3–9

So Joshua and all the troops set out to attack Ai. Joshua selected thirty thousand of his best soldiers and sent them out at night. He commanded them, "Pay attention. Lie in ambush behind the city, not too far from it, and all of you be ready. Then I and all the people who are with me will approach the city. When they come out against us as they did the first time, we will flee from them. They will come after us until we have drawn them away from the city, for they will say, 'They are fleeing from us as before.'




# Joshua 8:3–9

While we are fleeing from them, you are to come out of your ambush and seize the city. The Lord your God will hand it over to you. After taking the city, set it on fire. Follow the Lord's command — see that you do as I have ordered you." So Joshua sent them out, and they went to the ambush site and waited between Bethel and Ai, to the west of Ai. But he spent that night with the troops.

### 3. The Power of God is Sufficient (8:18-29)

# Joshua 8:18–19

Then the Lord said to Joshua, “Hold out the javelin in your hand toward Ai, for I will hand the city over to you.” So Joshua held out his javelin toward it. When he held out his hand, the men in ambush rose quickly from their position. They ran, entered the city, captured it, and immediately set it on fire.



The Christian is a born conqueror,  
the gates of hell shall not prevail  
against him.

William Gurnall

# Joshua 8:28-29

Joshua burned Ai and left it a permanent ruin, still desolate today. He hung the body of the king of Ai on a tree until evening, and at sunset Joshua commanded that they take his body down from the tree. They threw it down at the entrance of the city gate and put a large pile of rocks over it, which still remains today.



# Joshua 8:30–35

At that time Joshua built an altar on Mount Ebal to the Lord, the God of Israel, just as Moses the Lord's servant had commanded the Israelites. He built it according to what is written in the book of the law of Moses: an altar of uncut stones on which no iron tool has been used. Then they offered burnt offerings to the Lord and sacrificed fellowship offerings on it. There on the stones, Joshua copied the law of Moses, which he had written in the

# Joshua 8:30–35

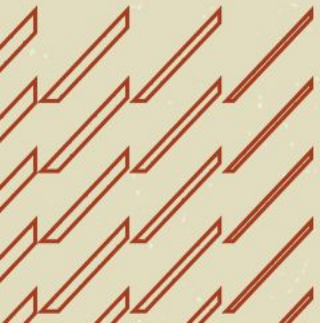
presence of the Israelites. All Israel — resident alien and citizen alike — with their elders, officers, and judges, stood on either side of the ark of the Lord's covenant facing the Levitical priests who carried it. Half of them were in front of Mount Gerizim and half in front of Mount Ebal, as Moses the Lord's servant had commanded earlier concerning blessing the people of Israel. Afterward, Joshua read

# Joshua 8:30–35

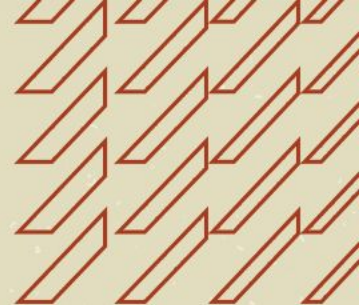
aloud all the words of the law – the blessings as well as the curses – according to all that is written in the book of the law. There was not a word of all that Moses had commanded that Joshua did not read before the entire assembly of Israel, including the women, the dependents, and the resident aliens who lived among them.



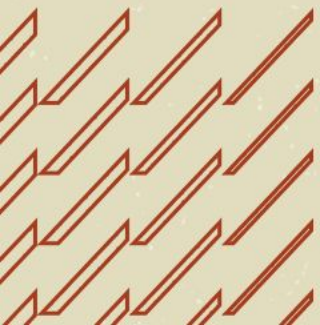
#### 4. The Precepts of God are Sacred (8:30–35)



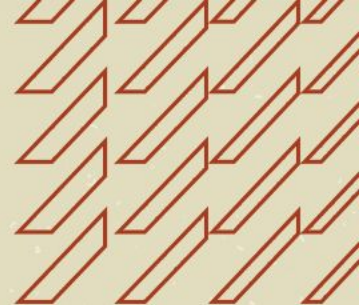




What does it look like to move forward? How should we, as the people of God, respond after confession and repentance? What does a renewed commitment to God look like?







A renewed commitment to the Lord means we remember that God's penalty has been satisfied at the cross, God's promise has been guaranteed in the empty tomb, God's power has been granted by the Spirit, and God's precepts have been given for a life of worship and mission.

