

THE JOSHUA FIVE

Part 5 • October 25, 2026 | Pastor Jason Smotherman

THE GRIND

JOSHUA 1:7B (NKJV)

Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left.

Apathy is not always laziness. Sometimes apathy is what happens when your soul gets tired of fighting.

Apathy - absence or suppression of passion, emotion, or excitement.

5 CAUSES OF APATHY

1. COMFORT

Things are good enough. Comfort makes you satisfied with where you are when God is calling you forward. Israel could have stayed on the safe side of the Jordan. But the promise required them to cross over.

JOSHUA 1:2 (NKJV)

Arise, go over this Jordan.

Comfort says, "Stay here." Courage says, "Cross over."

2. DISAPPOINTMENT

I tried before, and it didn't work. Disappointment turns yesterday's pain into today's hesitation. Joshua had already watched an entire generation die in the wilderness. He had seen rebellion, failure, complaining, and defeat. Yet God still told him to move forward.

JOSHUA 1:5 (NKJV)

As I was with Moses, so I will be with you.

Disappointment remembers what went wrong. Courage remembers who is still with you.

3. DISTRACTION

I've got too many other things going on. Distraction doesn't necessarily make you quit. It simply gets you focused on things that don't matter as much.

JOSHUA 1:7 (NKJV)

Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left.

You don't have to abandon your calling to miss it. You just have to become distracted from it.

4. FATIGUE

I'm just tired. Fatigue can make something worth fighting for feel like it's no longer worth the fight. Israel had been wandering for 40 years. Joshua wasn't starting fresh. He was stepping into leadership after decades in the wilderness.

That's why God doesn't just tell Joshua to go. He repeatedly tells him to be strong.

JOSHUA 1:9 (NKJV)

Be strong and of good courage.

Sometimes the most courageous thing you can do is keep going when you're tired.

5. CYNICISM

I've seen too much to believe anything will really change.

Cynicism is deeper than disappointment. Disappointment says, "That didn't work." Cynicism says, "Nothing works."

Joshua had plenty of reasons to become cynical. He had watched people reject God's promise even after seeing God's power.

But Joshua never allowed other people's unbelief to become his theology.

NUMBERS 14:8 (NKJV)

If the LORD delights in us, then He will bring us into this land.

Cynicism expects the worst. Courage still believes God.

Dig deeper into The Book of Joshua with this Bible Study Guide. Also sign up at parkwaycc.com/newsletter. Select "General (Newsletter + Updates)" to get notified of additional content.

