

# AFTER CHURCH DEVO

BY REBUILD

## Topic: Restored Through God's Faithful Redemption

### Opening Prayer:

Psalm 51:10 (ESV) – "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me." Lord, we come before You seeking renewal and restoration. Open our hearts to Your Word, and show us how Your faithful redemption can restore us even in the midst of our shortcomings. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

### Read: Joshua 16:1-10

Joshua 16 presents the allotment of land for the descendants of Joseph, focusing on Ephraim. Ephraim, a tribe blessed with great potential, receives a choice inheritance within the Promised Land. However, there is a striking failure at the end of the chapter: Ephraim did not drive out the Canaanites who lived in Gezer (Joshua 16:10). This decision to allow the Canaanites to remain highlights a pattern of partial obedience, which would eventually lead to spiritual compromise.

Ephraim's failure is not just about a military or territorial shortcoming. It symbolizes deeper spiritual disobedience. God's command to Israel had been clear: they were to completely remove the inhabitants of the land to protect their hearts from idolatry (Deuteronomy 7:2-4). By allowing the Canaanites to coexist with them, Ephraim opened the door to future spiritual and cultural corruption. What seems like a small act of compromise would eventually lead Israel into greater disobedience and suffering.

This theme of incomplete obedience is something we often encounter in our own lives. Like Ephraim, we may start with zeal and excitement for what God has called us to do, but along the way, we falter, leaving parts of God's command unfinished. Maybe we think we've done "enough," or perhaps we struggle with fear or doubt. Regardless, incomplete obedience can have long-term consequences in our walk with God.

However, the beauty of this story lies not in Ephraim's failure but in God's faithfulness. Even when Ephraim failed to fully obey, God's promises to His people remained intact. He didn't abandon His covenant with Israel. Instead, God continued to work through Israel's history, offering redemption and restoration, pointing ultimately to the coming of Jesus, the Redeemer.

This is the heart of the gospel. In our failures, when we fall short of what God asks, He doesn't abandon us. Instead, He provides a way for us to be restored through His faithful redemption. Ephraim's story is a reminder that while we may falter, God's grace is greater than our shortcomings. He remains committed to His promises and offers us the opportunity to return to Him, to be cleansed and restored through Christ.

Practical application for our lives can be found in recognizing where we, like Ephraim, may have left areas of incomplete obedience. Whether it's a relationship, a habit, or an unresolved issue, God calls us to confront these areas, not in fear, but with the confidence that He is a Redeemer. Our failures are not the end of the story—God's faithfulness is.

### **Conclusion:**

Ephraim's incomplete obedience serves as a warning but also as an invitation to trust in God's faithfulness. Even when we fall short, God remains true to His promises. He offers us redemption, restoring us through His unfailing love and grace. Our failures are opportunities for God to show His redemptive power in our lives.

### **Discussion Questions:**

#### **For Students:**

How can you identify areas of partial obedience in your life, and what steps can you take to fully follow God's commands?

#### **For Parents:**

How can Ephraim's story serve as an example of teaching our children about obedience and the power of God's redemption?

#### **For Professionals:**

What are some "unfinished" areas in your work or spiritual life where you need to trust God's redemption to bring restoration?

**This week, identify an area in your life where you've struggled with incomplete obedience. Pray for God's strength to confront it and take a practical step towards restoration, trusting in His faithful redemption.**