

Finishing Well

Lesson #5 Claim & Enter Feb. 3, 2021

As the book of Joshua opens, the Israelites are camped along the east bank of the Jordan River at the very edge of their Promised Land.

- For 40 years the Israelites had journeyed a circuitous route through the wilderness.
- After their commitment to God at Mt. Sinai, He led them on a brief journey to Kadesh-Barnea to enter their Promised Land, Canaan - their inheritance.
- Due to unbelief and rebellion, they refused to obey God's command to enter Canaan and conquer the enemies who were inhabiting their land.
- 38 years passed as that generation died in the wilderness - NEVER tasting of their inheritance.
- Finally, the new generation is ready to cross the Jordan River and possess the land.
- They reaffirmed their commitment to God by obediently setting out across the Jordan to possess their promised land. [God had given. It was already theirs. CLAIM IT by faith]
- As we live our Christian life, we need to cross over from the old life to the new, put off our selfish desires, and press on to claim and possess all God has planned for us.

God's promise to Moses in Ex. 33:14: "My Presence will go with you and I will give you rest."

- There was NO rest in Egypt or the years in the wilderness.

Deut. 12:9 Moses farewell address: "For as yet you have not come to the rest and the inheritance which the Lord your God is giving you."

Josh. 1:10-15 Go in to possess the LAND which the LORD your God is giving you to possess..

The LORD your God is giving you REST and is giving you this LAND. [Joshua's challenge]

- "Canaan rest" is a picture of the rest that Christian believers experience when they yield all to Christ and claim their inheritance by faith."
- The victorious Christian life is a series of conflicts and victories as we defeat one enemy after another and claim more of our inheritance in Christ to the glory of God.

In Hebrews 3 & 4, the land of Canaan is a picture of the spiritual rest and victory which may be enjoyed here on earth by every believer.

Ephesians speaks of life "in the heavenly places" - not in heaven, but in the experience of the abundant life with our Risen Lord in His victory here and now.

Does Canaan, the Promised Land = Heaven? NO! Enemies; Bloodshed; Wars; Conquering to do Canaan = Spiritual Promised Land; God's Rest; Our Abundant Life

- Canaan was the goal to which God was leading His people.
- Deliverance from Egypt was in preparation for the enjoyment of Canaan.
- The Passover, shedding of the blood, crossing of the Red Sea, the destruction of Pharaoh's armies...all of this would have been useless unless they led to the Promised Land.

- Burning bush: God pledged Himself not only to deliver the Israelites from the bondage of Egypt, but also to bring them into a land flowing with milk and honey.

Deut. 6:23 God did not save Israel out of Egypt to live a life of defeat in the desert.

- God did not save us so we could stumble around in our wilderness of defeat.
- He saved us to take us into our Canaan [spiritual inheritance - the fullness of Christ]
- He brought us out [justification] that He might bring us in [sanctification.]

Consider: Jesus Christ wants to lead us in conquest now and share with us all the treasures of His wonderful inheritance. He has blessed us with every spiritual blessing, but too often we live like defeated paupers.

I Cor. 10:11-12 Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. ¹² Therefore let the one who thinks he stands watch out that he does not fall.

Joshua 1:1-2a After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, it came to pass that the Lord spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying: Moses, my servant is dead.

Moses portrayed the law which cannot lead us into the saving and abundant life of Christ.

It was only a tutor, a temporary servant which must pass away [Gal. 3:23f].

It could not take away sin or provide deliverance from the flesh. Why?

- Because it was weak in that it was dependent upon man and his ability [Rom. 8].

Thus, Moses had to pass from the scene before Joshua could be commissioned and given orders to take the people across Jordan and into the Promised Land.

Deut. 34:7 Although Moses was 120 years old when he died, his eyesight was not dim, nor had his vigor left him. [My old man > Dead > Seems very strong]

Joshua's name reminds us that "Yahweh is Salvation." As the Hebrew equivalent of Jesus, Joshua typifies the Lord Jesus and His saving life who provides us not only with redemption, but with the power we need to enter into the possession of our possessions in Christ.

- Entrance into the land and everything in Canaan was put into the hands of Joshua as trustee for the people
- It was his responsibility to divide and assign the land as each tribe came to claim its portion from him.
 - Perfectly fulfilled in Jesus Christ who is the substance of the shadow or type.
 - Jesus Christ holds all spiritual blessings in trust for us to claim.

God has nothing for any one of us except we find it in Jesus Christ. Whatever Jesus Christ has is held in trust for us, to be bestowed as by faith we claim our inheritance.

God's Challenge Josh. 1:2b Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan,

Cross the Jordan

Claim the Inheritance

Die to the flesh and fleshly desires

Live according to God and His Word

When God presents to us a challenge to die to what we want, and to live in His power,

He always gives us the confidence of a Promised Victory!

God provides a 3-fold ammunition to assure us of victory: Promises, Presence, Past Performance

I. God's Promises: I Am Going To Give This Land To You

Joshua 1:2 "Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, thou and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel.

Note: Joshua knew Canaan was infested by a thousand foes.

Every inch of advance would be contested by the enemy.

Ex. 23:30 Little by little I will drive them out from before you, until you have increased, and you inherit the land. [See Deut. 7:22]

- This opened up the possibility of life on a higher plane, deliverance from a wilderness experience of defeat into the experience of victory, even though it would be through warfare and conflict.

God's commands to Joshua:

Joshua 1:9 Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

- Be strong When you feel weak
- Be not afraid When you are frightened
- Neither be thou dismayed When you feel like quitting

Joshua 1:3-4 Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses.

- Tread = Hebrew military term = darak = do warfare

From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the River Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your territory.

Gen. 12:7 "And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him."

The promises were reaffirmed to every succeeding generation of the nation of Israel.

The land God gave to Israel was about 300,000 square miles. They only claimed about 30,000 square miles. They were not limited to the 30,000. They were given as much as they were willing to claim, v.3. *The extent of their victory was only limited by their faith!*

Eph. 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with ALL spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

Truth: ALL of the Lord Jesus is mine at the moment of salvation, but I possess only as much of Him as by faith I claim. I can be a HINDRANCE to my the victory that is already mine!

Truth: Canaan was inhabited by strong enemies. Seven nations held the land of Canaan with strongholds and chariots of iron.

- Our spiritual land of abundant life in the Lord Jesus Christ is not free from conflict or from the presence of enemies. There are STRONGHOLDS in my life.

God's Challenge - Go Claim Our Land = Spiritual Battle > Need Victory Over The Flesh

We are not on a playground; we are on a battleground!

We are engaged in warfare with a spiritual enemy who is far more powerful than we are.

Eph. 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

➤ In our own strength, we cannot defeat our enemies!

Eph. 6:13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day and having done all, to stand.

God's Promises - Promise Of Victory Over The Enemy

Joshua 1:5a There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: Many Christians live in defeat because of situations that have defeated them emotionally, physically or psychologically.

Gal. 5:1 It is for freedom that Christ has set us free.

John 10:10 I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. The only way to claim the confidence God wants us to live in is by seeing Him who is invisible.

II Corinthians 1:20 For the Son of God, Jesus Christ...in him it has always been "Yes."

Jesus Christ is the YES to all God has promised. When we live our lives in Jesus Christ, we are the AMEN to God's promises. Our testimony shouts to those around us "AMEN to Jesus Christ!"

II. God Provides The Confidence Via The Promise Of His Presence, Power & Faithfulness

Joshua 1:5c "I will not leave you nor forsake you." What a promise!

- There can be no confidence in anything else!

Romans 8:31 If God be for us, who can be against us?

III. God Provides The Confidence Through His Past Performance

Joshua 1:5b - Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you.

"Living victoriously is not your responsibility - it's your response to God's ability!"

"Every good and perfect gift is from above."

God Gives Us The Challenge: Claim something He has secured.

God Gives Us The Confidence Of Victory Based Upon Unbeatable Ammunition

Confidence in God comes from trust in His promises, His Presence and His Past performance.

The Conduct That God Presumes

Joshua 1:6 Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I sware unto their fathers to give them.

Before God could fulfill His promises, Joshua had to exercise faith and "be strong and of good courage."

- Divine sovereignty is not a substitute for human responsibility.

Spurgeon: Joshua "was not to use the promise as a couch upon which his indolence might luxuriate, but as a girdle wherewith to gird up his loins for future activity"

God doesn't give Joshua military instructions at this point. He gives him 3 commands.

Joshua 1:7-9 Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest. This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success. Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

Joshua's strength and courage would come from meditating on the Word of God, believing its promises, and obeying its precepts.

Real Trust Involves Action & Obedience.	Faith is acting on the revealed Word of God.
Focus On Your Responsibility	You Affect The Others Inheritance
Be Purposeful & Intentional	Obedience Will Bring GOOD Success.
Build Your Life Around The Word And Instructions Of God	

Philippians 3:10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection...

If we want to live victoriously there will be giants to face and walled cities to attack.

But we don't have to face them alone...we CAN'T face them alone and have any success.

3 Principles Necessary To Possess Our Possessions

1. Preparation

Truth: We do not drift into God's will. It is a planned and disciplined life with determination and perseverance. Requires walking in the Spirit.

Joshua 1:11 Prepare you victuals = vittles or food

- Israelites are preparing to cross the swollen Jordan River and enter their Promised Land
- They were supposed to eat manna for about 11 days before entering the land flowing with milk and honey.
- They had eaten manna for 40 years in the wilderness. [Unbelief & rebellion]

Truth: If I am going to be victorious and live in my Promised Land, I must change my diet and daily feed on God's Word which is always available. Am I daily hungry for God's Word?

Ps. 81:10 I am the LORD thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt: open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it.

- What I receive at church, SS, Bible study, etc. is only an appetizer which should whet my appetite to dig in for more on my own. Am I obedient to the command...?

II Tim. 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth.

Acts 17:11 These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so. Can't live the Christian life in your own strength. Plug in to the real power source! [John 15:5]

Joshua's strength and courage would come from meditating on the Word of God, believing its promises, and obeying its precepts.

2. The Power to Possess My Possessions

Joshua 1:11 for within 3 days ye shall pass over this Jordan,... [Gaze on it for 3 days!]

- 3 days of death THEN the resurrection power

Remember: Crossing the Jordan is symbolic of dying to self - the old is gone - the new is come.

- Just as Jonah came out of the belly of a great fish in 3 days so...

Matt. 12:40 For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

- Jesus came forth from the dead after 3 days.
- Abraham took Isaac to the mountain to sacrifice him, but they both returned alive after 3 days. [Isaac was dead to Abraham for 3 days.]

Heb. 11:19a Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead;

- Joshua said we're making our move in 3 days...they were going in with God's power!

Truth: We do not have the will power or personal power to live the abundant Christian life.

We MUST plug in to the Holy Spirit who is the real power source!

Phil. 3:10 That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings being conformed to His death.

Raising Jesus from the dead was the greatest power display because that paves the way for God to do it for each of us.

Phil. 4:13 I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me.

3. Possess Your Possessions

Joshua 11:23 The whole land was taken.

Joshua 13:1 There remained very much land to be possessed.

Contradiction? NO! It is the declaration of a basic spiritual truth.

- In Christ, we have ALL we need for a victorious life, but we must possess our inheritance by faith...one step at a time, a day at a time.

Joshua 18:3 So Joshua said to the sons of Israel, "How long will you put off entering to take possession of the land which the LORD, the God of your fathers, has given you?"

Now the second generation were east of the Jordan River, ready to enter the land.

- God had already given them victory before they crossed the Jordan.
- They defeated Sihon king of Heshbon and Og king of Bashan [Deut. 1:4] thus gaining possession of the territories of these two Amorite kings on the east side of the Jordan River. They controlled hundreds of cities of the Amorites, including such fertile lands as Bashan and Gilead.

Note: The Bible speaks about "the cows of Bashan," that are healthy and well-fed because of the fertile land.

Num. 32:1 & Deut. 3:19 The tribes of Reuben, Gad and $\frac{1}{2}$ tribe of Manasseh possessed large numbers of livestock.

➤ They approached Moses and other leaders with a request:

Num. 32:5 Please do not make us cross the Jordan but let us possess these fertile lands on the east side of Jordan."

- This request shows their sinful rejection of the covenant obligations of community life.
- They rejected God's plan. Living by sight and not by faith.
- They placed their own interests and that of their cattle over the interests of all the other tribes.

Genesis 13:10-11 "Lot looked up and saw that the whole plain of the Jordan was well watered, like the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt . . . So Lot chose for himself the whole plain of the Jordan." Lot made his choice based on one reason - he owned many cattle.

Lot based his decision on sight, not on faith.

These $2\frac{1}{2}$ tribes were making their decision based, not on faith, but on selfish, material interests. They were refusing to cross over the Jordan, to die to their selfish wants.

Num. 32:6-7 Shall your brothers go to war while you sit here? And wherefore discourage ye the heart of the children of Israel from going over into the land which the LORD hath given them?

Num. 32:14-15 In anger he called them a "brood of sinners." And, behold, ye are risen up in your fathers' stead, an increase of sinful men, to augment yet the fierce anger of the LORD toward Israel. ¹⁵ For if ye turn away from after him, he will yet again leave them in the wilderness; and ye shall destroy all this people.

They did not want to cross the mighty Jordan to endanger themselves by fighting wars against the Canaanites. They wanted to enjoy the good life while the others fought on their behalf.

They Repented & Agreed to Fight

Numbers 32:16-19 We will build sheepfolds here for our cattle, and cities for our little ones.

They entered into an agreement with Moses, Joshua, Eleazar, and others > 3 promises:

- Their armed men would cross over the Jordan with their brothers.
- Would go ahead of everyone else as the vanguard to face the greatest danger of fighting.
- They would not return to their homes until every Israelite had received his inheritance.

Consequences To Not Crossing The Jordan

1. Where are their ARMED MEN? They crossed the Jordan.
2. The wives and children they left behind were deprived of the privilege of witnessing divine miracles - the parting of the Jordan River, the destruction of the walls of Jericho, and the many battles fought and won.
3. They missed observing Passover, Barley harvest

Josh. 24: 13 And I gave you a land on which you had not labored, and cities which you had not built, and you have lived in them; you are eating of vineyards and olive groves which you did not plant.'

4. In later years, due to their great distance from the temple, these tribes came more and more under pagan influence. They were the first to go into captivity.
 - 'East-siders' settle for less than God's best.

With the Promised Land in sight, they give up and are shut down, just inches away from victory!
WHERE ARE YOU IN YOUR JOURNEY?

Life is far from easy. In this life, we are usually in one of four places:

- In Egypt, still in slavery to sin, and need to be saved.
- In the wilderness, redeemed, but going nowhere other than in circles. Time of testing, dealing with the flesh, a time where the Holy Spirit is dealing with fleshly habits that keep you wandering. Been saved for years but you still aren't really digging into your Bible, still not really praying, still not making commitments to be faithful and to serve. You're not much closer to God than you were the day you got saved.
- In Canaan, excited, growing, having the joy of the Lord. They're not a wilderness wanderer, but a giant conqueror! You struggle with enemies, with the flesh, but you are in the Word and abiding in the Vine, Jesus Christ.
- An "EASTSIDER" living on the wrong side of Jordan. You are saved, but in the world, living for the flesh. Occasionally you eat some of the milk and honey from the Lord. There is sin at the door. Satan is having a heyday stealing your inheritance.

There will be NO inheritance in Canaan.

Believers are part of an inheritance that spans all of creation, all of time. Our inheritance is far beyond our finite mind.

Redpath: Full blessing in the Christian life is not bestowed except to eager, hungry people who press in against the assaults of the enemy to receive it.

You are as close to God as you want to be. No one is holding you back.

God calls us to Enter & Claim.

Don't settle for less than God's best!