



Sermon Series Notes



THE BOOK OF

JOSHUA

“Taking Possession Of Your Inheritance” (Joshua 15-19)

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Intro: The Land of Promise is the place where the fullness of God’s blessings in this life can be realized. One enters the Land of Promise by faith, with total commitment and dependence on the Lord. But possessing all that God has for us in this land does not happen overnight. It is progressive, and there are things we need to know and do if we are to continue to be successful and receive all that God has for us.

15:13-17 Refer to 15:13; 21:11; Numbers 13:32b-33; Gen.6:4; Caleb’s family has within it some courageous and valiant warriors; Othniel is noted not only here, but in Judges 3:8-10.

In order to receive all that God has for us we will need courage, faith, and the willingness to face the giants in our lives. You know what one of the biggest giants was in my Christian life? Public speaking. Up until just a few years ago I wore shirts that show the least under arm sweat, because I sweated profusely from nervousness in preaching & teaching. I still get nervous, but not anything like I did for years. When they told me I had to take speech class in college I came very close to quitting and heading back to S.C. I was a P.E. major with no intentions of doing what I do pretty much every week now, usually twice per week. Another giant I have to face regularly these days is being a senior pastor over a very large church. I fell completely inadequate for this job!

What’s your giant that you need to face by faith?

15:18-19 Another thing we need to do if we are to inherit all God has for us is: ASK HIM FOR THINGS.

James 4:2...You do not have because you do not ask God.

Mark 11:22-24 Have faith in God...Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, “Go throw yourself into the sea,” and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them. Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

What Othniel asked for was very practical, since the Negev was hot and dry, unlike the northern parts of Israel, which was well watered and very fertile. In the Negev they especially had a need for water.

15:63 Never allow the enemy to remain indefinitely in your territory. We are not told why Judah was not able to dislodge the Jebusites at this time. Judah was Caleb’s tribe, so it was not because of fear, or because Caleb was not a valiant warrior. Even the team of Caleb and Othniel could not drive them out. So if Caleb and Othniel couldn’t do it, perhaps the generation after them wouldn’t even try.

See II Samuel 5:6-10; Sometimes we just need wisdom from God on how to attack the enemy. Nobody had ever suggested what David suggested here.

17:11-13 Never justify compromising with the enemy!

17:14-18 Never lose faith that you can win, despite the human odds against you.

18:1-10 The land was distributed by lot, but it would not actually be theirs until they began taking steps to conquer it. Everyone’s lot was different, and God sovereignly determined who got what. I would not have chosen the Negev, but rather the fertile lands in northern Israel. But some who inherited very fertile land

became self-indulgent. The Negev, though hot & dry, tended to cause people to seek God to quench their thirst and help them to survive in tough territory.

Prov.16:33 The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the Lord.

No matter what your “lot in life,” God has blessings planned for you. But you have to take the proper steps to inherit those blessings.

What steps do you need to begin taking in order to put you on a path to victory/blessing?

What steps do you need to take to put you *back* on a path to victory/blessing?

What things would prevent God from being able to bless you the way He wants to?

I stand before you, a very blessed man. My marriage is blessed, my children are blessed, the ministry God has given me is blessed. What are some of the things my wife and I have done in order for God to be able to bless us the way He has?

At the age of nineteen, right after I became a Christian, I began honoring the Lord with my wealth, and I have done so my entire Christian life.

Prov.3:9-10 Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.

Malachi 3:10 “Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse...Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.”

Luke 6:38 Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

I developed a regular devotional time with the Lord. But in the beginning I got very little from personally reading my Bible. I got tons from other preachers & teachers, but it took time to become a “self-feeder.” But I have learned that’s normal. A baby Christian needs to be fed, and in time as they grow they should begin to feed themselves.

I have tried to keep a sober minded view of who I am, no matter what “success” God grants me in life. I have tried to remain humble. Pride was the first sin. Pride ruined King Saul, King Uzziah, and many others. It could have ruined Peter.

Proverbs 29:23 Pride brings a person low, but the lowly in spirit gain honor.

I had a strong desire to be a good husband and father before I ever got married.

I learned from Scripture about how to discipline my children, before ever being married or a father. I read a book in college titled “Withhold Not Correction,” one of the best books I’ve ever read on disciplining children biblically.

Gen.18:19 For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing what is right and just, so that the Lord will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him.

If Abraham failed at home it would affect how God wanted to bless his life; Abraham did fail, more than once, but he repented & persevered through his failures.

I learned from Scripture & life how to love my wife. Learning to love by faith booklet.

I have had anger issues that could have ruined my marriage. I have failed as a parent despite an earnest desire and prior preparation to be a good parent.

How have I survived these potential pitfalls?

I have humbled myself repeatedly.

I have not allowed footholds to become strongholds.

I have persevered through some very difficult times in ministry. I have lost count of the number of times I wanted to quit. Just a few years ago I came closer to quitting than ever before. We’ll talk more about quitting this weekend in Acts 13.

O God, help me to finish well!

- Heb.10:36 You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.

CONCLUSION

Overall, there are four things that will prevent the Lord from being able to bless us the way He desires:

- Sin
 - II Sam.12:8-9...I would have given you even more. Why did you despise the word of the Lord by doing what is evil in his eyes?
- Lack of faith
 - Matt.9:29...According to your faith let it be done to you.
- Complacency
 - Rom.12:11 Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.
- Unwillingness to submit your life to the Lord
 - Matt.23:37 "Jerusalem, Jerusalem...how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing."