

Sunday, February 26, 2012

Inheriting the Promises

Pastor Charles Mendenhall

Joshua 10:24-25 (KJV)

²⁴And it came to pass, when they brought out those kings unto Joshua, that Joshua called for all the men of Israel, and said unto the captains of the men of war which went with him, Come near, put your feet upon the necks of these kings. And they came near, and put their feet upon the necks of them.

²⁵And Joshua said unto them, Fear not, nor be dismayed, be strong and of good courage: for thus shall the LORD do to all your enemies against whom ye fight.

In chapter 10 of Joshua is the account of five kings that had banded together and set out to stop Joshua and his men. They were not successful. Joshua wanted his men to experience victory in their lives. And in so doing he had his men put their feet upon their necks.

It doesn't make any difference what challenges we face as individuals or as a church the end result is that it will be under our feet. God always calls a church corporately beyond their ability and he does the same with individuals.

Pastor Charlie burned the note for the land in front of the congregation.

Pastor then shared that he believes that for the church the time is now or now is the time. He believes that God is taking the limits off and that we are cleared to go to a higher level, cleared to fly higher. As with the children of Israel the cloud is moving for Victory Center.

Hebrews 6:12 (KJV)

¹²That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

Hebrews 6:15 (KJV)

¹⁵And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.

To be successful in the long run we do what we ought and not particularly what we want. We have to stick it out.

If there is anything that the devil wants to do in churches corporately and individually it is confinement or containment. In the book of Exodus is an example. When the plague began to come on Pharaoh the children of Israel wanted to take their people, herds and flocks on a three day journey into the wilderness where they could worship. Pharaoh said no but then he decided they could but they had to leave women children and flocks. This ensured they would come back. They said no and finally Pharaoh gave in.

In relationship to the growth of a church it doesn't matter the number of people as much as if peoples' lives are being changed. It is not a new testament unless lives are being changed. It is also not one if there aren't rocks being thrown as people are on the way out and being critical. Confinement seems to be right in the attitude that we within our four walls and are isolated from the world and look at how good and holy we are. That is a lie from the adversary. Jesus came for the world not a select group. He died for everyone and it's God plan for us to reach the world and we can't do that within the confinement of our four walls. We come to church to be edified, encouraged, to be strengthened, to have needs met, be re-fueled spiritually, so that we can go out in the week and do the work of the ministry. God's plan is that every believer is an able minister of the new covenant.

Joshua had been leading for around six years and is after Canaan land has been inherited. They had taken the wealth of 31 kings. Joshua addressed the people and told them that there were none of the enemies that were able to stand against them. We need to grasp that in our lives that there is nothing of an adversary that is resisting you in relation to what God has promised you that can stand successfully before you. It may raise its ugly head and try to deceive you, scare you, and put fear in you but it cannot stand before you. It doesn't matter what that giant may be it cannot stand before you whether it be debt, divorce, inability, lack of education, it cannot stand before you and hinder you and hold you back from the will of God.

Joshua 21:45 (KJV)

⁴⁵There failed not ought of any good thing which the LORD had spoken unto the house of Israel; all came to pass.

We will be able to stand in the later day and in the years ahead in our new facility and be able to quote the above scripture applied to Victory Center. We just need to stick with it.

After the land was taken Joshua is giving some instruction.

Joshua 22:8 (KJV)

⁸And he spake unto them, saying, Return with much riches unto your tents, and with very much cattle, with silver, and with gold, and with brass, and with iron, and with very much raiment: divide the spoil of your enemies with your brethren.

He is telling them to not be greedy and share what God has blessed you with to others. There comes a time when standing firm and the challenging situations cease in a measure. The devil will always be resisting you but there will be a season of rest when you have conquered the enemy and done the will of God.

Joshua declared that he would serve the Lord in times of need but also in times of plenty.

Joshua 24:15 (KJV)

¹⁵And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

We all know that when things are going well it is easier to coast along and we must remember not to forget the Lord in these times.

Hebrews 6:12 (KJV)

¹²That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

Hebrews 6:12 (MSG)

⁹⁻¹²I'm sure that won't happen to you, friends. I have better things in mind for you—salvation things! God doesn't miss anything. He knows perfectly well all the love you've shown him by helping needy Christians, and that you keep at it. And now I want each of you to extend that same intensity toward a full-bodied hope, and keep at it till the finish. Don't drag your feet. Be like those who stay the course with committed faith and then get everything promised to them.

We inherit through our faith and patience. Patience involves sticking with it. W. E. Vines defines patience as that quality that doesn't surrender to circumstances nor succumb to trial and is the opposite of despondency and is always associated with hope. In order for us to stick with it hope is always going to have to be alive in our lives. Hope is the expectation of a favorable outcome. Faith believes you receive it now and you stay the course. You stick with it. Abraham is used as an example. The story is in Genesis chapter 12.

If you stick with it and you will receive what was promised to you. Keep it stirred up.

Hebrews 6:17 (KJV)

¹⁷Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath:

Hebrews 6:17 (AMP)

¹⁷Accordingly God also, in His desire to show more convincingly and beyond doubt to those who were to inherit the promise the unchangeableness of His purpose and plan, intervened (mediated) with an oath

God wants to convince you beyond any shadow of a doubt abundantly of his counsel that cannot be changed. He has declared it and it will stand. Somehow if we would stay with it and not give up he will show us his greatness and his goodness. Not only did he promise it he took an oath in relationship to the promise that we know is the blood of Jesus Christ. It was sealed with the blood of Jesus whose blood was shed and that sealed it.

We may never walk in that the way we want to but that doesn't change the oath or the promise. Galatians chapter 3 tells us that.

Father, right now in Jesus name I declare that the plan for these peoples' lives is being indelibly stamped and imprinted on the fleshly tablets of their hearts. Father you have promised greatness to some in extra ordinary ways. I pray they just stick with it in Jesus name and they will like Abraham get everything that's been promised in Jesus name. Amen.

