

HOW TO LIVE IN THE PROMISE LAND

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.

INTRODUCTION:

We begin our journey with the crucified life and the passover in Egypt. We moved on to the spirit-filled life as we crossed Jordan, to begin the wilderness journey. In the wilderness we discovered the testings and the trials - plus the miracles. And in the midst of the wilderness, we discovered our own likeness.

Last week we crossed into the promise land. And discovered how to take the promise land and how to reach the highest spiritual life possible. God's instruction to the children of Israel was to walk. And by walking, we as Christians will take the promise land. Today, we come to an important question how to live in the promise land. Now that we have reached this spiritual position - how are we going to carry on the problem of living.

A cowboy once listened to a message on the forgiveness of sin. It seemed to grasp him, and then finally he shook his head and said - that is not much good for me. To ask God to forgive my sins, I would be doing the same thing again next week. I would say, cheer up. That is what we are seeking the answer too. How are we going to live in the promise land - this spiritual life. Once we have crossed over and gotten to this peak.

Remember in the autumn the leaves are falling off now and the winter winds

are blowing. Some of these leaves will hold on, though they are dead and ugly. There are two ways to get them off. One way is to take a stick and knock them off. The other, is to wait until next summer when in the spring the sap rises again in the tree and the dead leaves will then fall off, and make way for the new ones and for the fruit. Well, this was the advice that God gave to Israel in the promise land. "I will not drive them out from before thee in one year. But by little and little, I will drive them out before thee until thou be increased, and inherit the land." Ex. 23:29-30.

Aged *Long Life*
 The press was interviewing an old man who had just celebrated his one-hundredth birthday.
 "To what do you attribute your marvelous vitality?" he was asked.
 "I don't rightly know yet," he replied, rocking back and forth on the porch. "I'm dickering with two breakfast food companies right now."
 —The Watchman-Examiner

If we are going to learn how to live in the place of three things that we need to pay attention to. First, the place of abiding. Second, the place of an altar. And third, and finally, the place of armour.

I. THE PLACE OF ABIDING

Now Israel crossed Jordan and encamped at Gilgal. Now the people came up out of the Jordan on the 10th day of the first month, and encamped in Gilgal. And those twelve stones which Joshua took out of the Jordan, did Joshua pitch in Gilgal. Chapter 4 - Verse 19 and 20. This reminds us that this became holy ground, to the people of Isreal. The whole book of Joshua, we will find this place as a base of operations. They would turn in the midst of battle and then go back to Gilgal. Here for renewed strength.

Now the Christian must find his camp in the Lord Jesus Christ. He must abide in Christ. Once you arrive in the promise land, the way to live is by abiding in Christ.

John 15:4-5. Jesus said, "abide in thee and I in you. As the branch cannot bear

fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine - no more can ye except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches. He that abideth in me, the same bringeth forth much fruit. For without me, ye can do nothing. //

This verse tells us that we can adequately abide in Christ. May I point out the way to live. Abide means to remain. And you remain in Christ by returning again and again as the Jews returned to Gilgal. You beat a path through the ways in which you come to know Christ through faith. You come to know him through the Scriptures, and the filling of the spirit, through love, through prayer, through obedience, through cleansing, through witnessing.

You abide in Christ by constantly returning over the paths, you came to him. And they are vital. By maintaining your faith in him. Second by communicating with him through the Scriptures. Let him speak to you. Third, by prayer. You speak with Him. Fourth, by the spirit, who reveals and imparts Christ to you. Fifth, by the experience of your love. And sixth, by your fellowship - that can be broken only by sin. You must make confession of sin and cleansing. And seventh, your fellowship with Christ should never be passive. Your yoke with him is in service. And this requires obedience. You must allow Christ the witness of your life. And you must witness to Christ, and let him witness through you--Paul cautioned, finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord. Now this is the super structure upon which all of life is going to stand upon. These necessary ingredients of abiding in Christ. Receive faith, receive the spirit by faith, receive love and develop it. Receive the power to witness and cleansing. All of this, through the word.

Surely we now see where we are headed. No one fails to strengthen others. When you grow slack, others will be weaker for it. So Paul commanded to be strengthened with the might of the spirit of the inner man. That ye might be filled of all the fullness of God. Eph. 3:16.

Now this is a picture of inward strength. And so you are going to live in Canaan

not legalistic - don't get frustrated, but you will be spending the rest of your life trying to seek consistency. Now is the time to begin this with honesty- to press on toward it.

(General Booth) founder Sal. Army - went Blind - Son Bramwell broke the news to him - "you mean I'm blind - I will never see your face again? - Bramwell, not in this world" - Booth took son's hand - "I'll do some ~~what~~ what I could for God & for the people with my eyes. Now I shall do what I can for God & for the people without my eyes - Refreshing to discover X-rays disabilities arising in child,

II. THE PLACE OF AN ALTAR

In Joshua 1:19 - He says, be strong and of good courage. As you watch the armies of Israel gather in solemn array - the 12 Tribes around this central camp - going out in all directions. All are seated but Joshua and two men who have just returned from a mission of scouting the enemy. And they suggest what needs to be done. Listen "Truly the Lord hath delivered into our hands all the land. For even all the inhabitants of the country do ^{FAINT} faith because of us." Chapter 2:24. The enemy is already defeated.

The foe is vanished - and it has been as good as a defeat. As at the Red Sea I know that the Lord hath given you the land. But we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea for you. When you came out of Egypt. As soon as we had heard these things, our hearts did melt, and neither did there remain anymore courage in any man. Joshua 2:9-11.

Think of it - had Moses' generation simply exercised faith, they could have taken the land. But they fell back before the enemy and were defeated. Your spiritual journey at this point for you, you must prepare for battle. The very moment you enter the promise land and begin to live a spiritual life - your conflicts with Satan will be intensified.

Paul speaks and urges us to hold our action - every time you gain new ground in the promise land, Satan will counterattack. Now you must hold your ground. Eph. 6:10,11.
13. Finally my brethren, be strong. In the Lord and in the power of his might. Put on

the whole armour of God - that you may be able to stand against the wilds of the devil. That you may be able to withstand the evil day - and having done all to stand. Stand your ground.

The most vital information that Joshua recorded was, it was unique. Your war of victory not to all - you see Satan is a defeated foe. For this purpose, the son of God is manifested that he might destroy the works of the devil.

So Jesus enjoyed total triumph. He resisted all temptations. God demonstrated his sovereignty over Satan. And he had been given all power. And Jesus resisted all temptations because he said all authority is given me in Heaven and in earth. Matt. 28:18. The same authority is passed on to you. Luke 10:17-19. Because of this you can battle with Satan from the authority of your position. Think of it, if you leave him unchallenged - you rob Jesus of a portion of Calvary's triumph.

Now the exact action to take, James said, submit yourselves to God, resist the Devil, and he will flee from you. 4:7. You can determine your weapons.

Note the weapons you need for offense.

✓ First, yield to your Saviour - submit yourself to God. The very first step in dealing with the Devil, is to yield your life to Jesus. To yield is to report to duty. To obey divine impulse. You exchange your life for his. That he might express his great life through you. Christ is seen to live again in your life. Satan knocked at the door - Jesus answered. I John 4:4 - Great is he that is in you, Jesus - than he that is in the world, Satan.

✓ Second, die to yourself. Don't forget your self-centered old nature. Choose death to all self-centeredness. The vital point is, in these two actions you are to take - if you are going to have a victory over sin, reckon ye also dead unto sin.

But yield yourself unto God as those that are alive from the dead. And your members as instruments unto God. Rom. 6:11-13.

There will never be a day in the promise land that you will have need to yield yourself unto God and reckon death to yourself.

Let me illustrate this with what Dr. Steven Olford said about Rom. 12:1 - I beseech you therefore brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your body a living sacrifice. To present yourself a living sacrifice means to ever live sacrificially. Make your life one constant sacrifice.

The Old Testament required burnt offerings. The sacrifice of meat was placed on the altar and held in the flames until it was consumed. Your sacrifice is similar. In that your life is totally submitted forever.

Dr. Olford said a lady came to him and said - all this business about consecration and surrender is sheer nonsense. It simply doesn't work. To which he replied, my friend, you have lied to God and to me. For I know you have never truly yielded your life. Rather shaken, she replied, but I have. But you have not, he insisted. That is you have not submitted in the New Testament sense. New Testament surrender is not a day, a week, a month, or a year. It is a contract for life. If you say you have surrendered your life to God, what are you doing off the altar?

Now think with me about the two flesh-hooks in the Old Testament. And this was special instruction about the burnt offerings, and sacrifices. They placed a sacrifice on an altar to be burnt. And the priest used two flesh-hooks. Ex. 38:3. With these, he would keep the sacrifice upon the altar. Continued pulling it toward the center of the flame until it was totally consumed.

Now, what we are supposed to do is use the flesh-hooks to keep yourself on the

altar of sacrifice. This is your offensive weapon.

III. THE PLACE OF ARMOIR

Now we have talked about the place of an altar. A place of abiding. Now let us finally come to this last idea. Your defensive action is to resist the Devil and he will flee from you. Such a warning about Satan because many Christians entirely ignore the Devil. That is what he counts on. But remember he is the defeated foe in 2 Cor. 2:11 - when you acknowledge him to resist him, he must flee. You have the authority over the Devil. Luke 10:17. So resist him.

How am I going to resist the Devil.

✓ First, I am going to resist him by rejoicing. Let's get everything together and example here Satan's sends oppression toward us. God may prevent it or he may allow it. But man can resist by rejoicing. When he oppresses you - you are not defenseless. Even if God allows him to send you some affliction - God will work that affliction for some good. Your part is to resist by refusing to let it get you down. That is why our text says, believe God to make it into a blessing. That is be strong and of good courage, and be not afraid.

1 Peter 5:9-10 ¹¹ Whom resist steadfast in the faith - knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. But the God of all grace who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus - after that ye have suffered awhile - make you perfect, established, strengthened, settled you. ¹¹

You can resist the Devil's attempt to oppress you. And the way to resist his oppression

is by rejoicing.
Withstand him - be firm in faith - Whole Body of Christians Suffer same Way

Have you learned this truth.

✓ A minister once was talking in a conversation with another about the trials he was passing through. And this friend seemed to understand and to offer some encouragement. And when he arose to leave, he said, but you know - we never really have the victory in these things until we can come to the place where we rejoice and praise God for the situation. Well, this stunned his brother - because he was ashamed because he had been complaining so much. And he picked up the Bible and he read I Peter 1:6-7. Wherein he greatly rejoiced. Thou now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations. That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ. "

Yes, you must prepare yourself for such trials. Expect them, be ready for them and thank God for them. Beloved, think it not strange concerning the trials which are to try you. As though some strange thing happened unto you - but rejoice. I Peter 4:12.

Never forget, Satan's oppression is discouraging. He wants, as he did the children of Israel, to have the tendency of murmuring, complaining, criticizing about every trial. And we all experience those times when Satan comes and strips us bear of everything we hold dear in life. These desperate times are fearful. But we must refuse to accept them as final. And get a grip on God's grace and hold on with all faith until we can rejoice in the situation. Then God comes through - he always does. Satan is bound when you can rejoice through every oppression.

✓ Second, you resist by rejecting. Let us get this in proper perspective. How to resist the Devil. And he will flee from you.

The word resist in the Greek means to reject. And so the Eph. were told to

4 ^{Complete} put on the whole armour of God - that they would be able to stand against the wilds of the devil. This was translated, "withstand". Wherefore, take on the whole armour of God - withstand or resist. Eph. 6:13

Simply resist the devil by putting on the whole armour of God. The passage in Eph. describes it in detail.

First, a belt of truth.

Second, a breastplate of righteousness.

Third, sandals of peace.

Fourth, a shield of faith. "SAVING faith" your shield - lift it up!

Fifth, a helmet of salvation.

Sixth, the sword of the word.

But what does this really mean. Where do you obtain this armour. The answer to that is still most simple. As a Christian, you already have all of these qualities within you. Within you is your truth, righteousness, peace, faith, hope, and the word.

V/S This passage tells you how to put the armour on. at all times! With prayer always - with all prayer and supplication in the spirit. Eph. 6:18. The rejecting of Satan's suggestions is to tell all of it to Jesus. Put the armour on - it is enough to turn back every suggestion of Satan. Think of this.

First, Satan will come with his deceit and try and fill your heart with a lie.

Acts 5:3. Ask Jesus to be your truth, and to keep you truthful. 2 Thess. 2:10.

American Indian - Troops, Itlay, P.K. officer granted him invitation - Movie Tonight - Better come - um-m - NOT enthusiasm - what show? Kill w m or Kiss w m? Kill w m, I may come; Kiss w m, I stay in tent! what a summary of Hollywood's theme -

Satan the accuser will suggest false guilt I Tim. 5:15. Ask Jesus to be your righteousness.

✓ Satan will come and distract your mind with wayside worries. Mark 4:15.

Ask Jesus to be your peace. Phil. 4:7.

✓ Satan will suggest doubt. Gen 3:1-5. Ask Jesus to be your shield of faith.

To keep off these doubts. Luke 22:31.

✓ Satan will make suggestions of defeat. I Thess. 2:19. Ask Jesus to be your

hope. 1 Tim. 1:1.

"The Devil can make almost anything he wants out of a loafer!"

✓ Satan will come with wicked suggestions of disobedience. Remind him that Jesus

is the word and you will be able to rebuke him. Matt. 4:3. Be consistent, and this will become your habit as you go to Jesus in every test and time. It will become second nature with you to abide in Christ with this armour on in such a way - he will be your truth, righteousness, hope, peace, and discipline.

The key to this is to reject temptation. Satan suggests some evil deed - do not let your mind dwell on it. Do not consider the prospect of it or contemplate or linger with it. You think about something long enough and you are likely to do it. As a man thinketh in his heart - so is he. Prov. 23:7.

Vocally dismiss him from your presence. Indeed, Jesus addressed Satan vocally. And ordered him away. Matt. 4:10. Now these are your weapons. Submit to the Saviour and resist, and rejoice, and reject every suggestion he makes.

Jesus after being led in the wilderness to be tried - Luke 4:1 - for 40 days he was oppressed. There was the suggestions of thirst, food, and drink. But he faithfully trusted through it. The subtle suggestions Jesus rejected, the Devil with the Scripture. He accomplished in 40 days what the children of Israel had not accomplished in 40 years.

Now we are getting to see the importance of whether we want to wonder around in the wilderness, with the carnal Christians - or whether we want to live in the promise land with high spiritual hopes abiding in Christ. Now, the victorious life on the night of the cross - Jesus said the prince of the world cometh and hath nothing in me.

Ed In Mark 3:27 no man can enter into a strong man's house and spoil his goods - except he will first bind the strong man and then he will spoil his house. But the strong man Satan is bound. And there is nothing in you that responds. *Non-sach Right + Left*

Now it is 7 years later - and you are standing before a large placque in Palestine that commemorates the victory of Joshua over the enemies. So Joshua conquered the entire land - the hill country, the negev, the land of goshen, the low lands, the arabah, the hills and low lands of Israel. Joshua took the entire land just as the Lord had instructed Moses and he gave it to the people of Israel as their inheritance. Joshua 11:16-23.

This is the key of how to live in the promise land. The late Winston Churchill on May 10, 1940 as the German troops poured into the low countries, and Great Britain was in danger. And Chamberlain said, I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears, and sweat. And Churchill went on to say, you asked what is our policy - it is to wage war by sea, land, and air with all our might and with all the strength God can give us. You asked what is our aim - it is victory. He went on in that famous speech to say that we will fight on the beaches, on the land. We will fight in the fields and the streets, and the hills. We will never surrender. Let us therefore, brace ourselves to our duty and so bear ourselves that (if) the British Empire and it's commonwealth lasts for a thousand years - men will say, this was their finest hour.

If we are to live in the promise land on a high spiritual plain, we too, must

make similar dedication. And this will be our highest hour. When we discover that we will keep our lives on the altar. With the flesh-hooks, as a total sacrifice.

Story Ship - wrecked - storm - Coast Cornwall
all perished but one child had - hurled, slopes - ledge - Place of Refuge,
A.M. - Watcher - glasses spind him - Boat rowed - clung -
Cold - exposure - lifted boat -
dad, didn't ye tumble out there on the rock in all that storm?
Reply - "Tumbled", sure it tumbled - But do you know,
The rock never tumbled once all night"

if you abide in Christ - The Rock -
Stay on the altar -
Sunder in your armour -
you may tumble - No rock remains firm & sound.
"On Christ the solid rock I stand,
all other ground is sinking sand."

John - 5:24 - Old Minister's wife drew his
attention to it - Satan ceased to trouble him!