

Intro: Begin a new series in the Book of Joshua: Pursuing the Promise Joshua was one of the greatest leaders of all time, showing the people of God the way out of a desert wasteland and into the fullness of God's promise.

- God promised them a new home: 40 years in desert after leaving Egypt, time to own the promise
- Land of Promise: Fullness, blessing, Place for them and for their children, No long slaves, but People of God
- God has something better for them...and it's time to go forward and possess it: Joshua is the man/Not Moses

De 3:28 *But commission Joshua, and encourage and strengthen him, for he will lead this people across and will cause them to inherit the land that you will see."*

Here is what we know: The Promise ultimately comes from God: He is going to give them the Land: BUT, He is going to USE Joshua: What I want to do today is look with you at WHY Joshua was the man God chose to lead His people to possess the promise! What was it that qualified Joshua to be that leader? Specifically: Preparation: 4 Instances

- 4 Quotes on Preparation
- 4 Spiritual Lessons on Preparation from Life of Joshua BEFORE he became the leader help Pursue Promise

Lesson #1: Learn HOW To Fight The Battles Of Life:

Ex 17:8-16

When God has something out in front of you, When He has made a promise, it SELDOM comes easily. What we want is for God to simply say, "Here you Go!", let me pour out my blessings on you. Sometimes He does. But, more often than not He allows us to fight for it, to struggle for it, to walk through the trials of life to obtain His promise.

Sometimes it is because He is GROWING US, Sometimes there is spiritual opposition, Sometimes sinful world BATTLE Story Ex 17:8-16

- Amalekites come to attack the nation in the desert: God USED this attack to teach Joshua how to fight
- Story: Attacked: Moses: Pick some men: Joshua fight: Moses prayed: Vs 11: Hands up/Down
- After battle: Build a memorial Altar: The Lord is our Banner (Our Signal Pole) Battle Pole
- Write it down: REHEARSE IT TO JOSHUA: Make sure Moses that Joshua GETS It!
- Key: *"The Hand Upon The Throne:"* Joshua: Yes...The Lord is our Banner, Inspiration, Help BUT: In order for Victory to be won: Keep your Hand on the Throne of God in Prayer!
- Joshua: Remember: *YOU are not going to win the battle...God is...and you better Keep You Hand On Throne*

God is teaching Joshua a lesson that we all need to learn as we pursue God's best in OUR life. WE CAN'T DO IT! It is ONLY as we are in touch with God that we can carry the day!

Zec 4:6 So he said to me, "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the LORD Almighty.

1Sam 17:47 "All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD's, "

Applic: What is the Promise of God you are pursuing in YOUR life today? What battle are you fighting?
Family, Health, Financial, Spiritual, Work, Relationship?

Question: I have to ask you: Is your hand on the Throne of God: Dad's: Wife, Children, Church, Family, Work, Finances Are YOU fighting the battle in your own strength...or Are your knees on the floor and your hand on the Throne. If the battle isn't going the way you want...Is Your Hand on The Throne? God told Moses: Write it down: Rehearse it

2.

Prayer: Jesus, everything in me wants a REAL relationship with you that transforms my life. I know you died on the Cross for my sin, and I believe you Rose on the third day. I confess to you that I am a sinner, and I need you to forgive my sin, cleanse my heart and come live in my life as Savior and Lord.

Help me know YOU, not just the facts ABOUT you. I commit to living my life for you from this day forward as a disciple that seeks to walk faithfully in your footsteps. Thank you for hearing my prayer, forgiving my sin and making me a child of God. AMEN

If you prayed that prayer, I want you to let me know. You can come right now and let me pray with you, you can send me a contact card, QRC code and let me know, you can send me an email or call me this week. Let me know so I can send you some information and help you faithfully walk with you.

Quotes

2. "Give me six hours to chop down a tree and I will spend the first four sharpening the axe." Abraham Lincoln

6. "There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure." Colin Powell

9. "It's not the will to [win](#) that matter – everyone has that. It's the will to prepare to win that matters." Paul Bear Bryant

33. "Adversity is preparation for [greatness](#)." Andy Andrews