



Contending for the Focused Life - Inheritance

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Series: Contending for the Focused Life

Contending for the Focused Life: Inheritance

- Satan and Demons are at work from the day you were born to “steal, kill, and destroy” your inheritance.
- Satan is malevolent, fierce and deceptive.
- His one goal is to destroy your life, to cause you to commit suicide or just give up.
- Most people would never physically commit suicide, but they are daily committing emotional and spiritual suicide.
- Most Christians aren’t even aware they have an inheritance and if they do, they have little idea how to fight for it.
- We must contend for a focused life—focused in on pursuing violently our inheritance.
 - The inheritance of Christ are all those blessings written about in Ephesians 1 and Colossians 1.
 - Your rightful inheritance is the power and anointing of the Holy Spirit living within you.
 - Your inheritance was purchased on the cross by Christ but that doesn’t mean you are living in it. You may have it, you may own it, but if you don’t go out and get it, you will never know the experience.
 - In my mind, inheritance is another word for your destiny.
 - If you squander your destiny, you will live with so many regrets.

Why do most believers never experience their Destiny/Inheritance?

1. #1 without a shadow, FEAR!
2. Ignorance of the Joy and Power of Following Christ
3. Unequipped, untrained in how to Contend for it

I can help you with all three, but ultimately you have to:

- Get Up
- Step out
- Step in
- Step up
- Quit looking around, quit comparing yourself, Get FOCUSED

Joshua 1

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: 2 "Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them—the children of Israel. 3 Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses. 4 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. 5 No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you. 6 Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. 7 Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go. 8 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. 9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

10 Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people, saying, 11 "Pass through the camp and command the people, saying, 'Prepare provisions for yourselves, for within three days you will cross over this Jordan, to go in to possess the land which the Lord your God is giving you to possess.'"

6 Observations: Contending for your Inheritance

Joshua 1:1-2

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: 2 "Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them—the children of Israel.

Focus #1: God has given you a Vision and Mission for your Life.

- That was my first message this week. If you haven't heard it, then get it and listen to it.
- God has a "Vision of Be" and a "Mission of Do" for all of us. Everyone has it since before you were born.
- Ps 139 says he knew you in your mother's womb and called you.
- Jeremiah 1 is told that he's been called by God before he was even formed!! Wow!!

***Before I formed you in the womb I knew you;
Before you were born I sanctified you;
I ordained you a prophet to the nations."***

- Some of you know this and it's time for you to move out and live it.
- Some of you don't know this and you're on a journey.
- But go after it in prayer, fasting, seeking God, start with the Word of God, start with prayer, starting being a wholehearted disciple—BE ALL IN.

"Courage doesn't wait until situational factors turn in one's favor. It doesn't wait until a plan is perfectly formed. It doesn't wait until the tide of popular opinion is turned. Courage only waits for one thing: a green light from God. And when God gives the go, it's full steam ahead, no questions asked."

— Mark Batterson, All In.

Joshua 1:3-5

Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses. 4 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. 5 No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you.

Focus #2: God Initiates and Promises Prosperity and Success

- This land was called the PROMISED LAND because it was promised to them.
- Get your head and heart around that! You've been promised spiritual, emotional, and vocational success and prosperity.
- But, its not all about you—that's where some prosperity preachers get it wrong. No, It's about Jesus. It's about making Him great in your life.
- It's about your purpose on this earth—the glory of God. Even in suffering, even in death, even in pain.
- The reasons the Puritans were such stalwart men and women of God was because of what they suffered.
- Jesus said that "I came to bring you life and life that is more abundant." More abundant than all the little pleasures and lesser things of this earth!
- My all time favorite CS Lewis quote:

"The NT has lots to say about self-denial, but not about self-denial as an end in itself. We are told to deny ourselves and to take up our crosses in order that we may follow Christ; and nearly every description of what we shall ultimately find if we do so contains an appeal to desire.

If there lurks in most modern minds the notion that to desire our own good and earnestly to hope for the enjoyment of it is a bad thing, I submit that this notion has crept in from Kant and the Stoics and is no part of the Christian faith. Indeed, if we consider the unblushing promises of reward and the staggering nature of the rewards promised in the Gospels, it would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he

cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.”

But it will fall in your lap. I hope after this week, you’ve figured out that you have to fight, contend, wrestle, run, battle for your inheritance.

Even after 40 years in the desert—and some of you have been wandering in the desert for 40 years, even then, God wasn’t going to just give Joshua and Israel the Promised Land—it was promised but they would have to fight for it

Joshua 1:6-9

“Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. 7 Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go. 8 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. 9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

Focus #3: You must be Strong and Courageous

- You have to step out, cross the Jordan and take back what is rightfully yours! Only YOU can do it.
- Joshua had to be reminded 3x to be “strong and courageous” because he wasn’t.
 - o I think he was timid to step into the shoes of Moses.
 - o Moses was the greatest leader of the OT.
 - o Moses did more signs and wonders than anyone besides Christ.
 - o Moses was the man.
 - o Joshua’s not sure about this.

- o Ex. Maybe some of you are trying to walk in some big shoes—the shoes of your dad, your mom, the latest Motivational Speaker you’ve listened to.
- o God is saying, “Take those shoes off Joshua; you’re not Moses and this is not Moses’ promise land, this is yours. This is for your family, your people, now go out and pursue it.”
- This is not for the timid and weak—this is for men and women who will say, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”
- This is for the wholehearted—worshippers and warriors who don’t easily quit and run back to Egypt.
- If you’re going to run back to Egypt, you will die there!
- It is men and women who have a “holy violence” about them.

Matthew 11:12

And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.

- Thomas Watson, the highly esteemed Puritan preacher of the 17th century said this about our passage.

As if Christ had said, ‘John the Baptist was no unconstant man, fluctuating in his mind and being shaken as a reed from one opinion to another; he was no Reuben, unstable as water, but was fixed and resolute in faith...the kingdom suffers violence is a metaphor ... The earth is inherited by the meek, but heaven is inherited by the violent. Our life is military. Christ is our captain, the Gospel of the kingdom is our banner. The graces are our spiritual artillery and heaven is only taken in a forcible way.’ p. 1 and 3 Heaven Taken by Storm

- It will take everything you have in the way of strength and courage!
- He then tells Joshua how to inherit the the Promises of God.

Joshua 1:7-8

Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do

not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go. 8 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

Focus #4: The Presence and Power of God flows through Observing and Meditating in Jesus through His Word.

- How counterintuitive this is! Don't get your sword out—but there will be a time for that, but spend time with Me.
- It is through falling love with the Living Word through meditating, studying, seeking through the Written Word.
- Meditate, think about, pray My Word back to Me.
- Observe the life I've given you to live!
- Open the Book and dig in.
- But he doesn't stop therev...

Joshua 1:10-11

“Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people, saying, 11 “Pass through the camp and command the people, saying, ‘Prepare provisions for yourselves, for within three days you will cross over this Jordan, to go in to possess the land which the Lord your God is giving you to possess.’”

Focus #5: You will have to Make an Action Plan

- Prepare provisions for the new adventure!
- Make a plan, decide a plan, “plan the work, work the plan.”
- Focus your life around winning the land! Winning the promises of God.
- This is what I wrote in Facebook yesterday:

Most people live not to lose. They don't live to win. It's our neurological default setting--avoid any form of pain at all costs. We have a "better safe than sorry" mentality. Security outweighs significance. On October 31st, 1517, an Augustinian monk named Martin Luther took a stand against the religious establishment at the time. He had the audacity to challenge the status quo by standing against the practice of indulgences. His small stand ignited the protestant reformation that literally rocked the whole world. I like the words of Mark Batterson, "*Small acts of courage have a domino effect. When we do what's right, regardless of circumstances or consequences, we set the table for God to turn the tables. All we need to do is stand up, step in, or step out.*" Don't let what you can't do get in the way of doing of what you can.

- It takes courage to plan, to have an Action Plan for what you're going to do tomorrow, Saturday, next week, this year.
- Make a plan, set aside time, join us for the 24 Hour War Room.
- Join us next week as we pray on Wednesday.

Exodus 23:29

I will not drive them out from before you in one year, lest the land become desolate and the beasts of the field become too numerous for you. 30 Little by little I will drive them out from before you, until you have increased, and you inherit the land.

- Most believers quit and squander their destiny because they never get around to scheduling their life, planning it out.
- It won't just happen. You must plan it, schedule it, put it into your calendar.
- Make Time for the most significant adventure of your life—your destiny, your inheritance, your calling.

Conclusion: Video from Miracle in the Locker Room

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tdmyoMe4iHM>

- Men and women this is your time.
- This is your life to live.
- No one else can live it.
- Shut down Satan, get serious, and focus your life!
- You were born with a destiny, an inheritance. Go out and get it.
- As your pastor, I want to say to you, you are a Winner! Go out and take it.