

“I Am A Keeper”

Part III

WHY THIS SERIES....

The aim of this series is to highlight that faith is not only about how we begin,
but *learning to preserve* through every season of life.

Many people have enough faith to start, but struggle to **CONTINUE**.

We *start* praying, *start* believing, *start* serving, *start* giving,
start trusting and *start* walking with God.

BUT when **THE ANSWER** is delayed, **THE OPPOSITION** increases, **THE EXCITEMENT** fades,
or **THE CIRCUMSTANCES** become difficult...

CAN WE **KEEP** PUSHING AND **KEEP** BELIEVING

Week One...

Keep Believing Through The Delays

Keep Waiting ~ Keep Watching

Keep Believing Through The Difficult Seasons

Keep Trusting ~ Keep Walking

Keep Believing Despite The Doubters

Last Week...

Keep Pushing Through The Predicament

Keep Pushing Through The Pain

Keep Pushing Until Your Perspective Changes

Tonight Keep Digging

Key Verses

Genesis 26:12-18 , 20-22 (NKJV)

12 Then Isaac sowed in that land, and reaped in the same year a hundredfold; and the Lord blessed him.

13 The man began to prosper, and continued prospering until he became very prosperous;

14 for he had possessions of flocks and possessions of herds and a great number of servants.

So the Philistines envied him.

16 And Abimelech said to Isaac, "Go away from us, for you are much mightier than we."

17 Then Isaac departed from there and pitched his tent in the Valley of Gerar, and dwelt there.

18 **AND ISAAC DUG AGAIN** the wells of water which they had dug in the days of Abraham his father, for the Philistines had stopped them up after the death of Abraham.

20 But the herdsmen of Gerar quarreled with Isaac's herdsmen, saying, "The water is ours."

So he called the name of the well Esek, because they quarreled with him.

21 **THEN THEY DUG ANOTHER WELL**, and they quarreled over that one also. So he called its name Sitnah.

22 And he moved from there **AND DUG ANOTHER WELL**, and they did not quarrel over it.

So he called its name Rehoboth, because he said,

"For now the Lord has made room for us, and we shall be fruitful in the land."

Introduction....

*Most people desire to prosper.... We want the favor of God.... We want the blessings of God....
We want doors to open.... We want increase.... We want expansion....*

*We want to experience what Isaac experienced in Genesis 26:13
“The man began to prosper, and continued prospering until he became very prosperous”*

EVERYBODY WANTS VERSE 13.

But the problem is, many people want the prosperity of God WITHOUT FOLLOWING THE PRINCIPLES OF GOD.

We want the harvest without sowing.... We want the increase without obedience.

WE WANT THE PROMISE WITHOUT THE PROCESS.

But throughout Scripture, GOD CONNECTS HIS BLESSINGS TO PRINCIPLES.

Isaac Is Prosperous Because He Is FAITHFUL TO GOD’S WORD...

Word of Caution....

Isaac is blessed, but his blessing CREATES OPPOSITION.

The Philistines become envious, stop up the wells, and eventually tell Isaac to leave.

*Isaac does not stop digging just because people keep filling in what he digs.
The enemy cannot stop what God has placed inside of you and what God has for you,
So he tries to FRUSTRATE YOU until YOU STOP SEEKING what God has promised.*

*Isaac teaches us that prosperity is not merely about WHAT GOD GIVES YOU.
It is also about WHAT YOU ARE WILLING TO KEEP DOING when life becomes difficult...*

*THIS LESSON TONIGHT WILL SHOW US THREE REASONS
WHY WE HAVE TO KEEP DIGGING:*

Principle #1 — Keep Digging Because What God Promised Is Still There

Principle #2 — Keep Digging Despite Who or What Comes Against You

Principle #3 — Keep Digging Until You Receive What God Has Promised

Keep Digging Because What God Promised Is **Still There**

Genesis 26:1-5 (NKJV)

1 **There was a famine in the land**, besides **the first famine** that was in the days of Abraham.

2 Then the Lord appeared to him and said: "Do not go down to Egypt; live in the land of which I shall tell you.

3 Dwell in this land, and I will be with you and bless you; for to you and your descendants I give all these lands, and I will perform the oath which I swore to Abraham your father. 4 And I will make your descendants multiply as the stars of heaven; I will give to your descendants all these lands; and in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed; 5 because Abraham obeyed My voice and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws."

ISAAC IS IN A FAMINE, BUT HE IS ALSO IN THE WILL OF GOD.

Sometimes **WE ASSUME** hardship means we missed God.

But Genesis 26 shows that **FAMINE AND FAVOR** can occupy **the same space** in **the same season...**

The **famine** described the condition of the land.

Favor described **the relationship Isaac had with God.**

GOD'S PROMISE was not **dependent** upon favorable conditions.

God did not say, "**When the famine ends, I will bless you.**"

He said, "**Stay here, dwell here, live here and I will be with you here.**"

THE PROMISE is not always that God will immediately **remove the famine.**

Sometimes **THE PROMISE** is that **THE FAMINE WILL NOT HAVE THE FINAL WORD OVER YOU.**

Keep Digging Because What God Promised Is *Still There*

Genesis 26:1-5 (NKJV)

1 There was *a famine in the land*, besides *the first famine that was in the days of Abraham*.

God *REMINDS* Isaac... This Is Not *The First Famine* In The Land
I Have Dealt With Famines Before

Isaac had to *REMEMBER* what others had forgotten.

Genesis 26:18 (NLT)

18 He *reopened the wells* his father had dug, which the Philistines had filled in after Abraham's death.
Isaac also *restored the names* Abraham had given them.

Sometimes we struggle because *we have forgotten the wells that sustained the generations before us*.
*We have forgotten prayer ~ Forgotten sacrifice ~ Forgotten faithfulness ~ Forgotten worship...
Forgotten dependence upon God.*

THE CULTURE may cover the wells, *BUT THE WATER IS STILL THERE*.

Sometimes you do not need *something new*... *REOPEN WHAT WE KNOW ALREADY WORKS*

Everything from previous generations *should not automatically be preserved*, *BUT* what is *BIBLICAL*,
PROVEN, and *LIFE-GIVING* *should not be abandoned* simply because the culture calls it outdated.

2 Timothy 3:14 ~ “*CONTINUE* in the things which you have learned and *been assured of*...”

*Keep Digging Because What God Promised Is **Still There***

Genesis 26:1-5 (NKJV)

1 There was a famine in the land, besides the first famine that was in the days of Abraham.

2 Then the Lord appeared to him and said: "Do not go down to Egypt; live in the land of which I shall tell you.

*3 Dwell in this land, **AND** I will be with you and bless you; for to you and your descendants I give all these lands, and I will perform the oath which I swore to Abraham your father. 4 And I will make your descendants multiply as the stars of heaven; I will give to your descendants all these lands; and in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed..*

God Gives Isaac A Command ~ Then Gives Him Promises Connected To His Obedience

The Command ~ "Do Not Go Down To Egypt.... Live In The Land I Tell You...Dwell In This Land..."

The Command Is Simple.... But The Conditions Make It Complicated

*Which Suggests... The Conditions Are Placed There **TO TEST YOUR FAITHFULNESS***

In essence God says.... "You take care of the command..... I will take care of the consequences."

*Sometimes God will **ATTACH A LARGE OPPORTUNITY** to what looks like **a small act of obedience.***

ONE COMMAND ~ MULTIPLE PROMISES

I Will Be With You ~ I Will Bless You ~ I will Give All These Lands

I Will Perform The Oath I Already Promised

*The Magnitude Of Your Opportunities **Is Connected To** The Faithfulness of Your Obedience*

Keep Digging Despite Who or What Comes Against You

Genesis 26:12-16 (NKJV)

12 Then Isaac sowed in that land, and reaped in the same year a hundredfold; and the Lord blessed him.

13 The man began to prosper, and continued prospering until he became very prosperous;

14 for he had possessions of flocks and possessions of herds and a great number of servants.

So the Philistines envied him. 15 Now the Philistines had stopped up all the wells which his father's servants had dug in the days of Abraham his father, and they had filled them with earth.

16 And Abimelech said to Isaac, *"Go away from us, for you are much mightier than we."*

Favor Attracts Foes

Genesis 26 shows us that *Isaac's prosperity did not eliminate opposition.*

In fact, *his progress seems to have attracted it.*

EXPECT OPPOSITION As God Blesses You With **MORE OPPORTUNITIES**

They Cannot **REMOVE GOD'S FAVOR**, So They Will Attempt To **INTERFERE WITH YOUR RESOURCES**

"Go Away From Us...You Are Much Mightier Than We" ~ They Assume The Land Is The Source

Genesis 26:17-20 (NKJV)

17 Then Isaac departed from there and pitched his tent in the Valley of Gerar, and dwelt there.

20 But the herdsmen of Gerar quarreled with Isaac's herdsmen, saying, **"THE WATER IS OURS."**

They Assume That The Water Is The Source

They Keep Attacking **THE RESOURCES** ~ Not Knowing That **GOD IS THE SOURCE**

God Is Testing You To See *If You Will Fall In Love With The Resource* or **STAY FAITHFUL TO THE SOURCE**

Keep Digging Despite Who or What Comes Against You

Genesis 26:26-29 (NKJV)

26 Then Abimelech **came to him** from Gerar with Ahuzzath, one of his friends, and the commander of his army.

27 And Isaac said to them, "Why have you come to me, since you hate me and have sent me away from you?"

28 But they said, "**WE HAVE CERTAINLY SEEN THAT THE LORD IS WITH YOU**. So we said,

'Let there now be an oath between us, between you and us; and let us make a covenant with you,

29 that you will do us no harm, since we have not touched you, and since we have done nothing to you but good and have sent you away in peace. **YOU ARE NOW THE BLESSED OF THE LORD.**' "

The Same People Who Drove Him Off.... **EVENTUALLY SAW** Who **THE SOURCE** Was **Behind His Blessing**

Isaac Did Not **Spend Energy and Effort** Trying To Convince Them

He Simply **Kept Digging** ~ **Kept Trusting** ~ **Kept Obeying**

HE NEEDED THAT ENERGY FOR DIGGING NOT DEBATING

Isaac Left Locations ~ BUT THE ASSIGNMENT DID NOT CHANGE

Understand This....

Moving On and **Quitting** Are Not The Same Thing

Just Because I Moved On...Don't Mean My Mission Has Changed

Sometimes Walking Away is not weakness... It Is Wisdom

Isaac says.... **It Is Better To Dig Another Well Than Spend The Rest Of My Life Arguing Over This One**

Do Not Let **Resistance** Make You **Abandon** What God Has Called You To **Keep Doing**

Keep Digging Despite Who or What Comes Against You

Genesis 26:18-22 (NKJV)

18 And Isaac *dug again* the wells of water which they had dug in the days of Abraham his father,

19 Also Isaac's servants *dug in the valley*, and found a well of running water there.

21 Then they *dug another well*, and they quarreled over that one also.

22 And he moved from there and *dug another well*, and they did not quarrel over it.

The Key Is To Keep Digging

Opposition May Affect *WHERE YOU DIG*..... But It Does Not Affect *IF YOU WILL DIG*...

Galatians 6:9 (NKJV)

9 And let us not *grow weary while doing good*, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

The Challenge of Opposition is that it can *make us weary enough to quit something...*
THAT GOD NEVER TOLD US TO STOP DOING...

Keep Digging Until You Get What God Has Promised

Genesis 26:22 (ESV)

22 And he moved from there and **dug another well**, and **they did not quarrel over it**. So he called its name Rehoboth, saying, "For now the Lord has made room for us, and **we shall be fruitful in the land**."

Finally, He Reaches A Place/Season Where Conflict Stops...

He Did Not Start Here.... This Was The Destination After Development

Do Not Mistake A Difficult Place Of Development For Your Final Destination

It's Difficult Now... It's Frustrating Now...

But If You Keep Trusting, Keep Believing, And Keep Doing What God Commanded

THERE IS A PLACE OF ABUNDANCE

Psalms 66:10-12 (ESV)

10 **FOR YOU, O GOD**, have tested us; **YOU** have tried us as silver is tried.

11 **YOU** brought us into the net; **YOU** laid a crushing burden on our backs;

12 **YOU** let men ride over our heads; **WE WENT THROUGH FIRE AND THROUGH WATER;**

YET YOU HAVE BROUGHT US OUT TO A PLACE OF ABUNDANCE.

When You Get To The Place Of Abundance

Give Credit To The God Of Abundance ~ "The Lord Has Made Room For Us...."

Deuteronomy 8:18 (ESV)

18 You shall remember the Lord your God, for it is **HE WHO GIVES YOU POWER TO GET WEALTH**, that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your fathers, as it is this day.

Keep Digging Until You Get What God Has Promised

Genesis 26:22 (ESV)

22 And he moved from there and *dug another well*, and *they did not quarrel over it*. So he called its name Rehoboth, saying, “For now the Lord has made room for us, and *we shall be fruitful in the land*.”

ON THE OTHER SIDE OF *CONFLICT*, *CONTENTION*, AND *CONFRONTATION*
WAS A LARGER CAPACITY

God Builds *Endurance* Before He Gives *Expansion*

With This In Mind.....

Do not let *the condition of the circumstance* make you put down your shovel.

KEEP DIGGING

In Conclusion

Principle #1 — Keep Digging Because What God Promised Is Still There

Principle #2 — Keep Digging Despite Who or What Comes Against You

Principle #3 — Keep Digging Until You Receive What God Has Promised