

“Commission of Faith – Part 2”

Summary

In this powerful message, we're reminded of the incredible promises God has for us, even in our most challenging times. The story of Joshua serves as a beacon of hope, showing us that God's promises are good for every place and every day of our lives. We're encouraged to embrace the word 'nevertheless,' recognizing that despite our circumstances, God's foundation stands strong. The message challenges us to meditate on God's Word day and night, not just as a mental exercise, but as a transformative practice that leads to prosperity and success in our spiritual lives. As we face our own 'Canaans,' we're called to be strong and courageous, not in our own strength, but in the power of El Shaddai, the Almighty God who is with us wherever we go. This message invites us to step into a new season of victorious living, where we can testify to God's goodness and greatness through our lives, lips, and labor.

Main Points – The Commission of Faith Part 2

Subtitle: Embracing God's Promises: A Call to Victorious Living

Sermon Summary: This sermon encourages us to embrace God's promises and live victoriously through faith, meditation on God's Word, and obedience. Dr Wyns emphasizes the importance of spiritual growth, courage, and strength in facing life's challenges. He draws parallels between Joshua's journey into the Promised Land and the Christian's journey of faith, highlighting God's faithfulness and the power of His promises.

Key Points:

- God gives promises, programs, and power to His people
- Meditation on God's Word is crucial for spiritual growth and success
- Obedience is key to unlocking God's blessings
- God commands us to be strong and courageous in the face of challenges
- Our strength comes from God, not ourselves
- There is a "book of you" being written through your faith journey
- Change is necessary for spiritual growth and entering new seasons of victory

Scripture Reference:

- Joshua 1:3-9 (primary focus)
- Psalm 119:97
- Philippians 4:8

- Romans 12:2
- 2 Corinthians 1:20

Stories:

- The story of Joshua leading Israel into the Promised Land
- The narrative of Caleb claiming his inheritance at Mount Hebron
- The account of Peter walking on water
- The parable of the potter and the clay from Jeremiah 18

Small Group Study Guide – The Commission of Faith Part 2

Small Group Guide: Victorious Living Through God's Promises

Key Takeaways:

1. God gives us promises, a program, and power to live victoriously.
2. Meditation on God's Word is crucial for spiritual growth and success.
3. God calls us to be strong and courageous, providing the means to do so.
4. Our future experiences are based on God's past assurances.
5. Change is necessary for spiritual growth and entering new seasons.

Discussion Questions:

1. Dr. Wyns emphasized the word "nevertheless" as a powerful reminder of God's faithfulness. Can you share a time when you had to say "nevertheless" in the face of challenges?
2. How does the concept of "every place" and "every day" in God's promises impact your daily life and faith?
3. The sermon highlighted the importance of meditation on God's Word. What challenges do you face in making time for meditation, and how can you overcome them?
4. Discuss the statement: "Miracles get us out of slavery, but meditation on the truth gets us into the promised land." How have you experienced this in your spiritual journey?
5. Dr. Wyns spoke about the "book of you" being written. What would you like the next chapter of your spiritual life to look like?
6. How can we practically apply the command to "be strong and courageous" in our current circumstances?

Practical Applications:

1. Meditation Challenge: Commit to meditating on a specific Scripture passage for 20 minutes each day this week. Share your experiences with the group next time.
2. Promise Journal: Start a journal where you write down God's promises from Scripture and how they apply to your life.
3. Courage in Action: Identify one area in your life where you need to exercise more courage. Take a step of faith in that area this week and report back to the group.

4. Speak Life: Practice speaking God's Word out loud daily, as the sermon emphasized not letting it depart from your mouth.

5. Change Inventory: Reflect on areas in your spiritual life that need change. Create a plan to "continuously have a new growth experience" in one of these areas.

6. Nevertheless Moments: Be aware of situations this week where you can apply the "nevertheless" principle. Share these moments with the group next time you meet.

Closing Prayer:

Close the session by having group members pray for each other to experience God's promises, program, and power in their lives, asking for strength and courage to face the coming week.

Discussion Questions – The Commission of Faith Part 2

How can we apply the concept of 'nevertheless' in our daily lives, especially when facing challenges or disappointments?

In what ways can we cultivate an attitude of continuous spiritual growth and change, as suggested by the acrostic C-H-A-N-G-E?

How might regular meditation on God's Word transform our minds and impact our daily actions and decisions?

What does it mean to be 'strong and courageous' in today's world, and how can we draw strength from God's presence?

How can we balance the need for action ('walking') with the importance of stillness and meditation in our spiritual lives?

In what ways can we turn the 'potential of promise into the power of experience' in our own faith journeys?

How might focusing on God's promises help us overcome fear and frustration in challenging times?

How can we cultivate a spirit of encouragement within ourselves and towards others, as emphasized in the sermon?

In what ways can we embrace the idea of being 'changed people' like the Israelites transitioning from the wilderness to Canaan?

Scriptures – The Commission of Faith Part 2

Here are the scripture references mentioned or alluded to in the sermon, along with some suggested relevant verses:

1. 1 Corinthians 15:57
2. 2 Timothy 2:19
3. Malachi 3:16
4. Joshua 1:3-5
5. Psalm 78 (general reference)
6. 2 Corinthians 1:20
7. Joshua 1:3, 5
8. Joshua 3:5
9. Isaiah 50:7 (alluded to)
10. Joshua 1:8
11. Romans 12:2
12. Psalm 119:97
13. Psalm 19:14
14. Philippians 4:8
15. Joshua 1:6-9
16. Psalm 91:1-2
17. 1 Peter 2:9 (alluded to)
18. 1 Corinthians 10:11-12
19. Jeremiah 18:1-6 (alluded to)

Devotional – The Commission of Faith Part 2

Here's a 5-day Bible reading plan and devotional guide:

Day 1: The Power of God's Promises

Reading: Joshua 1:1-9

Devotional: God's promises are the foundation of our faith journey. Just as He promised Joshua success and His constant presence, God promises us His unfailing love and guidance. Today, reflect on the promises God has given you. How have you seen Him fulfill these in your life? Remember, His promises are good for "every place" and "every day." In moments of doubt or fear, cling to these promises. They are your anchor in turbulent times.

Practice: Write down three promises from Scripture that resonate with you. Meditate on these throughout the day, allowing God's truth to permeate your thoughts and actions.

Day 2: Embracing Change for Spiritual Growth

Reading: Romans 12:1-2

Devotional: Change is often uncomfortable, but it's essential for spiritual growth. The Israelites had to change from a complaining people in the wilderness to a conquering people in Canaan. Similarly, we are called to be "transformed by the renewing of our minds." This transformation doesn't happen overnight; it's a continuous process of aligning our thoughts with God's truth. What areas of your life need transformation? How can you open yourself to God's renewing work today?

Practice: Identify one habit or thought pattern that needs to change. Pray for God's guidance in this area and take one practical step towards transformation.

Day 3: The Power of Meditation on God's Word

Reading: Psalm 1:1-3

Devotional: In a world full of distractions, the practice of meditating on God's Word is more crucial than ever. It's not just about reading Scripture, but dwelling on it, letting it sink deep into our hearts and minds. As we "chew the cud" of God's Word, we gain new insights and draw spiritual nourishment. This meditation leads us to the "door of blessing," preparing us for obedience which is the key that opens that door.

Practice: Choose a short passage or even a single verse. Spend 15 minutes in quiet meditation, asking God to reveal new insights and applications for your life.

Day 4: Finding Strength in God's Presence

Reading: Isaiah 41:10-13

Devotional: When God commanded Joshua to "be strong and courageous," He wasn't ignoring Joshua's fears. Instead, He was reminding Joshua of the source of true strength - God's presence. Like Joshua, we may feel overwhelmed by life's challenges. But we can draw strength from the knowledge that "the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Our courage isn't based on our own abilities, but on the power of the One who goes with us.

Practice: In moments of weakness today, consciously remind yourself of God's presence. Repeat the phrase "The Lord is with me" as a mantra of strength.

Day 5: Nevertheless - Hope in Every Circumstance

Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:8-18

Devotional: The word "nevertheless" is a powerful reminder of hope in the face of adversity. It acknowledges our current struggles while pointing us to a greater truth. Paul beautifully illustrates this in today's reading - we may be hard pressed, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair. Whatever you're facing today, remember there's always a "nevertheless" in God's economy. His foundation stands firm, regardless of our circumstances.

Practice: Write your own "nevertheless" statement. Start with a current challenge, then follow it with a truth about God's character or promise. For example: "I may be facing financial uncertainty, nevertheless, God is my provider and will meet all my needs."