

“Commission of Faith”

Summary

In this powerful message, we're invited to explore the profound truth that God brings us out to bring us in. The story of Joshua and the Israelites entering the Promised Land serves as a backdrop for our own spiritual journey. Just as God commissioned Joshua with a promise, a program, and power, He's doing the same for us today. We're reminded that we're not just freed from our past, but called into a new identity as a 'chosen generation' and 'royal priesthood.' This message challenges us to turn the potential of God's promises into the power of experience in our lives. Are we ready to step into our own 'Promised Land' of victorious Christian living? It's time to recognize that our faith isn't just about knowing about God, but truly knowing Him as El Shaddai - God Almighty. Let's embrace this new season of blessing and victory, not through our own strength, but through confident expectation in God's faithfulness.

Main Points – Commission of Faith

Sermon Summary: This sermon explores the theme of God's commission to His people, drawing parallels between Joshua's leadership of Israel and the modern Christian's journey. It emphasizes the importance of faith, expectation, and embracing God's promises even in the face of adversity. Dr. Wyns encourages believers to see themselves as a chosen generation and royal priesthood, capable of achieving victory through their trust in El Shaddai (God Almighty).

Key Points:

- God brings His people out of bondage to bring them into blessing
- Faith is confident expectation in God's promises
- Change is necessary for spiritual growth and fulfilling God's purpose
- Worship and recognition of God's authority precede victory
- Christians are writing their own "book" through their response to God's promises
- God provides a promise, program, and power for victory
- Victorious Christian living is an experience to be embraced, not just a theory

Scripture Reference:

- Joshua 1:1-9
- Joshua 3:5
- Joshua 5:13-15
- 2 Corinthians 1:20
- Romans 4:21

Stories:

- The story of Joshua encountering the commander of the Lord's army before the battle of Jericho
- The analogy of an avalanche and the importance of "spitting first, then digging" as a survival strategy, related to spiritual warfare
- The mention of Rahab (though not fully explored) as an example of faith
- The Dr. Wyns personal anecdote of preaching his first sermon at nine years old

Small Group Study Guide – Commission of Faith

Opening Prayer

Key Takeaways:

1. God is commissioning us to move into a new season as a chosen generation and royal priesthood.
2. Victorious Christian living is an experience to be embraced, not just a theory to be studied.
3. Change is necessary for spiritual growth and to fulfill God's purposes.
4. Faith is confident expectation in God's promises.
5. We are writing our own "book" through our responses to God's promises.

Discussion Questions:

1. Dr. Wyns said, "Where God wants to take us requires a different us." What areas of your life do you feel God is calling you to change?
2. Discuss the concept of "continually having a new growth experience" in your spiritual life. What does this look like practically?
3. How does understanding who God is (El Shaddai - God Almighty) impact your faith and daily life?
4. The sermon emphasized worship before victory. How can we cultivate a lifestyle of worship, especially in challenging times?
5. Reflect on the statement: "We do not work towards victory. We work down from victory." How does this perspective change your approach to challenges?
6. What promises of God are you currently holding onto? How can you turn the "potential of promise into the power of experience"?

Practical Applications:

1. This week, intentionally set aside time to "fall down in worship" before facing your daily challenges.
2. Identify one area where you need to embrace change. Create a specific action plan to grow in this area.
3. Write down a personal promise from God. Commit to meditating on it daily and looking for ways God is fulfilling it in your life.

4. Practice speaking faith-filled declarations based on who God is (El Shaddai) when facing difficult situations this week.

5. Start "writing your book" by journaling daily about how you're responding to God's promises and direction in your life.

Closing Prayer:

Thank God for His faithfulness to His promises. Ask for increased faith and the courage to step into the new season He has for each group member.

Discussion Questions – Commission of Faith

How can we cultivate a deeper understanding of God as 'El Shaddai' (God Almighty) in our daily lives, and what difference might this make in how we face challenges?

The sermon emphasizes the importance of change and growth in our spiritual lives. In what areas of your faith do you feel God calling you to experience 'continual change' or a 'new growth experience'?

How does the concept of being a 'chosen generation' and 'royal priesthood' challenge or inspire you in your current circumstances?

Dr. Wyns discusses the difference between 'knowing about God' and 'knowing God'. How can we move from mere knowledge to a deeper, experiential relationship with God?

In what ways might God be calling you to 'fall down in worship' before expecting to see the 'walls fall down' in your life or circumstances?

How can we balance being aware of current events and 'avalanches of evil' while maintaining a victorious Christian perspective?

The sermon mentions turning 'the potential of promise into the power of experience'. What promises of God do you need to activate in your life right now?

How might viewing your life as 'the book of [your name]' change your perspective on your daily choices and actions?

Dr. Wyns emphasizes that 'God buries his workmen, but the work of God goes on'. How does this perspective challenge or comfort you in times of transition or loss?

In what ways can we cultivate a 'confident expectation' (faith) in God's promises, especially when facing seemingly insurmountable obstacles?

Scriptures – Commission of Faith

Here are the scripture references mentioned or alluded to in the sermon:

Explicitly Mentioned:

1. Joshua 3:5
2. Deuteronomy 6:23
3. Joshua 1:1-4
4. 2 Corinthians 1:20
5. Romans 4:21
6. 1 Corinthians 10:11-12
7. Joshua 5:13-15

Alluded to or Implied:

1. Exodus 3:5 (taking off sandals on holy ground)
2. Hebrews 11 (heroes of faith)
3. Jeremiah 18:6 (potter and clay analogy)
4. 1 Corinthians 15:57 (victory through Christ)
5. Psalm 91:1-2 (abiding under the shadow of the Almighty)

Devotional – Commission of Faith

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

Day 1: Embracing God's Power

Reading: Joshua 1:1-9

Devotional: As we begin this journey, we're reminded of Joshua's transition from Moses' assistant to leader of Israel. God's command to "be strong and courageous" resonates with us today. Like Joshua, we may face daunting challenges or feel inadequate for the tasks before us. But God's promise remains: "I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you." Today, reflect on areas in your life where you need to embrace God's power. What fears or doubts are holding you back? Remember, our strength comes not from our own abilities, but from our trust in El Shaddai, God Almighty. Take a moment to surrender your concerns to Him and step forward in faith.

Day 2: Recognizing God's Presence

Reading: Joshua 5:13-15

Devotional: In today's passage, Joshua encounters the commander of the Lord's army. This powerful moment reminds us that God is always present, even in the midst of our battles. Sometimes, like Joshua, we may ask, "Are you for us or for our enemies?" But God's response challenges us to shift our perspective. Instead of wondering if God is on our side, we should ensure we are on His side. Today, consider where you might be missing God's presence in your life. Are there areas where you're trying to fight battles on your own? Take time to "take off your sandals," recognizing the holiness of God's presence in every aspect of your life. How can you align yourself more fully with His purposes?

Day 3: Faith as Confident Expectation

Reading: Hebrews 11:1-6

Devotional: The sermon emphasized faith as "confident expectation." Hebrews 11 beautifully illustrates this concept through the heroes of faith. Like these ancients, we're called to believe in what we cannot yet see. This kind of faith isn't blind optimism, but a deep trust in God's character and promises. Reflect on your own faith journey. Are there areas where your expectations of God have dimmed? Remember, "without faith it is impossible to please God." Today, choose one area of your life where you need to renew your confident expectation in God. Pray for the Holy Spirit to strengthen your faith and help you see beyond your current circumstances to God's greater purpose.

Day 4: Becoming a Chosen Generation

Reading: 1 Peter 2:9-10

Devotional: The message emphasized our identity as "a chosen generation, a royal priesthood." Peter's words remind us of this profound truth. We are not accidents or afterthoughts but purposefully chosen by God for this specific time in history. This identity comes with both privilege and responsibility. How does knowing you are "chosen" change

your perspective on your daily life? As part of a "royal priesthood," how can you represent God to those around you today? Consider one way you can live out your calling as God's "special possession" in your home, workplace, or community.

Day 5: Victorious Christian Living

Reading: Romans 8:31-39

Devotional: Our journey concludes with a powerful reminder of our victory in Christ. The sermon emphasized that we don't work towards victory, but from victory. Paul's words in Romans 8 affirm this truth – nothing can separate us from God's love. In a world full of challenges and "avalanches of evil," we stand secure in Jesus' finished work. Today, meditate on what it means to live from a place of victory. Are there areas in your life where you feel defeated? How would your approach change if you truly believed you were "more than conquerors through him who loved us"? Close this devotional time by praising God for His unshakeable love and the victory we have in Christ, regardless of our circumstances.