



Living in God's Promises: Possessing and Occupying Our Inheritance

Session 8: Occupy Your Territory

Pastor Dale Campbell

I. Introduction and review

A. 2 Peter 1:2-4

NKJV “Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that *pertain* to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption *that is* in the world through lust.”

PASTOR'S NOTE: *Although the promises are given, we must take possession of what rightfully belongs to us. God is the PROMISOR. We are the POSSESSORS.*

1. Previous Sessions' Thoughts:

- a. We must dispossess the enemy from the territory that belongs to us. *Our territory is our inheritance*
- b. **Numbers 33:51-53**
NKJV “Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: ‘When you have crossed the Jordan into the land of Canaan, then you shall drive out all the inhabitants of the land from before you, destroy all their engraved stones, destroy all their molded images, and demolish all their high places; **you shall dispossess the inhabitants of the land** and dwell in it, **for I have given you the land to possess.**”
- c. **“Dispossess”**: To take away someone’s property or possession; the act of removing someone from their land, typically without their consent; TO PUT OUT OF POSSESSION OR OCCUPANCY.
- d. Dispossession was necessary because there were those who had already taken up residence in the land.
 - *They had taken possession of this territory.*
 - *They had been there a very long time.*
 - *They had taken ownership and dominion in the land.*
- e. Taking possession would mean that Israel had to displace—or drive out—everyone or everything that had previously taken ownership.
- f. Change of **occupancy**. Change of **ownership**. Change of **dominion**.



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- g. Jesus came to destroy or break up the works of the devil. *Whatever territory Satan had control of Jesus came to dispossess him and TAKE OVER (change of dominion).*
- h. Jesus gave us His authority—His name—and the right to rule over all the power of the enemy.

2. Giants in the Land

- a. Giants in Scripture / Characteristics of the Giants.
- b. What we do know:
 - *Giants were abnormal in appearance, size, and strength.*
 - *Giants possessed amazing skill and ability in battle.*
 - *Dealing with giants required a greater level of skill and strength than other inhabitants of the land.*
 - *Giants were intimidating.*
 - *Giants were loud and boisterous (i.e. Goliath).*
 - *Giants CAN be DEFEATED.*

3. Strongholds in the New Testament are “Giants”

a. 2 Corinthians 10:3-6

NKJV “For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ”

II. Occupy Your Territory

In the previous sessions, we have discussed the necessity of taking possession of your inheritance—taking possession of what rightfully belongs to you IN CHRIST! This is witnessed in the TYPE AND SHADOW of the necessity of Israel taking possession of the Promised Land.

The second phase of this process is learning to OCCUPY the territory you have taken possession of. For many, this is where the battle is lost. They TAKE POSSESSION but fail to HOLD the territory LONG TERM.



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God doesn't mean for us to have SHORT TERM VICTORY over the giants in our life (strongholds). He means for us to HOLD THE TERRITORY that we have taken. This is called OCCUPYING

A. Scriptures and Definitions

1. Numbers 33:53

NKJV "...you shall dispossess *the inhabitants* of the land and dwell in it, for I have given you the land to possess."

Other Translations: "settle in it", "dwell in it", "live in it". This is OCCUPYING.

2. "Occupy": To take up a place or a space; to take hold of or possession/control of; to reside as a tenant or owner.

- When I take possession of what belongs to me, I am to OCCUPY that territory, never allowing to the enemy to return.

B. The Enemy Comes to DISPOSSESS Us from What We Have Received

1. Israel always dealt with enemies attempting to dispossess them from the territory they had taken.

- *The army that came against Jehoshaphat.*
- *The army that came against Gideon.*
- *The Philistines that David dealt with repeatedly.*

2. Colossians 1:23

NKJV "...if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister."

AMP "...[and He will do this] if you continue in the faith, well-grounded and steadfast, and not shifting away from the [confident] hope [that is a result] of the gospel that you have heard, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which [gospel] I, Paul, was made a minister."

CEV "But you must stay deeply rooted and firm in your faith."



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PASTOR'S NOTE: *Once you have taken possession of what belongs to you in Christ, Satan makes it his mission to MOVE YOU AWAY from that territory.*

3. When you move to another level in taking possession, you must also move to another level of skill in occupying / dwelling.

C. How Do You Occupy?

1. Luke 11:24-26

The Living Bible “When a demon is cast out of a man, it goes to the deserts, searching there for rest; but finding none, it returns to the person it left, and finds that its former home is all swept and clean. Then it goes and gets seven other demons more evil than itself, and they all enter the man. And so the poor fellow is seven times worse off than he was before.”

PASTOR'S NOTE: *This not only applies to those who were demon possessed, but it can apply to Christians who have taken possession of their life regarding strongholds. It also refers to SPIRITUAL advancement one has made. YOU MUST OCCUPY that territory—settle into it—to dwell there without being disposed back to where you used to be by the enemy.*

2. Satan always attempts a “*come back*”.
3. Why was the enemy allowed to come back and reclaim territory that had been recently taken by the owner? He was met with no resistance—no opposition—no authority.
4. The same way you took possession of your inheritance is the same way you will occupy in it.
 - **Deuteronomy 32:47**
NKJV “For it *is* not a futile thing for you, because it *is* your life, and by this word you shall prolong *your* days in the land which you cross over the Jordan to possess.”



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CSB “For they are not meaningless words to you but they are your life, and by them you will live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to possess.”

GWT “Don't think these words are idle talk. They are your life! By these words you will be able to live for a long time in the land that you are going to take possession of when you cross the Jordan River.”

PASTOR'S NOTE: *When the enemy returns to DISPOSSESS you—EVICT you from the territory you have taken—he must be met with the WORD OF GOD!*

5. Occupying is actively engaging with the enemy when necessary, by using the weapon of the Word.

- a. The Word is my covenant / title deed to the territory that I have possessed. *I must remind myself of my right to be here and remind the enemy that he has lost his rights to my life.*
- b. Resistance is **demanding** that the enemy leave!
 - **James 4:7**
NKJV “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”
- c. Pastor's personal example of depression.
- d. **NO VACANCY:** *Make sure Satan is met with the indwelling Word.*
 - **John 15:7**
NKJV “If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.”

CEV “Stay joined to me and let my teachings become part of you. Then you can pray for whatever you want, and your prayer will be answered.”

NIV “If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.”

- e. Keep the **ATMOSPHERE of your LIFE and HOME** charged with the Word of God—that is, keep it “furnished” with the Word.



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6. To go to another level—to occupy a *different* place—you must FEED on a different level. To occupy or stay on another level you must FEED on a different level.

PASTOR'S NOTE: *Eating the same level of the Word isn't sufficient for greater territory. Eating from first-base revelation will not advance you to home base.*

- a. When you take possession, you become a *different threat* to the enemy.
- b. When you attempt to STAY or occupy, you are in a *different place of authority* and represent a *greater threat* to the enemy.
- c. You will have to **FEED differently** to stay here.
- d. You will have to **THINK differently** to stay here.
- e. You will have to **SPEAK differently** to stay here.