

PART FIVE HANDOUT PREPARING FOR HARVEST: The Joshua Generation:

TEXT: Joshua 1:1-6 Moses has died and Joshua has been given the Responsibility of Leading Israel into the Promise Land...Today's text explains how to Successfully accomplish It!

Now we Move into the "Generation of Joshua"! This is a Major Change for Israel...No More Wandering in the Wilderness with Moses.**No More Looking Back to the Bondage of their Past.**

- God is Calling Israel to **"Arise"** and to March Forward and Take the Land Promised!
- Unlike 40 years earlier, this Generation choose to take Possession of the Promise Land!

Key #1 The "Joshua Generation" is a Type and Foreshadow of Today's Church.

- This is Where the Church is today: God Choosing People to Redeem People...Calling Us to Share the Good News...The Great Commission...Focusing on Entering Eternity!

For Israel It Is time to Stop Waiting for the "Promise" and to Actually "Receive" It! It is time to Claim the Promise and to Experience the Promise of God!

- Their Decision: Stay where it's Comfortable & Safe or Follow Gods Plan and Experience the Promise

POINT: I Believe Too Many Christians are Comfortable in Not Claiming Gods Promise and instead are happy to live the Christian Life without Experiencing God's Best!

- Today, God is Commanding Us to Do The Same! This is Why God Is Providing Us An Expanded Ministry Center! To Be Better Equipped to Reach This Area for Jesus Christ!

God is saying Take Your Eyes off The Busyness of Life and the Things of the World and Place them on Eternity...And Accomplish Gods Plan for LifePoint Church!

Verse 3 Gives Us God's Promise to Our Obedience: **"I will Give You Every Place Where You Set Your Foot"** is Still True Today for LifePoint Bible Church...

KEY #2 Wherever We Take A Stand for Christ...God Will Give Us Precious Souls for Eternity...Gods Word will Penetrate Hearts and Minds!

Throughout the Entire New Testament Jesus Says to Us, Rise Up...Follow Me... Wherever You Go In the World...Do What I've Asked...Reach the Lost and I will be with You!

Joshua's Generation Chose Wisely...They Left behind their Past and the Wilderness and Pursued their Promised Future! Now they Had a Clear Purpose...Possess the Land...Bring Glory to the Lord, Let Others See the TRUE GOD...Enter their Rest and Accomplish God's Plan!

- **In the Same Way...God Allows Us to Learn from Our Past...Even those Painful Things that We May Go Through...Or Poor Choices Made that Tend to Fill Us With Guilt.**
- God Does Not Want Us to Forget Past Failures...But as We Remember Them God Wants Us to be Filled with Thankfulness and Praise for What He Is Doing Now!

KEY #3: Our Past is NOT Our Place of Residence...IT IS A PLACE OF REFERENCE!

- It is God's Forgiveness...Gods Love...Gods Redemption That Motivates Us to Love Others So We Will Share the Good News of the Gospel with Them! Mark 16:15
- **But Before We Can Accomplish Gods Plan for the Church...We Must Look Inside and Ask God If there is Anything Keeping Us from Living and Sharing the Good News!**

The Question Is...AM I A "TWEENER"? Tweeners are Caught Between The Bondage of their Past Without Living God's Promise of Freedom in the Present! Caught Between Good Friday and Easter...Knowing Christ Died for Them ...But Not Experiencing the Victory of the Resurrection because Some Fear or Past Issue is Holding Them Back?!

- **Caught Between Serving God Completely...and Still Holding on to the World?**

God's Words to Joshua in Verses 7-9...Provide Us What is Required to Not Be a "TWEENER"...But Rather to Possess the Promise and Walk Victoriously each day! *7 "Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. 8 Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful."*

Review What God Says Here: Be Courageous...Do Everything I have Commanded You to Do! Don't Look Away...To the Right or the Left (SQUIRREL). Keep Your Eyes on Me! Be in God's Word...Meditate on It...Prayer Over it...Let It Penetrate Your Heart and Transform Your Mind.

- His Promise: Then What You Do Will Be Prosperous and Successful.

KEY #4: Our Success in Reaching the World for Christ is Directly Tied to Our Commitment to a Personal Relationship with Jesus Christ.

This is Not a Casual Relationship of Convenience...This Must be a Relationship that is Committed and Consistent with Single Focus! Casual Christianity has Never Changed the World...Convenient Christianity has Never Changed the World...Comfortable Christianity has Never Changed the World.

- Only Committed Christians...CHANGE THE WORLD FOR CHRIST!

Just As God Told Joshua...So, He is Telling Us Today: We Must Obey His Commands in Our Life...We must Not Turn...Or Waiver... We Must Stand Firm...Committed to His Word and Work!

As We Live Our Lives Firmly Committed to Personal Holiness...Reflecting Christ With Our Lives...People Will See Something Different in Us...than the World has to Offer.

I Love the Promise of Psalm 1: *Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, 2 but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. 3 That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers.*

Dr. G.B. Vick said, "to Meditate on God's Word means that you Focus on it so much that God's Thoughts Become Your Thoughts...God's Principles Become Your Principles...and God's Will Becomes Your Will"

Key #5: We are called to Reach Out to this Lost and Dying World with the Gospel, to Preach it Unashamedly, to Share it Unswervingly, to Live it Continually.

When You follow these Principles...You Will Accomplish God's Plan For Your Life... You will See Lives Changed and Souls Saved.

- You and I have Received a Message from God just as Joshua Received.
- You and I have been Entrusted with Carrying out God's Plan.
- Each of us are Entrusted with the Vision of Reaching a Lost and Dying world!

I Believe very soon that the Trumpet Will Sound...and...We, Who Know Christ, Will Be Caught Up to Be with Him forever....

- But Today...While we Remain...We Need to Focus on the Harvest...We Still Have Work to Do Right Here...Right NOW!
- Today, All Across Our City...All Across this Land, there are People who are Lost...
- People who Need Hope...People who Need Healing and God's Joy in their Lives...
- Only The Message of the Gospel...Jesus Christ...Brings that Hope, Healing and Joy.

Today's "LIFE" POINT: We Must Stand Firm...Committed to Sharing God's Word!