

TAKING WHAT GOD GIVES

Joshua 12:1-6 13:1-6

Introduction: Why wouldn't someone want everything God wanted to give him/her? That was the case with some of the tribes of Israel when they finally were able to move into the land of promise. Two and a half tribes didn't want to cross over into the promised land, they wanted (Reuben, Gad, and part of the tribe of Manasseh) to settle on side of the river Jordan that wasn't included in the land of Canaan, the promised land. They had chosen the wilderness side of the promised land, not the land that God had intended for them. We can't point our fingers at these 2 1/2 tribes for we often do the very same thing ourselves. We don't always want what God wants for us.

I. EVERY BELIEVER NEEDS TO STOP AND THINK ABOUT WHAT GOD HAS DONE IN HIS/HER LIFE

1. Every believer needs to take some time to reflect in gratefulness and appreciation upon the memories of all that God has done in his/her life.
2. Every believer is at a different stage of life and for some most of the battles of life are just about over, there are few battles left to fight. However, for many others, most of life's battles are yet to be fought.
3. Something needs to be remembered here: whatever a "Moses" gives to us in life (works, things) will eventually slip away from us. Whatever God gives us in life (grace, love, blessings) will remain. The believer needs to stop trying to win life's battles on his/her effort alone.
4. No believer can rest on his/her past achievements for God cannot bring new victories and His purpose to that person for he/she won't realize it's God and not him/her doing it.
 - God had given each of the 12 tribes what He wanted them to have.

II. WHAT THE PROMISED LAND WAS TO ISRAEL, JESUS CHRIST IS TO THE BELIEVER

1. In God's Word is outlined the land of the believer - the mountains, valleys, pasture lands of rest and quiet, the cities that need to be conquered.
2. Believers must be careful to not become satisfied with less than what God has for him/her. No believer has ever received ALL that God has wanted to give. Most often the believer tires and quits, forgetting that victory is guaranteed by God.
3. Every believer still has areas yet to be possessed:
 - The area of knowledge of the things of God.
 - The area of spiritual experience.
 - The area of habitual sin.

III. HOW IS THE "LAND" TO BE CONQUERED?

1. The Christian life is a constant, running battle, but the victory is found ONLY in Jesus. Why is the believer still defeated and the "land" not possessed?
 - The believer has never handed over to Jesus his/her business life.
 - The believer has never handed over to Jesus his/her possessions.
 - Surrender, then consecration, then appropriation, in that order.
2. Victory, conquering for the believer will never come until a TOTAL surrender is made to the Lord Jesus. It is ONLY when the believer has accepted the full authority of God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit and every part of his/her being is in unconditional surrender that the believer may count on victory, conquering.
3. Why should any believer have a full life and then have so much yet to be possessed, conquered?
4. Why should any believer ever live in spiritual poverty?
5. Why should any believer not have EVERYTHING God wants to give him/her?

CONCLUSION:

1. God chooses what He wants each believer to have in life. Just as He chose where He wanted each tribe to settle. God knows what is best for every believer.
2. If every believer would accept what God has decided to give him/her and not fight against life's experiences, then more possessions, more conquering will be guaranteed and happen.
3. So, are YOU letting God do the choosing in your life or are YOU the one doing all the deciding? Are you going by YOUR plan for your family, your career, your life? Are you trusting your own abilities, skills, knowledge, etc, to handle life's situations?
 - If so, you will NEVER have very much of what God wants you to have. Your life will not be what God wants you to have.
 - So, which had you really rather have? Your way or God's way? Are you being like those 2 1/2 tribes that didn't want what God wanted to give them?