



Biblical Manhood

Remembering Our Legacy, Fulfilling Our Destiny

May/June, 2016

Fulfilling God's Purpose

In the opening chapter of Joshua, the people of Israel have come to the Jordan River in order to take possession of the land that God had promised them. This opening chapter presents a time of transition. The great man of God Moses has died. He is no longer the leader of the nation. Now Joshua takes the reins in the next phase of God's salvation history. God had a purpose for Joshua to fulfill and a war for him to fight.

Although there is a vast difference in the time and calling of Joshua to ours, we do share these things. For Christian men, God has a purpose for each one to fulfill and a war for each one to fight. The book of Joshua can encourage and equip Christian men to do both. In the upcoming issues of *Biblical Manhood*, we will examine the book of Joshua. We will look at how to fulfill God's purposes for our lives and how to fight that battles that come our way.

In this issue of *Biblical Manhood*, we want to see from **Joshua 1:1-9** how to fulfill God's purpose for your life. The first principle we see in these verses for this is

faithfulness. To fulfill God's purpose for your life, you must strive to be faithful to Him.

In **Joshua 1:1**, he is called "Moses' assistant." Joshua had served faithfully under Moses. With the Lord's help, Joshua led Israel to victory against the Amalekites (**Exodus 17:8-10**). He accompanied Moses to the mountain to receive the Law (**Exodus 24:13**). He saw and learned of the glory of God in Moses' tent that he set up as a prototype to the tabernacle (**Exodus 33:11**). Moses chose him to be one of the spies who went to survey Canaan (**Numbers 13:1-16**). He came back with a faith-filled report and urged the people to occupy the land immediately (**Numbers 13:30, 14:8**). This shows us that Joshua faithfully served the Lord and Moses.

In **Numbers 27:18**, Joshua is commissioned as Moses' successor. Yet, what we need to see is the previous faithfulness of Joshua. His past faithfulness brought him to this place in **Joshua 1**. This same faithfulness would enable him to carry out God's purpose for His life. The previous faithfulness of

Joshua prepared him for the purpose that God had for him. It would propel him to fulfill what God had for him in the future. When God told Joshua to go over the Jordan and take possession of the land, he was ready because of his faithfulness in the past (**Joshua 1:2**).

This gives us insight on how to carry out God's purpose in our lives. It requires faithfulness. It demands consistency. It calls for an attitude of "I'm not going to quit, I'm not going to give up, I'm going to learn from the Lord, I'm going to follow Him, and serve Him no matter what." We cannot fulfill God's purpose for our lives if we are not faithful in our daily lives.

Faithfulness is hanging in there no matter what. Many factors that will seek to hinder your faithfulness to the Lord. Yet, to fulfill God's purpose for your life, you have to hang in there. You have to be faithful in the good, the bad, and the ugly. You must love and serve the Lord when you see His hand at work and when you don't sense or see anything. This faithfulness enables you to be ready and to fulfill each phase of God's purpose for your life.

Another principle for fulfilling God's purpose for your life is **faith**. In these verses, God gives Joshua some remarkable promises. He promises Joshua that He has given them the land; God uses the past tense to speak of this as an absolute certainty (**1:2-4**). He states that no one will be able to defeat Him (**1:5**). He swears that He will be with Joshua as He was with

Moses (**1:5, 9**). What precious promises God gave Joshua!

Yet, Joshua had to trust the Lord. He had to receive and believe His promises. God gave the promises but Joshua had to accept them for Himself. He had to appropriate these promises for Himself.

God has given Christian men many exceedingly great and precious promises. These promises flow out of God's great grace and love. God will be true to His Word. Yet, we must receive and believe these promises. We have to appropriate these promises. We must come to God's promises and say, "This belongs to me. This is for me." Faith in the Lord and His promises helps us to fulfill His purpose for us.

In these verses, Joshua is exhorted to be strong and of good courage (**1:6, 9**). God also did this previously (**Deuteronomy 31:6-7, 23**). If God is continually telling Joshua to be strong and of good courage, it appears that he wasn't at that point! At this point, Joshua's faith required strengthening. God sought to encourage him because he was struggling with doubt, fear, and unbelief.

As Christian men, we face a daunting task. To live as godly men in an ungodly world. To become godly husbands and fathers. To stand firm in purity in a moral avalanche of impurity. To present the gospel in a hostile culture. The task is overwhelming but God has given us promises. We must believe these

promises. We must accept them as our own, trusting God to fulfill them in our own lives. To fulfill God's purpose requires faith – faith in Him and His promises. As we trust Him and His promises, it generates the faith to step out and do His will in our personal lives.

A final principle needed to fulfill God's purpose is **knowing and obeying the Word of God**. In these verses, God stresses knowing His Word by reading and meditating on it (1:7-9). Joshua was to fill His life with the Word of God. He was to meditate on it day and night; it was to stay on his lips all the time. At the same time, he was to obey the Word. He was not to swerve away from it but to strive to observe what was written in the Word of God.

This was the first generation to be dependent on the written Word in the Law of God. Moses had the privilege of speaking to God face to face as a man speaks to his friend. Now Joshua had to lead the people based on the Word of God and the wisdom that comes from the Word.

This meant that Joshua had to read and meditate on the Word of God. He did have to obey it. However, first, he had to know the Word. How could he obey what He didn't know? This called for daily reading and meditating of the Word. Then, he was to strive to obey what the Word said. This would enable him to fulfill God's purpose for His life.

The same is true today. If we would desire to carry out God's purpose, we must fill our lives with the Word of God. This means saturating our lives with Scripture. The emphasis in this text is on meditation. It's interesting that the text says the Book of the Law was not to depart from his mouth (1:8). In other words, he was to talk to himself about what he was reading and studying. He was to get everything he could out of the Word. The purpose of this was to lead to obedience, "that you may observe to do all that is written in it" (1:8).

Fulfilling God's purpose for your life means walking in obedience to His Word. We can only obey as we read, meditate on, and know His Word. As we understand and live out His Word, only then will we experience spiritual prosperity and have success in the things of God.

Praying This Passage

Father, grant me the grace and power to be faithful to You. Help me to love and serve You daily. Strengthen me especially in the difficult times.

Father, increase my faith. I trust You and I believe Your promises. I ask that I would walk by faith and not by sight.

Father, empower me to saturate my life with Your Word. Teach me the truths of Your Word. Help me obey the truth in my daily life. From Your Word, grant me the

wisdom that I need to honor You and to do Your will.

World Prayer Plan

July

- 1-Luxembourg
- 2-Macao
- 3-Macedonia
- 4-Madagascar
- 5-Malawi
- 6-Malaysia-The Church
- 7-Malaysia-The Lost
- 8-Malaysia-Open Doors
- 9-Maldives
- 10-Mali
- 11-Malta
- 12-Marshall Islands
- 13-Martinique
- 14-Mauritania
- 15-Mauritius
- 16-Mexico-The Church
- 17-Mexico-The Lost
- 18-Micronesia
- 19-Midway Islands
- 20-Moldova
- 21-Monaco
- 22-Mongolia
- 23-Montserrat
- 24-Morocco-The Church
- 25-Morocco-The Lost
- 26-Morocco-Persecuted Believers
- 27-Mozambique-The Church
- 28-Mozambique-The Lost
- 29-Myanmar (Burma)-The Church
- 30-Myanmar (Burma)-The Lost
- 31-Namibia

August

- 1-Nauru
- 2-Nepal-The Church
- 3-Nepal-The Lost
- 4-Nepal-Mission Efforts
- 5-Netherlands
- 6-Netherland Antilles
- 7-New Caledonia

- 8-New Zealand
- 9-Nicaragua
- 10-Niger
- 11-Nigeria-The Church
- 12-Nigeria-The Lost
- 13-Norway
- 14-Oman
- 15-Pakistan-The Church
- 16-Pakistan-The Lost
- 17-Pakistan-Open Doors
- 18-Pakistan-Persecuted Believers
- 19-Palau
- 20-Palestine West Bank-Open Doors
- 21-Palestine West Bank-Peace
- 22-Panama
- 23-Papua New Guinea-The Church
- 24-Papua New Guinea-The Lost
- 25-Paraguay
- 26-Peru-The Church
- 27-Peru-The Lost
- 28-Philippines-The Church
- 29-Philippines-The Lost
- 30-Pitcairn Island
- 31-Poland-The Church

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