

NO TIME TO DELAY: TAKE BACK THE LAND

Life Connecting Teams ~ May 2024
New Covenant Church of Philadelphia

So, Joshua said to the people of Israel, “How long will you put off going in to take possession of the land, which the LORD, the God of your fathers, has given you? **Joshua 18:3 NKJV**

OBJECTIVE: To explore and discuss the importance of being in alignment with God’s instruction through obedience.

INTRODUCTION: Read Numbers 13: 30-33 for background

This question posed in this passage reflects the tension between promise and action. Sometimes, we find ourselves standing at the threshold of opportunity, yet we hesitate—whether due to fear, uncertainty, or other reasons that hold us back. Joshua’s words serve as a reminder to seize the blessings that await us, to step boldly into the land of promise.

In our own lives, we encounter similar moments. How long will we delay obeying God’s instruction, pursuing our dreams, or taking the next step? Perhaps it’s time to heed Joshua’s question and move forward with courage and faith as it applies to believers in claiming souls for the Kingdom of God.

Lesson:

Joshua was saying, God is giving you this land. How long are you going to put off going in to take it? I read that and I think, “I don’t want to put off doing anything God has called me to do or taking any step God has called me to take.” When I think about it, why would I, why would we, put off God and what He is calling us to do, and yet we are prone to this. We are prone to hear God say do this or do that and to put it off, to delay obedience. And this is where we realize **delayed obedience is disobedience** and it is foolishness. How many times have you been frustrated by a missed opportunity to share the gospel or to pray for someone?

Let’s take a moment to repent and ask God’s forgiveness. God, we confess that we have put off your Great Commission and neglected the call to make disciples in all the earth. Forgive us Lord. Holy Spirit, flood our hearts with a deep desire to win souls to the Kingdom of God in obedience to the word and out of love for our God and others. Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.

Why would we put off obeying God? Why would we put off experiencing all that God desires and designs for us? Let’s explore some challenges we have in this area.

The issue of His Adequacy vs our Inadequacy - Discuss

*And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. **2 Corinthians 9:8 NKJV***

- God never requires anything of us for which He has not made full provision. He is the author of our adequacy. We will be overcome with hopelessness if we depend on our abilities.
- Start with the first 4 words, “**And God is able**”, How is that for giving us hope and confidence in any situation. One of the Names of God is El Shaddai- God Almighty – the God Who is enough.
- It is through grace that we have all these things. Grace has been defined as the divine influence which operates in us to regenerate and sanctify, to inspire virtuous impulses,

and to impart strength to endure trial and resist temptation. But He said to me, **“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”** Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.” **2 Corinthians 12:9 NIV.**

- When we read 2 Corinthians 9:8, notice the use of words like, **“all”, “abound”, “always”, “abundance”, and “every”**. Are you not convinced that God provides for us a limitless supply of all we need to do His bidding?
- **2 Corinthians 3:5 NKJV** is a reinforcing word which tells us, *“Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God.”*

Considering the passages we have read; the believer has no basis for claiming inadequacy for following the will of the Lord. We want God’s provision for us in all things to become a reality in our daily lives. **2 Peter 1:3 ESV**, assures us that, *“His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us to His own glory and excellence.”* Therefore, we will take off the things which have held us captive to the bondage of fear, lack of confidence in God’s presence, and the power of the Holy Spirit. Will you be content with less than the life God has planned for you? **The choice is ours!**

Let us spend some time in prayer to commit ourselves to doing the great commission in our daily lives and being obedient to God’s calling in our lives.

So, we pray **Joshua 18:3**. Let’s pray together today. Individual prayers are welcome as time permits.

God, help us to walk fully into all that you have designed for us, that you desire for us today. God, help us not to put off anything you’re calling us to do. Help us to not put off any steps you’re calling us to take. And help us to walk by faith into all that you have for our lives, for our families, for our churches.

Help us to walk fully into the future by faith trusting in You and Your power, promises and presence. Help us to embrace fully all that you desire to give us. Help us not to waste a moment in delaying obedience to You. Help us teach our children to obey all the way, right away, and with a happy heart. You’ve made it clear, Lord, make disciples of all the nations. God, we pray that more of us will rise and take the gospel to those who are unreached.

God, may it not be said of any of us that we put You off in all that You were calling us to do. Help us to hold nothing back and to practice a daily pursuit of Your will. We pray this according to Joshua 18:3, in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Remember in Prayer

- Our founding Pastor Bishop Grannum and his family; Pastor Bob Oliver and Lady Denise Oliver and their family. Our Pastoral staff: Pastor Wangui Mwangi; Pastor Omar Barlow and his wife Jeneen; Pastor Andrew Grannum and his wife Chevas and their families.
- NCC staff and volunteers
- All heads and leaders of ministries at NCC
- The Prayer Station Ministry and all who participate in going out to share the gospel and pray for others. For an increase in NCC members who participate.
- The sick and shut-in; those who have experienced the passing of a loved one.
- Divine Protection of our children and youth.
- Increase in the donations and support for the Capital Campaign.

Reference: <https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/spiritual-life/lessons-we-can-learn-about-faith-from-joshua-and-caleb.html>