

## Possessing Our Possessions

Good morning, brothers, and sisters. It is good to know that the Lord Jesus went through all that violence of the cross and was put in that grave. We are so thankful this morning that He did not remain there, that the Father raised Him up to resurrection life and brought Him to the throne at His right hand. And now today, our great desire is for Him to come back, as we ended our time of worship this morning. We are thankful that the Lord Jesus is real. He is not a theory, He is not a philosopher, and He was not a politician. He is indeed the Lord of lords and King of kings.

We are so fortunate that He has been made available to us through a simple act of faith. What more could God have done to make the restoration of man so easy for our part? The Lord did it all. This morning, actually, what is in my heart is that the Lord be lifted up. I pray that the Lord will bring us more and more to see Him, to really see who He is. So let us begin with a word of prayer.

*Lord, I just came this morning with what is still on my heart that we would see Jesus. Lord, that You would open our eyes to see something of Your glory, something of Your greatness. I know John said, "We have seen Him. We have beheld His glory, full of grace and truth." Lord, open our eyes like You did John's. Even at the end of John's life, You lifted him up into the heavenlies to show him the glory of what God was doing in Christ Jesus—that heavenly city, the new Jerusalem. Lord, we have a future that we know little about. And Lord, we will live in eternity in a glorious kingdom where it will just be Christ; His beauty and His glory will be reflected in everything. So, Lord, we come this morning, we offer these words back to You. Lord, Your own words to us through the Word of God. Lord, we ask You to bless this time this morning. Bless our hearts, and Lord, do touch our eyes and ears. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.*

Well, this morning I want to begin by reading a few verses from Joshua and it will be Joshua 1:1-3, 9, and 11.

Joshua 1:1-3 says "Now after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD it came to pass, that the LORD spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister, saying, Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even the children of Israel. Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses."

Verse 9: "Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest."

Verse 11: "Prepare you victuals; for within three days ye shall pass over this Jordan, to go in to possess the land, which the LORD your God giveth you to possess it." Let me read it again, "Pass over this Jordan, to go in to possess the land, which the LORD your God giveth you to possess."

## Introduction

Now, as we come to this scripture in Joshua, we know that the people of Israel are at the Jordan River preparing to cross over. You may remember a little bit of history here very quickly. Abraham was promised this land. He was to go in; it was to be his. The Lord gave it to Abraham and his descendants: Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Abraham went to the land, and he was there. They had been there for a while, and there were about seventy in the family. They had grown from just Abraham and his wife into a family of seventy. The Lord called Jacob, and he raised up Joseph. Remember they went into the land of Egypt, and Joseph got his father to bring that family of seventy down into the land of Egypt to Goshen. A wonderful promise, well, it was not a promised land, but it was a land that was rich for them to grow in. They grew into a multitude. Some say between 1 and 2 million people.

But they came under the oppression of Pharaoh for four hundred years. They cried out to the Lord. The Lord raised up Moses to bring them out of that land. He delivered them through the Red Sea and brought them into the desert. After two years, He had brought them up to this Jordan River. You remember how He sent in the spies, and they came back and said, "It is a great land; it is full of all the riches, just as God reported. But there are giants over there. We do not think we are ready to go in."

So, the Lord had them wander around in the desert for another 38 years until that original generation that came out passed away. He brought in a new generation into the promised land. So that brings us up to where we are now. And I might add that all this time, even Abraham, the Lord promised it to Abraham. But all Abraham ever actually possessed was a grave for himself and his wife.

## God's Full Thoughts

### Everlasting Possession

But now, 38 years later, they come back to this same place. The Lord is encouraging them to go in, and He says, "This is the land that I have promised. It is a land full of honey and riches, and I give it to you." It is interesting. In Leviticus 25:23, it says, "The land belongs to God. The land shall not be sold for ever: for the land is mine."

Now, I want you to know that this morning the Lord said, "This land is mine." Now, brothers and sisters, we know that the Lord, all the heavens and earth belong to the Lord, do we not? But He said, "This land is mine." It is a special place in God's heart, a place that He designed for His people to go into, to possess it, to live in it, to prosper there, and to come into His full thought for what He had for His people.

And it could only be found in the Promised Land. They had lived 40 years in the desert. The Lord had taken care of them. But now the Lord says, "There is so much more that lies ahead of you. But you are going to have to cross this Jordan River. And I have given it to you." That is my word to you: "It is yours. It is mine. It is yours," as the Lord says later, "for

an everlasting possession.” That is in Genesis 17:8; He tells them, “All the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession,” something of eternal nature that we see in God's promise: a land full of milk and honey and blessing, a land where they could possess all that God intended for them.

That is what the Promised Land was to them. It was God's full thought for His people, this promised land. Now, we know that all those promises were physical blessings to the nation of Israel. But you have to remember the thought, it was God's full thought for His people. He did not want them wandering back in the desert for 40 years or four hundred years. He wanted them to come out of the desert life into the land of promise, into something much fuller than they ever thought. When they were in the desert, it said their sandals did not wear out. God fed them with manna from heaven. There was water that followed them out of the rock.

Brothers and sisters, they were provided for. But the Lord was saying to them, “This is not the life that I want you to have. This is not the life that I brought you out of Egypt for. I have a purpose for you, and it is the Promised Land that is My full thought for you. You will find all that you need in this Promised Land. It is a place where you can experience all My glory.”

### **Possessing Christ**

Now today, brothers and sisters, do we have a promised land? We are thankful for how faithful God was to His people. But do we have a promised land? Well, let us read a verse from Ephesians 1:3 and then verse eleven.

Ephesians 1:3 says, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.” Verse 11 says, “In whom also we have obtained an inheritance.”

Brothers and sisters, Christ is our promised land. Christ Himself, the person of Christ, is our promised land, full of every spiritual blessing. It is up to us to go in and possess our possessions, to experience the riches in Christ. This is God's full thought for His people: to experience the fullness of His Son, Jesus Christ, and to experience Him more and more.

Brothers and sisters, I believe this is an experience of possessing our possessions that will go on into eternity because the riches of Christ are so full that they just cannot be grasped in one lifetime brothers and sisters. We have been chosen from the foundation of the world. You have been foreordained in Christ Jesus for this very purpose. You have been blessed with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies in Christ. It is our charge today to go in and possess all of our possessions.

We must discover Christ and experience Christ in His fullness. That is God's thought for you, brothers and sisters; that we be conformed to His image is another simple way to say it. We hear these words quite often. But, brothers and sisters, what is important is that we experience possessing our possessions. It is all Christ. I wish I had been able to spiritually grasp this earlier in my Christian life.

## Not I, But Christ

Christ, it is all about Christ. I thought it was all about me in the beginning, but I discovered it is not about me, it is about Christ. It is about who He is. I remember in our early days, when I was with Kenny, and we were still working in the City of Richmond, we were looking into some of Brother Nee's books together. I remember that day. I do not know if Kenny remembers it, but we got together in the park across from City Hall, and he said, "Jerry, it is not I, it is Christ. It is not me; it is Christ. It is all about Christ."

You see, the Lord revealed that to Kenny at such an early age, at the beginning of his spiritual walk. I am so thankful for that. We have seen some of the results of that. I am not lifting my brother up; it is just the point I want to make: God has to reveal that to you. It is not a doctrine. "Not I, but Christ" is not a doctrine. It has to be spiritually revealed to the point you see, "All of this is not about me, Lord. It is about Christ. It is about Christ."

We sang that little song today that talks about the robe of righteousness. It says, "He sees not what I used to be, but He sees Jesus." It is all about Jesus. It is all about Christ. It is not about us. He has never desired to try to improve this old man of ours or to try to strengthen it. No, not at all. He has done away with it in Christ Jesus. He wants us to be completely obsessed with our Lord Jesus Christ.

It is not I, but Christ. Has God revealed this to you? Does it just remain a doctrine, "Not I, but Christ"? Or have you seen a glimpse of our Lord Jesus Christ that is so great that you even forget about yourself? Self is out of the picture. Well, brothers and sisters, that is a process. It does not usually happen with just one glimpse.

But anyway, what the Father has given to us is His Son, Jesus Christ. In Him, He has given you everything. Everything He could possibly grant to us is granted in His Son, Jesus Christ. Those possessions are yours because you are in union with Christ. God has done an amazing thing, brothers, and sisters, to us poor sinners. He has lifted us out of total darkness and brought us into the glorious light of His Son and His kingdom.

Brothers and sisters, I think in our lives growing up, I know I have been through this, many times personally. I want wisdom. I say, "Lord, I need wisdom. I need discernment. I need help to do this. I need Your blessing, Lord. I need faith. Oh, Lord, I want to overcome." And it does not happen. Now, sometimes the Lord does, particularly the earlier we are in our Christian life.

But what God wanted me to see was that I cannot have wisdom apart from His Son. I cannot get help apart from His Son. I cannot even have faith apart from His Son. And I certainly cannot overcome it apart from Him. Because, brothers and sisters, I hope we have discovered in this life that the Lord Jesus is our help. The Lord Jesus Himself is our wisdom. He is our blessing, and He is the overcomer.

We all want to overcome it. I know I struggle with that at times, but the Lord keeps bringing me back to, "Jerry, you are going to keep on struggling. You keep on doing all of that. I am not going to strengthen that old man of yours. I am the overcomer. Keep your

eyes on Me, not on yourself.” We never receive any of our spiritual blessings outside of Christ. He does not just give them as a special little gift.

Now, it speaks of the gifts of the Spirit. I know that. But they are not apart from Christ. You only have those because you have Christ. And yet we have not yet come into all of that fullness, have we? Into all of our spiritual blessings. What is the issue?

### **Choose to Possess Christ**

Well, we can continue to wander around in the desert, living hand to mouth, or we can go in and possess our possessions. The Lord does not want us to live our entire lives in the desert. He wants us to depend on Him surely for everything, like they did when they were in the desert. But He is saying, “Oh, that is not what I want for you. I want so much more. I want you to see more and more of My Son. I want you to possess more and more of Him.”

### **Not Willing to Settle for Less**

I think of the Apostle Paul, all the great things that happened to him: that great vision on the Damascus Road, him being lifted up into the third heaven, taken into paradise, where he saw things that God would not let him tell. What a man! How much vision he had of our Lord. And yet, towards the end of his life, what was his desire, brothers, and sisters? “That I might know Him.”

“That I might know Him.” Brothers and sisters, what a passion our brother had for knowing more and more of the Lord. Oh, brothers and sisters, I know we have all tasted of Him. But let us not lose that taste. May it increase more and more by His grace. We need to lay hold of God's full thought for us, brothers, and sisters. His thought for us is much greater than our thought for ourselves.

God's full thought for your life. Let us not be willing to settle for less any longer, no matter how old we have gotten. I am now eighty-two, and brothers and sisters, the Lord has to keep poking me about this thing. “Jerry, do not settle down. Do not be satisfied with where you are or the blessings that I have already made available to you and given to you. You must possess more of the land.”

There is more to be possessed. Brothers and sisters, we should be full of great gratitude to our Lord that He wants us to have it all. We can become satisfied, but not Him. He wants us to have it all. I remember, if you remember this, just before they were to cross the Jordan River, two and a half tribes, the tribes of Gad, Dan, and half the tribe of Manasseh, said, “Look,” they were east of the river, and they said, “This land looks pretty good for our cattle and everything. I think what we want, this is what we want for our possession.”

They did not cross over. They did not enter into God's full thought for them. They were pleased with where they were. They were satisfied, brothers and sisters, with where they were in Christ. And this was a thought that was a bit scary to me because the Lord did not rebuke them. He did not say, “You are making a mistake here.” He did not rebuke

them. He said, "That can be yours." And He blessed them, but it was not God's full thought for them.

He wanted them to go into the Promised Land, to possess the fullness that He had for them. So, they settled down. Brothers and sisters, that is what is on my heart this morning. It has been on my heart for the last number of years, actually—not settling down. Remember Joshua 1:9. Look at Joshua 1:9.

### **He Will Bring Us In**

Joshua 1:9: "Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest." You remember the first time that they came up to the river, and they sent in these spies, and they got a good report and a bad report, so to speak. The other ten spies said, "Look, no, no, this is not for us." Joshua and Caleb said, "Look, this is a good land. And if the Lord delights in us, He will bring us in."

Brothers and sisters, all of them reported that the land was good, full of milk and honey and abundance. But they did not only get a glimpse of the riches of the promised land; they also saw the giants that were there. And those giants made them, as they said, look like grasshoppers. They gave such a negative report that it brought fear and dismay upon God's people. Fear and dismay, and they did not enter.

As I have already said, 38 more years lapping the desert, and they never possessed their promised land. What a tragedy. Fear and dismay. And so once again, as they have come to the river, the Lord has encouraged Joshua and Caleb. He said, "And the people be strong and courageous. The Lord is well able to bring us in."

Of all the original generation, only Joshua and Caleb came in. So that is why the Lord is encouraging them not to be afraid or dismayed. What was Joshua and Caleb's secret? How do you overcome the fear and dismay of witnessing the opposing giants?

Their eyes, brothers and sisters, were not on themselves, not on their small stature and ability to fight these giants. Their eyes were upon the Lord, Joshua and Caleb, they trusted the Lord. The Lord had told them it was theirs and they could go in. They trusted His word that everywhere they put their foot would be theirs. They simply trusted what God had said.

Joshua and Caleb's eyes were not on the giants. They recognized them, and it was not on themselves, but on the Lord. Brothers and sisters, have we not found that to be true on our journey with the Lord in this matter of possessing our possessions in our personal lives? We are confronted by giants. Sometimes these giants, or circumstances, tribulations, and cares of life, can be mighty giants these days, and we become dismayed.

### **Turn to the Lord**

There are these giants, so to speak, on the outside of our lives. But look, there is a giant inside. It is our self, our flesh. Brothers and sisters, the self is always concerned about

self, not God's word, not God's heart, just concerned about itself. So, we have a giant on the outside and the inside. Sometimes when we look inward, brothers and sisters, the problem with looking inward is that we become dismayed.

We have all experienced that. We get really dismayed. Dismayed with whom? With yourself. The Lord says, "Look, I have done away with self. Keep your eyes back on Me, on the resurrected One, on the enthroned One." Brothers and sisters, when we get dismayed in our lives, faith vanishes. It puts a hole in the boat, so to speak, and our faith gradually disappears. It renders us incapable of possessing Christ, of possessing our possessions. We lose sight of Christ.

What is the answer? II Corinthians 3:16-17 says, "Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the veil shall be taken away. Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty." Brothers and sisters, we can find ourselves bound by dismay, by fear, by lack of faith, by becoming passive, settling down, not advancing, and not truly possessing our promised land.

Well, the answer is obvious; this verse tells us, and it creates a veil in our lives, right? Dismay really veils your life. It puts a veil between you and the Lord because dismay is really a lack of faith. But it says if we turn to the Lord, the veil is taken away. He takes it away. It is simply because the veil disappears when we look at Christ; we fix our eyes upon Him.

Sometimes we struggle with all of this. But the Lord's answer to us is pretty simple. There is one simple, direct way to overcome, and it is to be occupied with Christ, to be occupied with the Lord, to turn to Him. Let the Lord Jesus become the satisfaction in your life. Often, we try, frankly, on our own, so to speak, to satisfy God. We struggle to be satisfying; we want to do that.

But I remember Brother Sparks; he says, "Get the Lord Jesus as your satisfaction in view." That is what we need to do, not focus on ourselves. Faith in Christ, brothers and sisters, is all that God requires of us. Think about that. That is the fundamental thing to have. Oh, there are other things we have to do, there is no doubt about that. But the real fundamental requirement always in our lives is to simply have faith in Him, to abide in Him.

The Lord Jesus said, "Abide in Me. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine, no more can you, except you abide in Me." That is pretty simple. What does "abide in Him" really mean? To be occupied with Him, to set your mind on Him, to dwell in Him, to rest in Him. Paul said to gaze at Him, to behold Him. Let Him be the object of your occupation, and the Spirit will set you free.

Remember, that is what II Corinthians 3:17 says, "And where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty." So where are you going to find all this? Where will the veil be taken away? It is to be occupied with Christ, to see Christ as your land of fullness, brothers, and sisters—the place where God wants to bring you into His full thought for you. God has a full thought for you.

## Crossing Jordan River

We want Him. We do not want to disappoint our Lord, do we? Brothers and sisters, it is by grace. This life we live is by grace. But we need to purpose in our hearts. We need to lay hold of God's full thought for our lives. Have you thought about that? "Lord, I need to lay hold of this. You have a full thought for me." Even at 82 years old, You still have a full thought for me that I have not arrived at yet. But Lord, I just do not want to sit on the curb and enjoy the blessings that I already have, like the two and a half tribes that stayed east of the river. Let us not settle down. Let us follow the Ark and cross that Jordan River, brothers, and sisters.

### Identification With His Death and Resurrection

So, we need to gaze upon Him, look upon our Lord. We need to have a purpose in our hearts, just like Daniel. Remember, he purposed not to defile himself with the food of the king. He purposed in his heart to trust Him, to follow Him, to abide in Him, to believe what He says.

But now they had to cross the Jordan River. Now, you remember the Jordan River when you come to this place in Joshua; it says the Jordan River was at its full flood stage. Full flood stage, so that they could not cross. So, what does this Jordan River represent, brothers and sisters? Well, it represents the full power of death. This river, being at its full flood stage, symbolizes the full power of death resisting you to keep you from entering the promised land.

It is at full force. The enemy despises anyone who wants to possess their possessions. It represents the enemy's full power against you, the full power of death. But, brothers and sisters, the priests put the Ark on their shoulders, and when they stepped into the water, the river backed up. The river backed up, and eventually, where they needed to cross, the riverbed dried up enough for them to cross over.

So, what does this represent, this crossing of the Jordan River, the Ark on their shoulders stepping in and the waters of death receding? It represents Christ's work on the cross through His death on the cross, where He overcame all the principalities and powers; even death itself, as it says, He overcame on the cross of Calvary. Yes, He physically died there. But, brothers and sisters, He was raised from the dead. He overcame death.

He took on death. Brothers, and sisters, that death, that physical death that we all experience unless the Lord comes first; brothers and sisters, it does not have the power to hold us or to keep us from resurrection life. Brothers and sisters, this represents the work that they had to trust in order to go in and possess their possessions: this fundamental work of God's Son on the cross of Calvary.

But there was more. And you have read the story. You remember they had to take twelve stones out of the river, and they put them as a memorial on the other side. Then they put twelve stones in the river and the water covered them over. What does that

represent? Brothers and sisters, that is really saying death to the old man. The old man cannot make it into the promised land. He can never possess your possessions.

### The Way of the Cross

Your self-life can never possess your possessions. Brothers and sisters, this action once again represents our identification with Christ in death, burial, and resurrection, the foundation of being able to possess your possessions. Brothers and sisters, we need to realize we have been put in union with Christ. He is in us. His Holy Spirit is in us. We can now operate out of His life, His resurrection life.

That is the life that is able to possess your possessions in Christ. Not your natural strength, not your natural abilities, not even your natural desires. Brothers and sisters, it is resurrection life. The old man was crucified, and the Lord has nothing to do with him. But there is still more.

They set up those stones that were at Gilgal. And what did the Lord ask them to do? They had to circumcise all of the male children because the ones who were born in the wilderness were never circumcised. But now circumcision was required. What does this circumcision represent? It is the cutting off of your flesh, brothers and sisters, the flesh is yourself.

The thing I have discovered about my flesh is that it is not entirely bad. It does not have all evil desires. We think of the flesh as so evil, and it is, but it is also capable of wanting and trying to do good things, particularly in the Lord's work. The flesh wants to be recognized. The flesh wants to be successful. The flesh does not like to be defeated, but it is not capable of possessing our possessions in Christ.

Wherever the flesh is at work, it ends in spiritual death and has no place in the promised land. So, we must not only accept the work of the cross, that fundamental work that Christ did and experience it in our lives personally, we also have to walk the way of the cross. Luke 9:23, I will read a little differently because I am reading from the Phillips version in this case.

“If anyone wants to follow in my footsteps, he must give up all right to himself, carry his cross every day and keep close behind me.” I like this translation. “If anyone wants to follow in My footsteps, he must give up all right to himself, carry his cross every day, and keep close behind Me.” Brothers and sisters, in possessing our possessions, we must also walk the way of the cross.

And this is a challenge for us in our lives. This is our responsibility: to yield to the Holy Spirit in our lives as He points out things that need to be dealt with. Brothers and sisters, we need to get to the place where we are adjustable to the Lord—perfectly adjustable. Say, “Lord, not my will, but Thine be done.”

## Willing To Be Willing

I think we run across many things in our lives where we come to that point where the Lord says, "This is My will." And you are saying, "Well, Lord, that is not mine. That is not my will. I have no desire, Lord. I cannot let go of this thing." But, brothers, and sisters, we have to come to the point where our Lord Jesus said these words on the cross: "Nevertheless, Father, not My will be done, but Yours be done."

When the Holy Spirit puts His finger on things in our lives, brothers and sisters, may we, by His grace, quickly yield to Him and say, "Lord, not my will, but Thine be done." This is a very personal and very specific part of our lives in possessing our possessions in Christ. Brothers and sisters, when we come before our Lord, do we want Him to look at us and say, "I had so much more in mind for you. I had so much more in mind for you. You did not enter into My full thought. It could have been so much more." It is all a matter of being willing to take up the cross. Not my will, but thine be done.

This brings me to a point that my brother Kenny made in his last message. I want to repeat it because it is so important. When we get to those places in our lives where we know we are supposed to be willing, but we are not, we find ourselves in a position where we are not willing.

Listen to this. Philippians 2:13: "For it is of God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure." To will, it is His good pleasure. He is enabling you to do His will. He puts that enabling in you. It comes from Him brothers and sisters.

Kenny told us the story of Corrie Ten Boom when she was in those prison camps. You remember, she was in those places where they used the gas chambers to exterminate the Jews. Six million Jews were exterminated. She and her sister were in that prison camp. Her sister eventually died there. Later in life, she was brought face to face with one of the guards from that prison camp. He had become a Christian.

The Lord told Corrie Ten Boom, "You have to forgive him. You have to forgive him." Corrie Ten Boom said, "Lord, I cannot. I just cannot do it." I cannot imagine, brothers and sisters, being faced with such a request from the Lord. "You have to forgive him." She said, "Lord, I just cannot do it." But she did not give up there. She did not give up. She said, "But, Lord, You can make me willing to be willing. I am willing to be willing. You can make me willing."

Brothers and sisters, that is Philippians 2:13. He is the One who works in us to make us willing. It is upon us to at least be willing to be willing. And brothers and sisters, as Kenny said last time, finally she reached her hand out to that guard and she said, "The love of God just filled her." When she did that, shook his hand, she was fully released. She came into that promised land that few come into. Brothers and sisters, she gained something of Christ that day that could not have been gained any other way than the way of the cross. But it is Christ, God in you, that can make you willing, even if you do not feel like you are.

## **Warfare in Possessing Christ**

### **The Violent Take It by Force**

Lastly, I want to share. Let us look at Scripture, Matthew 11:12.

“And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.” Now, those seem like strange words because we have already talked about peace, the peace of God. But we already know that God can give us peace in the midst of the greatest tribulation and the greatest storm. But, brothers and sisters, it says the violent take it by force.

When they came into the Promised Land, they were immediately confronted, remember, by Jericho, this wall, a stronghold of the enemy. Right away they were faced with an impenetrable fortress. And we remember the story of how they walked around it seven times. Eventually, they blew those horns of faith, faith crying out to God, and the walls came down. They were faced with great opposition.

These giants were not just fat and happy guys, brothers, and sisters; they were warriors. They were giants, and they were warriors. Remember the story of David and Goliath? These were real warriors that they had to face—giants everywhere. Brothers and sisters, if you remember the story of them going into the land and possessing that land, there was always resistance from the enemy, always warfare, fighting all the time.

### **The Spirit of a Warrior**

In other words, violence characterized their possession of the promised land. Violence, brothers and sisters, there had to be violence. They needed a warrior spirit, a militant determination to possess all of their inheritance because there was great resistance—a warrior spirit. I know we are to be gentle as lambs, but, brothers and sisters, when it comes to possessing all your possessions in Christ, all that He has in mind for you, we have to be diligent.

We have to be warriors and say, “Lord, I want this.” God has never intended for anyone to be satisfied with just being saved and the promise of heaven. Unfortunately, I know there are many Christians out there who are saved and satisfied with that. Some have a closer relationship with the Lord, and they are satisfied with that relationship to a point that makes them feel good.

### **Desperately Mean Business with the Lord**

But, brothers and sisters, God is not satisfied with us yet. That is what I want to say today. I think my dear brother Sparks, as I referred to him a couple of times today, when it talks about violence, what it really means, this warrior spirit, is that you desperately mean business with the Lord. You desperately mean business.

“Lord, I am desperate about this. I will not fall short of what You want from me; Lord, I am determined that You have it.” Now, brothers and sisters, yes, we may go on in our everyday lives and mostly seem routine, but that is just not true. Every day, if you really

think about it, the Lord will put you in a place or a situation where you need to be saying, "Lord, I need to possess that. I need to possess Your peace. You are my peace in this situation; Lord, I really need discernment." We might first want to say, "Well, Lord, give me discernment." But that is not what God is after. He wants you to see that Christ is your discernment and that you have Him. You have Him. He is your discernment, He is your wisdom, He is your ability to overcome in all of these situations. He says, "Every place you put your foot down, I give you."

Do you get that? Every place you put your foot down, I have already given it to you, but now it is yours. That becomes practical in our everyday life. If you really think about it, it becomes practical. "Lord, I am desperate for Your full thought for me. I am desperate for Your full thought for me."

The greatest giant, frankly, brothers and sisters, is ourselves. That is the real giant in our lives. But, brothers and sisters, we can miss what the Lord really wants for us because we are not desperate. If you are desperate, you say, "I have to have it. I cannot do without it. I will not do without it. I am desperate, Lord. I am desperate to know more of You, Lord, in my life. I am desperate to see Christ."

## Conclusion

Oh, it was prayed this morning, "Christ, You are our peace." You cannot have it apart from Him. Oh, brothers and sisters, as we go through our everyday lives, there are just a lot of little things that come up. We keep our eyes on Him.

Brothers and sisters, we want to have God's full thought for our lives. We have to be desperate. In a sense, we have to be men and women of violence, brothers and sisters, with a violent, militant attitude, we say, "I am taking this. The Lord gave it to me. Right now, I do not have peace, but the Lord has given it to me because I have Christ. Lord, You are my peace."

When you see Him as your real wisdom, as your real peace, as your real ability to overcome, it makes all the difference in the Christian life. Otherwise, you will struggle with a self that can never succeed. We expect the resurrection life to be like, I guess, a bomb going off or something, with all these glorious things that we talk about. But it comes in simple activities in our daily lives. We need to be desperate.

Well, let us end there. I do pray that, brothers and sisters, we do not settle down. That our hearts will keep our eyes upon the Lord, particularly these days. As we say, "Lord, I want Your fullness for me. I want all that You have desired for me."

And brothers and sisters, all of this that I have shared this morning is individual. But, brothers and sisters, it so affects the Church of God. This church that He is trying to build, this wonderful bride without spot or wrinkle, is all a part of this process of each one of us possessing our possessions in Christ.

Brothers and sisters, when we come to God's full thought, we see the New Jerusalem. It is gleaming with gold. It says "crystal." There is no flaw there. There is no wrinkle there.

It is all Christ. That is what He is after. What I want to say, one last thought, I guess, is, brothers and sisters, I do not know. I know there may be some exceptions; I will say that.

But I believe that to come into the faithfulness of the promised land, you are going to have to, brothers and sisters, be a living, functioning stone in the house of God. You need your brothers and sisters. You will never come into that total fullness God intends for you without your brothers and sisters, without Him seeing a house built that He wants, the bride that He is looking for. We need each other.

He has designed it that way brothers and sisters. Which is why the body of Christ: knowing your part in the body, experiencing the body life, experiencing being a joint of supply; all of these things, brothers and sisters, are so necessary. Is it not true that where the cross seems to make its deepest cut is within the church, within the body of Christ, from your own brothers and sisters?

Sometimes they say things and do not even know it touches you. And maybe you have said something that just touches their heart. And they say, "Lord, I need to submit that to You." We need each other.

*Well, Lord, we just come to You today. The big thing on my heart is, Lord, let us not fall short of what You desire for all of us, not only individually, but for Your church corporately Lord Jesus. To have all that You want, Lord Jesus; to reach that full place where not only are we satisfied, but You are satisfied. Lord Jesus, we look to You. Lord Jesus, You work in us both to will and to do. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.*

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