

Journey to the Promise: God's Victory, Your Fingerprints

Dr. John Carmichael

[Jos 21:43-45 NASB95] 43 So the LORD gave Israel all the land which He had sworn to give to their fathers, and they possessed it and lived in it. 44 And the LORD gave them rest on every side, according to all that He had sworn to their fathers, and no one of all their enemies stood before them; the LORD gave all their enemies into their hand. 45 Not one of the good promises which the LORD had made to the house of Israel failed; all came to pass.

- Victory is God's promise—but not without our participation.
- In Joshua 21, we see the fulfillment of God's covenant to Israel. Yet, this chapter follows years of battle, obedience, courage, and action.
- God is faithful, yes—but His victories often require our hands, our hearts, and our feet.
- Just like Israel didn't sit back and watch the Promised Land fall into their lap, we too must engage in spiritual battles, acts of obedience, and steps of faith.

What do these verses teach us about our part in the victory that God brings?

Here are four things we need to know about our part in the victory that God brings?

I. God's Promises Are Sure and Faithful

- a. [Jos 21:45 NASB95] 45 Not one of the good promises which the LORD had made to the house of Israel failed; all came to pass.
- b. God never breaks His word.
- c. He had made these promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob ([Gen 15:18-21 NASB95] 18 On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I have given this land, From the river of Egypt as far as the great river, the river Euphrates: 19 the Kenite and the Kenizzite and the Kadmonite 20 and the Hittite and the Perizzite and the Rephaim 21 and the Amorite and the Canaanite and the Girgashite and the Jebusite.").
- d. But His faithfulness unfolded over time and through process.
- e. [2Co 1:20 NASB95] 20 For as many as are the promises of God, in Him they are yes; therefore also through Him is our Amen to the glory of God through us.
- f. [Heb 10:23 NASB95] 23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful;
- g. Trust in the unshakable certainty of God's Word—even when fulfillment feels delayed.

II. God Grants the Land—But We Must Possess It

- a. [Jos 21:43 NASB95] 43 So the LORD gave Israel all the land which He had sworn to give to their fathers, and they possessed it and lived in it.
- b. God gave the land, but Israel had to step into it.
- c. They had to fight giants, cross rivers, and destroy walls.
- d. [Deu 1:21 NASB95] 21 'See, the LORD your God has placed the land before you; go up, take possession, as the LORD, the God of your fathers, has spoken to you. Do not fear or be dismayed.'
- e. [Jas 2:17 NASB95] 17 Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, [being] by itself.
- f. Faith is not passive. If God has promised you victory—step out and claim it by obedience and action.

III. God Brings Rest—But Only After the Battle

- a. [Jos 21:44 NASB95] 44 And the LORD gave them rest on every side, according to all that He had sworn to their fathers, and no one of all their enemies stood before them; the LORD gave all their enemies into their hand.
- b. The rest of God follows the fulfillment of obedience.

Journey to the Promise: God's Victory, Your Fingerprints

Dr. John Carmichael

- c. Spiritual rest isn't avoidance of conflict; it's the peace that comes after enduring faithfully.
- d. [Heb 4:9-11 NASB95] 9 So there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God. 10 For the one who has entered His rest has himself also rested from his works, as God did from His. 11 Therefore let us be diligent to enter that rest, so that no one will fall, through [following] the same example of disobedience.
- e. [Gal 6:9 NASB95] 9 Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary.
- f. You may be tired, but don't quit. God's rest is coming—keep fighting, keep trusting.

IV. God Uses People to Fulfill His Purposes

- a. Joshua 21:43-45 is the conclusion of a long line of obedient leaders and warriors.
 - b. Joshua led the people, the tribes marched, the priests blew the trumpets, and the people shouted.
 - c. God brings victory, but He loves to do it through yielded vessels.
 - d. [Rom 6:13 NASB95] 13 and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin [as] instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members [as] instruments of righteousness to God.
 - e. [1Co 3:9 NASB95] 9 For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building.
 - f. Don't just expect God to move around you. Expect Him to move through you.
- **Joshua 21 reminds us that God keeps His promises—but not apart from His people. The victory belongs to the Lord, but the battles are often fought with our hands. God doesn't need us, but He chooses to use us.**
 - **So, the question today is:**
 - Are you positioned to participate in His promise?
 - Are you moving in obedience, faith, and expectation?
 - **Examples:**
 - God wants to transform your mind... But you have to read, meditate on, and apply His Word. (Romans 12:2, Psalm 1:2)
 - God wants to fill you with the Spirit...But you have to ask, seek, and yield. (Luke 11:13, Acts 2:1-4)
 - God wants you healthy...But you have to eat right, move more, and sleep well. (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)
 - God wants to bless your finances... But you have to steward, save, tithe, and work with integrity. (Malachi 3:10, Proverbs 10:4)
 - God wants your marriage strong...But you have to communicate, forgive, love sacrificially. (Ephesians 5:25, 1 Corinthians 13)
 - God wants your kids to know Him... But you have to teach them, model the faith, and pray over them. (Deuteronomy 6:6-7, Proverbs 22:6)
 - God wants to use you in ministry... But you have to step out in faith, serve, and grow. (Isaiah 6:8, 2 Timothy 2:15)
 - God has a calling for your life...But you have to say yes, prepare, and walk through open doors. (Proverbs 16:9, James 2:17)