

LAYING HOLD OF WHAT GOD HAS GIVEN

Joshua 17:3-18

God is a God who is faithful to keep His promises. What does it mean, as believers today, to lay hold of God's promises?

➤ **IT MEANS PLEADING GOD'S WORD WITH CONFIDENCE.**
(Joshua 17:3-6)

Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.
Hebrews 4:16 (New International Version)

His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. ⁴Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. ²Peter 1:3-4 (NIV)

➤ **IT MEANS FOLLOWING HIS PLAN WITHOUT COMPROMISE.**
(Joshua 17:7-13)

Israel did not follow God's plan. They failed to do what God had told them to do. (See Exodus 23:23-33; 34:11-16; Deuteronomy 7:17)

This was their compromise: *They stopped short of what God had promised.*

Principle: *The believer's faith is not so much proven by his courage in sudden crisis as by his faithfulness in daily plodding.*

- We lay hold of God's promises through the power of Jesus Christ *in us!*

We use God's mighty weapons, not mere worldly weapons, to knock down the Devil's strongholds. ⁵With these weapons we break down every proud argument that keeps people from knowing God. With these weapons we conquer their rebellious ideas, and we teach them to obey Christ.
2 Corinthians 10:4-5 (New Living Translation, 1996)

No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it. 1 Corinthians 10:13 (NIV)

Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. James 1:4 (NIV)

➤ **IT MEANS TRUSTING GOD'S ADEQUACY WITHOUT COMPLAINT.**
(Joshua 17:14-18)

These verses reveal their complaint of God's gift and a distrust of God's adequacy.

We have an amazing inheritance in Jesus Christ!

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade – kept in heaven for you, ⁵who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. 1 Peter 1:3-5 (NIV)

Which promise of God do you need to lay hold of today?

- An acceptance that can never be questioned (Ephesians 1:6)
- An inheritance that can never be lost (1 Peter 1:3-5)
- A deliverance that can never be excelled (2 Corinthians 1:10)
- A grace that can never be limited (2 Corinthians 12:9)
- A hope that can never be disappointed (Hebrews 6:18, 19)
- A joy that can never be diminished (John 15:11)
- A nearness to God that can never be reversed (Ephesians 2:13)
- A peace that can never be disturbed (John 14:27)
- A righteousness that can never be tarnished (2 Corinthians 5:21)
- A salvation that can never be canceled (Hebrews 5:9)

(Under the first arrow)

Now Zelophehad son of Hopher, the son of Gilead, the son of Makir, the son of Manasseh, had no sons but only daughters, whose names were Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah and Tirzah. ⁴They went to Eleazar the priest, Joshua son of Nun, and the leaders and said, “The LORD commanded Moses to give us an inheritance among our brothers.” So Joshua gave them an inheritance along with the brothers of their father, according to the LORD’s command. ⁵Manasseh’s share consisted of ten tracts of land besides Gilead and Bashan east of the Jordan, ⁶because the daughters of the tribe of Manasseh received an inheritance among the sons. The land of Gilead belonged to the rest of the descendants of Manasseh. Joshua 17:3-6 (New International Version)

(Under the second arrow)

The territory of Manasseh extended from Asher to Micmethath east of Shechem. The boundary ran southward from there to include the people living at En Tappuah. ⁸(Manasseh had the land of Tappuah, but Tappuah itself, on the boundary of Manasseh, belonged to the Ephraimites.) ⁹Then the boundary continued south to the Kanah Ravine. There were towns belonging to Ephraim lying among the towns of Manasseh, but the boundary of Manasseh was the northern side of the ravine and ended at the sea. ¹⁰On the south the land belonged to Ephraim, on the north to Manasseh. The territory of Manasseh reached the sea and bordered Asher on the north and Issachar on the east. ¹¹Within Issachar and Asher, Manasseh also had Beth Shan, Ibleam and the people of Dor, Endor, Taanach, and Megiddo, together with their surrounding settlements (the third in the list is Naphoth.) ¹²Yet the Manassites were not able to occupy these towns, for the Canaanites were determined to live in that

region. However, when the Israelites grew stronger, they subjected the Canaanites to forced labor but did not drive them out completely. Joshua 17: 7-13 (NIV)

(After the Israel did not follow God’s plan section and right before This was their compromise section)

The LORD your God will drive out those nations before you, little by little. . . . ²³But the LORD your God will deliver them over to you, throwing them into great confusion until they are destroyed. Deuteronomy 7:22-23 (NIV)

(Under the third arrow)

The people of Joseph said to Joshua, “Why have you given us only one allotment and one portion for an inheritance? We are a numerous people and the LORD has blessed us abundantly.” ¹⁵“If you are so numerous,” Joshua answered, “and if the hill country of Ephraim is too small for you, go up into the forest and clear land for yourselves there in the land of the Perizzites and Rephaites.” ¹⁶The people of Joseph replied, “The hill country is not enough for us, and all the Canaanites who live in the plain have iron chariots, both those in Beth Shan and its settlements and those in the Valley of Jezreel.” ¹⁷But Joshua said to the house of Joseph – to Ephraim and Manasseh – “You are numerous and very powerful. You will have not only one allotment ¹⁸but the forested hill country as well. Clear it, and its farthest limits will be yours; though the Canaanites have iron chariots and though they are strong, you can drive them out.” Joshua 17:14-18 (NIV)

(Right after Joshua 17:14-18 passage)

You may say to yourselves, “These nations are stronger than we are. How can we drive them out?”¹⁸ But do not be afraid of them; remember well what the LORD your God did to Pharaoh and to all Egypt.¹⁹ You saw with your own eyes the great trials, the miraculous signs and wonders, the mighty hand and outstretched arm, with which the LORD your God brought you out. The LORD your God will do the same to all the peoples you now fear...²¹ Do not be terrified by them, for the LORD your God, who is among you, is a great and awesome God. Deuteronomy 7:17-19; 21