

New Sermon Series: Living Successfully for God

8/24/25 “What We Really Want,” Deuteronomy 1:1-8, 19-36, NLT

INTRODUCTION Do you want the Promised Land: Joy, peace, freedom from sickness/depression/bullying/fear/anxiety? Ultimately: God’s Presence without part of ourselves we want to be rid of. For now: God’s presence here

Background: end of 40 years in wilderness (what caused that...)

MAIN IDEA: Trust God to receive His good gifts. How? Do these five things.

Trust (32): to build up or support; to believe; providing stability and confidence like a baby in the arms of its parents

I. First, take God at His word

A. that He will do what He says... *give you all this land* (8)

- go ahead of us (30)...*He sees what lies ahead & prepares way & us*
- fight for us (30)...*spiritual warfare, working in situations*

B. that He will fulfill His promises (8, 21)... *give Holy Spirit to us (Luke 11:13), complete good work in us (Php. 1:6)*

Numbers 23:19, NLT: God is not a man, so he does not lie. He is not human, so he does not change his mind. Has he ever spoken and failed to act? Has he ever promised and not carried it through?

ILLUSTRATION:

II. Second, remember what He’s already done (29-31)

cared: to bear, lift up, forgive

- A. caring for us (33)... *meeting our needs, being with us, guiding us*
- B. carrying us...*when we don’t feel we can go any farther, when we’re discouraged, want to quit or give up*
- C. working amazing things for us: *clothing didn’t wear out, water out of a rock, manna 6 days/week (testimonies)*

ILLUSTRATION:

III. Third, guard our heart

A. against our natural reactions

1. fear (21)...*giants*
2. discouragement (*shattered, dismayed*, 21)
3. what we look at affects how we feel: *God or other*

EX: can worry for 3 hrs. about a 4-mile walk or walk it in 1-2 hrs.

B. against other’s ungodly influence (28)...*focus us on wrong things*

C. against discrediting God (27)... *accusing God of evil*

ILLUSTRATION:

IV. Fourth, listen to godly counsel (20-21)

- A. from proven spiritual leader...*like Moses, who had led from Egypt & in wilderness 40 years*
- B. who explains God’s word (5)
- C. who communicates God’s will (21)...*go & occupy*
- D. who encourages us to trust God (21, 29-31)... *Don’t be afraid! Don’t be discouraged!*
- E. who reminds us of the benefits of obedience (25)

ILLUSTRATION:

V. Finally, do what He says to do (6-8)

Occupy: seize (*Strong’s*); gain by force (*Kohlenberger/Mounce*)

A. biblical belief or faith requires action

James 2:17, NLT: faith by itself isn’t enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless.

B. our obedience shows that we trust or believe in God

C. our obedience leads us to work with Him in cooperation

ILLUSTRATION:

CONCLUSION:

ALTAR: Struggle to trust God? Blaming Him? Come for prayer, wait or *remember* what He’s already done for you...