

**Objective: to reveal
the 'path of
possession' for all the
promises God has
given.**

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NLBC a.m.

Inheritance, Possession, & Conquest – Pt.7

Discerning & Preventing Deception

Joshua 9:1-22; 2 Cor. 11:3

Introduction

The manifestation of your possession is a 'holy war.' You are accompanied by an army of angels that perform God's bidding, as you, in faith, establish or actuate the process of your faith. Faith, the "spoken-based" certainty, works in the unseen realm. Heb. 11:6. The principles and strategies of faith are laid out for us 'in the manual of faith,' the Bible. Desire, desperation, longing, and wishing will not bring the manifestation of 'what is yours.' Only faith. God fully intends that you cultivate a 'faith-based' lifestyle. Without that cultivation, you will seek to 'get some faith' simply for the various crises that arise in a season of testing. God's plan is to build in you the *instincts, perspectives, conversation, and behaviour* of faith. In so doing, you please Him and live where He died to bring you. 2 Cor. 5:7.

The Holy War

There is a great spiritual contest **for** your faith—that is, to get you to surrender your faith. If your enemy succeeds in getting you to surrender your faith through sin, unbelief, unforgiveness, presumption, past failure, coasting or discouragement, he has won a great victory. Your most potent weapon against him and in securing

your inheritance is lost. You have simply become a powerless, weak, wounded soldier...on the sidelines, watching others obtain and fulfil.

The 'Holy War' is also a spiritual contest that is won, **by** the use of your faith. You win, in conquering all that opposes you, by your faith and your obedience.

The Victory Previously Announced – Josh. 6:1 “...have delivered...”

God had said many times, **before** they engaged the enemy and **before** they faced the Red Sea and the Jordan at flood stage that He had **already** given them the victory. If He said it, it was true. He has **already** given you the victory. 2 Cor. 2:14; 1 Cor. 15:57; Rom. 8:37.

Whatever you are facing today, the truth is, that God has **already** given you the victory! He conquered all, at Calvary, and His victory is passed to you, as you believe and receive it, and you act on that victory-possessing fact. You must first develop the mentality that is a deep-seated conviction: I **possess** the victory NOW, even before I engage any further! Rom. 4:21.

This is your position of invincibility – Invincible means “cannot be overcome.” When you steadfastly believe, you cannot be overcome. Luke 10:19; Eph. 2:6; Josh. 1:6. You are to be ‘strong and courageous’ because you *are* invincible. You are to **crush** the enemy! – Not negotiate, plead, beg God, or be in any way passive! *Passivity is the invitation for demons to crush you!*

The Ark & The Trumpet – Josh. 6:2,3

Once again, Israel was required to ‘carry the Ark’ of God’s Presence and blow a trumpet. To win the ‘holy war,’ you too, must carry the Ark and the Trumpet. This battle is not simply in the mind, although it does war in the mind, but in the ‘realm of the Spirit.’ You must get into His Presence, into the Spirit-realm, in order to be anchored in your determination. No prayer, no worship, no listening, no meditating on and before Him...you will not succeed. You don’t carry the ‘ark of His Presence’ for nothing. He leads you into the victory place He has already provided. Isa. 64:4.

Where is your ‘trumpet and shout?’ Jericho heard that they had lost to Israel, before the walls fell. The march, the trumpet and the shout, were not an attempt to bring down the city through decibel vibrations that loosen foundations in a natural sense. The ‘sound of worship’ and the verbalised proclamation of victory were infused with the power of God to destroy opposition. God works *in and with*, what He has designed. Job 26:11-14; Ps. 75:3; Nahum 1:5.

The ‘war in your mind’ is a ‘holy war’ waged against you by the powers of darkness. Eph. 6:10-18. It ‘seems things are a certain way,’ in the thought realm:

Fiery Darts -- Eph. 6:16

- “It sounds like bragging, to declare I am a winner and have won before anyone can see it.” (“I have victory over that...”)
- “It sounds like what the world calls an ‘empty boast.’” Ps. 44:8; 1 Cor. 1:31.

- “I feel awkward” saying these things and acting this way – get over it, it is a new pattern to be established. You managed to learn to tie your shoes.
- “Would if I fail, won’t I look foolish and stupid?” Where do you think this ‘dart’ comes from?

Speaking, Shouting, and Not Speaking – Ps. 73:9; Obadiah 17 NKJV

Israel was required to *speak* their possession...of victory **before** it manifested. 33 times the phrase ‘take possession’ is used in Scripture. If you possess something, why do you need to *take possession* of it? It is, for the believer, the **process of manifestation**, that God has designed—a ‘spiritual or spirit-transaction.’ Faith is a Spirit-derivative. (illustration of pre-paying). Rom. 4:17. They were required to “say,” **before** they *saw* with their natural eyes, the manifestation of the victory given. They were even required to *shout* **before** the victory was manifested. If you struggle to speak **beforehand** your promised victory, shouting may even seem more difficult. Yet, it was commanded.

They were also required to ‘**not speak**’...God was teaching them to walk and talk by faith. Sometimes it is extremely difficult to **not** open your mouth and utter some negative, faithless, lie (opposite to what God has spoken).

To *become* a ‘**faith person**’, you must learn to control your tongue, the strongest member of your own body. James 3:3-5. You learn to do this by meditating in the Word of God. James 1:25 speaks of the ‘law of freedom’ that you continually stare into. As you meditate in the promises, you begin to ‘walk inwardly’ or move ‘inwardly’ in the direction that God has prescribed for you. Rom. 4:17-21. If you *meditate* on the current facts that you see and hear, from your earth-based senses, you will *speak* those facts that are contrary to the **truth** that God has spoken. You must learn to ‘keep a tight rein’ on your tongue. Jam. 1:26. *Your confession is your possession.*

“Spending the Night.” – Josh. 6:11, 16

Sometimes there is a time delay between our declaration and the manifestation of what we have been promised. This is called “spending the night.” The word, “spend,” means to ‘use up, consume, or exhaust.’ You must learn to ‘use up, spend, consume, and exhaust’ the time between declaration (when your faith is released) and manifestation. If you don’t learn to *wait well* or wait skilfully, you will cancel your harvest manifestation and produce an Ishmael. Cf. Abraham and Hagar. Gen. 16:1-4; 1 Sam. 10:8; 1 Sam. 13:6-14. You wait well or skilfully, by maintaining your **focus** in the Word, (Josh. 1:6-9) and by worship. (“trumpets kept sounding). Josh. 6:9,13. You keep your faith active, alive, and vibrant by your continuance in the Word of promise and by your worship—He is the Author and Finisher (completer) of your faith process. He holds you and your heart, as you continue to worship Him *through the night-spend*. Acts 16:25, 26. You **will** focus on something in the ‘*night-spend*,’ – better to focus on what will take you where you want to go, than to cancel your deliverance, blessing, breakthrough, and supply. Put the worship music on and sing **to** the Lord along with what you are hearing. Job. 29:3. There is light in the *night*—He is **The NightLight!** Job 35:10; Ps. 77:6. Your ‘*harvest*’ is coming! Mark 4:26-29.

Maintaining your faith and not cancelling your harvest/manifestation:

- Thanksgiving – make your requests with thanksgiving. Phil. 4:6.
- Worship – exalting Him who is above all that you can and can’t see. Acts 16:25.
- Declaring/Confessing what you ‘**have received**’ Mk. 11:24.
- Sing your ‘song in the night’ – Ps. 77:6

- Rehearse over and over the promises – Josh. 1:8,9
- Be ready to arise in the “night” and listen...Ps. 119:55; Lam. 2:19
- Don’t complain – Philippians 2:14-16

Radical Faith Living – Nothing Greater Than Jesus – Josh. 6:17-25

Deut. 6:10, 11, 14.

Believers can unwittingly, find themselves “in the stream” of this world’s system, valuing and living for all the “things,” both tangible and intangible that the world is pursuing. Heb. 10:34-36.

Why after all the promises...430 years, 40 years, days, more days, 7 days and now burn the City and kill every living thing and give all the gold, silver etc to the House of the Lord? This *first* city of their Promised Possession.... What is God saying is **most** important?

- Whenever it appears there will be an earthly or material loss, remember...there is *more* where that came from – James 1:17; Ps. 24:1; Heb. 11:17-19.
- Eternal values are always greater than earthly, temporal values...God will provide material blessings but the blessed, must always live focused, on eternal values...redemption, relationship to God, salvation of souls, and their assignment from God finished. Josh. 6:25; Josh. 2:8-13; 2 Pet. 3:10,11; Phillip. 3:8.
- Radical faith says, “I will go on believing God for the manifestation of every promise that remains...not surrendering to doubt, contradiction, or failure.” My best, which is His best, is yet to come! Josh. 13:1; Jer. 29:11.

Maintaining Your Invincibility – Josh. 7

This powerful story is a story of deception, vulnerability, consequence, righteous judgment, and recovery. However difficult it is to read, it informs our journey with a potent wisdom for success.

Believers, often, make themselves and their families vulnerable by mis-handling money or material possessions. This stark lesson reveals how God views the ‘worship of the god of money or mammon.’ Josh. 7:26. Sometimes, the challenge to deal with the money that comes, is a ‘test of faith.’ At other times, the challenge to deal with the money that comes is a ‘test of greed.’ We may define ‘greed’ as something that others do. Yet to take what God has asked of you and use it for your own purposes is greed and theft and worship of another god.

What Achan/Israel did (our decisions never just affect ourselves):

- Taken what was to be given over to the Lord
- Stolen - taken what did not belong to them
- Lied – presented obedience but, actually, were disobedient
- Put what belonged to the Lord with their own stuff

See the parallel story of Acts 5:1-11; Luke 16:10-13.

This mishandling of money and material possessions made Israel, Achan and his family **vulnerable**. They were weak, subject to attack, and subject to being overcome by their enemies. No clear-thinking believer would invite this condition upon themselves. It is clearly a **deception**. No matter how much or how little

money a believer has, it must be handled with carefulness and humility. *How you handle money is either a blessing to you and others or a 'trouble-bringing' activity.*

- What God asks you to give to His House, to others, to the homeless, the Lost, your enemies, and to the government becomes 'theirs.' Josh. 7:11.
- What God allows you to keep for yourself is 'yours.' Josh. 8:2.
- Be careful to be 'honest before God' as He sees all and knows all with what you do with money. Grace to continue in prosperity in righteousness comes, as we are faithful to Him. Ps. 112:5, 3.

How 'Faith-People' Handle Failure, Loss, Shame, & Deep Disappointment – Joshua 8:1-3 (Cf. Moses, Joshua, David, John Mark, Peter).

Learning the 'life-lessons' of our experience, we walk with a carefulness and a Heaven-sent wisdom, to make our journey more secure and sustain the blessings of His favour. Prov.15:31 NKJV says, "The ear that hears the rebukes of life Will abide among the wise." Prov. 15:31-33 TMV says, "Listen to good advice if you want to live well, an honored guest among wise men and women. An undisciplined, self-willed life is puny; an obedient, God-willed life is spacious. Fear-of-GOD is a school in skilled living – first you learn humility, then you experience glory."

William Ward said, "*Failure is not fatal. Failure should be our teacher, not our undertaker. It should challenge us to new heights of accomplishments, not pull us to new depths of despair.*" Calvin Coolidge said, "*Nothing in this world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not: nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent. Education will not: the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent.*"

Failure is delay, not defeat...a temporary detour not a dead end.

- Refuse to bow down to fear, shame, failure, disappointment, anger, unforgiveness--stop bowing down to them...stop rehearsing failure if you intend to have success...69 times in the Bible we are told: "Do not be afraid!" Satan wants you to worship (give deserved, prolonged attention to) the wrong gods and he brings them to mind, as you contemplate re-starting after failure. Some 'quit before they start' as they live in déjà vu land.
- Renew the promises and the pre-arranged victory – the faith that was the foundation of your victory before is still with you...tap into it!
- Get up and get going again – "Go up and attack!" Your mission and assignment from the Lord remains unfinished. No 'yesterday' can be allowed to prevent your completion. Stay out of the 'quicksand of self-pity.' Stop looking for others to 'give you courage.'
- ✓ Jer. 8:4 NLT says, ""Jeremiah, say to the people, 'This is what the LORD says: "'When people fall down, don't they get up again? When they discover they're on the wrong road, don't they turn back?"
- ✓ Prov. 24:16 NIV says, "for though a righteous man falls seven times, he rises again...."

- ✓ Ps. 40:2-3 ESV says, “He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure. He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear and put their trust in the LORD.”
 - ✓ Ps. 37:23-24 NKJV says, “The steps of a *good* man are ordered by the LORD, and He delights in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; For the LORD upholds *him with His hand.*”
 - ✓ Mic. 7:8 NKJV says, “Do not rejoice over me, my enemy; When I fall, I will arise; When I sit in darkness, The LORD *will be* a light to me.”
 - ✓ Isa. 43:18-19 TMV says, ““Forget about what's happened; don't keep going over old history. Be alert, be present. I'm about to do something brand-new. It's bursting out! Don't you see it? There it is! I'm making a road through the desert, rivers in the badlands.”
- You can carry now what you couldn't before...
 - Believe for a new strategy...
 - Remember you are part of a collective—the Church, the Body of Christ, the Family of God. What you do is a ‘domino’ that affects others, even if you don’t immediately see it

Discerning & Preventing Deception -- Josh 9:22

Coming off the back of a great victory at Ai and walking away with all of its material plunder, Israel got sucked into a **deception**. Every day they saw the Gibeonites, they were reminded of the stark truth that they had been taken in by deception. This part of their journey is meant to inform us today how we are to discern and deflect the ‘lying signs and wonders,’ the ‘death-dealing’ thoughts presented as good things in our day.

We live in the midst of a ‘spirit-war.’ Eph. 6:12. In the unseen realm, evil spirits exist, to take on the mission they have from their leader, Satan. His mission is to steal, kill and destroy. They work in the realm of the mind and the body. They come to us by invitation and by stealth...presenting their thoughts, ideas, voices, and offerings, without showing their identity or source. These evil spirits take advantage of conflict, weakness, unresolved hurt, anger, success, desire, injustice, failure, temptation, hardness, carnality, unforgiveness and many other ‘open-door’ opportunities. No one would knowingly say, “I would like to be deceived and I embrace the

terrible consequences that inevitably will come from embracing such deception.” Eph. 6:11 says, “Put on the full armour of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.”

The believer who intends to remain spiritually healthy and strong must use:

- the ‘indwelling Spirit of God’ to detect the occasion of potential deception. Eph. 4:19 says, “...having lost sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality.” Sensitivity to the Holy Spirit is what protects you from living a sense-based, pleasure-seeking, selfish lifestyle.
- the ‘helmet-head-protect’ to prevent thought residence – 2 Cor. 10:3-5.
- the ‘shield of faith’ to deflect the ‘arrows’ of the evil one – it is God within you that enables your will to be strong against the Devil. Philippians 2:12.

Deception Defined

Deception is “the act of causing someone to accept as true or valid what is false or invalid.” It is fundamentally a ‘sales pitch’ rooted in a lie. It began in the Garden with the great Salesman of Death, Satan, offering man and woman a life that was so attractive **outside** the boundaries their Maker and Lover had designed for them. Gen. 3:1-6. Principle of Deception: *The sinister is hidden inside the innocent-appearing.*

The Great Deceiver, Salesman of Death uses:

1. Thoughts – into your mind, Satan’s evil spirits, plant thoughts designed to destroy, oppress, depress, confuse, and tempt you. Matt. 16:22, 23. Evil thoughts are the fundamental substance of *temptation*. These voice-uttered thoughts or ‘voice-thoughts’ come into your mind. You can unwittingly think they are your own thoughts. They **do not find their source** in you, as a new nature, born-again believer.

There are only three sources of thoughts, God, the Devil, and yourself. You would not knowingly sabotage your own success. God loves you and wouldn't sabotage your success. Only the Devil or his evil spirits would bring thoughts into your mind to destroy you.

2. Images – pictures of 'the good life' or some pleasure or opportunity, that stir the emotions, desires and imagination. These can be word-pictures or actual images projected into your person through media. Eph. 2:1, 2. Satan says, in so many ways, "Give me your embrace and I will give you _____. Just say, "Yes!" to what I am offering...it will be good, I can assure you! Even if it is wrong, "No one else will know." This world's system has so many ways of 'speaking into your life.' The Internet, Instagram, Television, Facebook, Radio, and so many more have **invited** access into our lives. They are not always pure and untainted with evil. Believers must be very wise and very careful. 2 Cor 2:11 says, "...in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes."

3. The person I used to be – the old person, supposed to be crucified every day by the power of the Spirit – Rom. 8:13; Gal. 6:7,8; James 1:14-16.

4. Other people to 'inject thoughts and ideas' into our minds to some evil cause. Acts 14:2; Luke 21:8. Peer pressure, perceived social identity, and actual words spoken audibly by others, can *magnetically* draw or suck us, into some evil cause or activity, without our realising it is a form of terrible deception. All of humanity has been "radicalised" at some time or another, to some evil action. 2 Tim. 3:13.

5. Signs and wonders – Signs and wonders that take a person away to worship someone or an evil activity are 'lying signs' or signs that tell lies. Rev. 13:14; 2 Thess. 2:9,10.

Preventing Deception

We prevent our being deceived by the following:

- The Word of God taken into our lives daily and used to judge everything we see, face, and hear. Ps. 119:11, 130 NKJ
- The Spirit of God being stirred up to enable us to discern the work of the evil spirits – Isa. 11:2, 3; Eph. 5:18
- The hearing of faith that enables us to be strong in casting down the ‘voice of temptation’ and the lies of Satan. Philippians 2:13
- Walk in the ‘fear of the Lord’ – Ps. 112; Philippians 2:12
- The vibrant relationships with other believers that is transparent, honest, and loving, that provides the outside reference to all that we are, helping us to avoid the ‘wiles of the Devil’ as the Church is ‘the pillar (support) and ground (foundation) of truth,’ what our lives are built upon. The distant, unconnected, uninvolved, ‘edge of the camp,’ believer **always** gets picked off by Satan.

Possession mentality is believing I am who God says I in my position in relation to all that stands in my way.

Conquest is the actual steps I take to 'possess my possessions.'

Ps. 73:9 in terms of words