



## SERMON BASED STUDY GUIDE

Pastor Charlie Riley  
**LIVING BY PROMISE**

### OPENING & PRAYER:

The journey of Israel into the Promised Land is not just a story of ancient conquest, but a living picture of the believer's life today. God's promise to Abraham was a land, but by the time Joshua leads the people, that land is filled with giants and obstacles. The enemy always tries to fill up what God has promised with opposition, hoping to abort God's plan. Yet, God's call remains: take the land. The real issue for Israel—and for us—is not the size of the giants, but the willingness to trust and believe God's promises. The most basic, yet most essential, exercise of faith is simply to trust God at His word, even when circumstances look impossible.

"Father, I thank you for Your word and Your promises. It is easy to slip away from trusting You and Your promises. Please guide us as we grow in this area. We want to trust You with everything in front of us, whether big or small. We are learning how to submit to You and Your will for our lives. In Jesus' name we pray, amen."

## SCRIPTURE:

Then He brought us out from there, that He might bring us in, to give us the land of which He swore to our fathers. **Deuteronomy 6:23**

After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, it came to pass that the Lord spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying: "Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them—the children of Israel. **Joshua 1:1-2**

Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses. **Joshua 1:3**

From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the River Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your territory. **Joshua 1:4**

For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us. **2 Corinthians 1:20**

No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you. **Joshua 1:5**

Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go. **Joshua 1:6-7**

This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. **Joshua 1:8**

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. **Philippians 4:6-7**

Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you. **Philippians 4:8-9**

Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people, saying, "Pass through the camp and command the people, saying, 'Prepare provisions for yourselves, for within three days you will cross over this Jordan, to go in to possess the land which the Lord your God is giving you to possess.' " **Joshua 1:10-11**

## GO DEEPER:

Canaan is not a picture of heaven, but of the victorious Christian life here and now. It's a land of battles, victories, and sometimes setbacks. God never promised a life without struggle, but He did promise His presence and victory if we trust Him. Israel turned an 11-day journey into a 40-year wandering because they refused to believe. Only Joshua and Caleb, men of faith, entered the land. The rest became wanderers and whiners, missing out on God's best because they wouldn't pay the price of faith.

There is always a cost to believing God's promises. Sometimes it means facing spiritual opposition, stepping out of comfort zones, or breaking free from family mindsets and mental strongholds. But the cost of not believing is far greater—lost years, missed opportunities, and unfulfilled destinies. God's plan is bigger than just our personal blessing; it's about His kingdom and purposes in the world. The promises of God are not automatic. They must be believed, spoken, and acted upon. God told Joshua to be strong and courageous, to meditate on the Word day and night, and to act in faith. Internal courage, external meditation, and Spirit-led action are the keys to possessing what God has promised.

God's promises are "yes and amen," but we must step forward to possess them. The power is released when we agree with God, fill our minds with His Word, and move in obedience. The land is before us, but it's up to us to take it, trusting that God is with us every step of the way.

## KEY TAKEAWAYS:

**Trusting God's Promises Is Foundational.** The most basic and essential part of walking with God is to trust and believe His promises, even when circumstances seem overwhelming. Like Israel, we can easily neglect this simple act and end up wandering spiritually, missing out on God's best. Faith is not just a one-time decision but a daily posture of the heart that says, "God, I believe You above what I see." [04:27]

**The Cost of Faith Is Real, but the Cost of Unbelief Is Greater.** Believing God will always cost us something—comfort, old mindsets, or facing spiritual battles. But refusing to believe costs far more: lost years, missed destinies, and spiritual stagnation. The wilderness is filled with those who would not pay the price of faith, but the land of promise is reserved for those who will. [18:46]

**God Moves Us from Pain to Promise.** God's way is always to move us from our pain into His promise. Focusing on past hurts or losses keeps us stuck, but healing comes as we set our eyes on what God has said and where He is leading. The only way to truly move forward is to let the promise of God become bigger than the pain of yesterday. [24:35]

**Internal Strength and External Meditation Are Both Required.** To possess God's promises, we need internal courage—strength that comes from God, not ourselves—and a mind filled with His Word. Meditating on Scripture is not about emptying our minds, but about filling them with God's truth, muttering it to ourselves day and night, so that faith rises and the enemy's lies are silenced. [33:51]

**The Promises of God Must Be Possessed, Not Just Admired.** God's promises are not automatic; they require action. It's not enough to know or confess them—we must step out in obedience, trusting that God will meet us as we move. The purpose of the promise is possession, and the battle is here on earth, not in heaven. We are called to be people who take the land, not just talk about it. [42:19]

## LEARNING AND GROWING:

1. The sermon mentioned that Canaan is not a picture of heaven, but of the believer's life now. What evidence from Joshua 1 or the sermon supports this idea? **[[06:41]]**
2. The sermon says there is a cost to believing God's promises, but a greater cost to not believing. What are some examples of these costs, both for Israel and for us today? **[[18:46]]**
3. The sermon says that focusing on past pain keeps us stuck, but healing comes as we set our eyes on God's promise. Is there a past hurt or disappointment that you need to stop focusing on? What promise from God could you focus on instead? **[[24:35]]**
4. The promises of God are "yes and amen," but we must step forward to possess them. Is there a promise from God's Word that you know, but have not yet acted on? What would it look like to take a step of obedience toward that promise? **[[42:19]]**
5. The sermon says God's plan is bigger than just our personal blessing—it's about His kingdom and purposes in the world. How might your obedience to God's promises impact others around you, not just yourself? **[[20:21]]**

## CLOSING PRAYER:

"Father, thank you for the opportunities to grow in our faith. When we start to doubt, we will remember Your promises for our lives. We will step through the doors open You open for us with faith that you are in control. You protect us even when it doesn't make sense to us. You guide us throughout our week and situations, and we will follow it. In Jesus' name we pray, amen."