

Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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Possess Your Possessions

(Jerry Fite)

Three days before he would lead the Israelites over the Jordan River, Joshua reminded them they are to “*possess the land, which Jehovah your God giveth you to possess it*” (Joshua 1:11). The land was God’s gift, but the people must possess it.

At the age of 85, Caleb manifested the spirit of one possessing his possessions. He was as strong as he was 45 years before when God through Moses granted his inheritance. Being ready to possess God’s gift, Caleb says, “*Now therefore give me this hill country, whereof Jehovah spake in that day;*” (Joshua 14:12).

Grace, faith and works come together when we think of possessing our possessions. God reminds Joshua, “*I have given into thy hand Jericho, and the king thereof, and the mighty men of valor*” (Joshua 6:2). The city was theirs by the gift of God’s grace, but the walls, the king and the mighty men loomed large before them. They needed faith in God for them to work out God’s plan. “*By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they had been*

compassed about for seven days” (Hebrews 11:30). The walls of Jericho fell by God’s grace – “*I have given into thy hand Jericho;*” by faith, in that they trusted God’s guidance; and by works, in that they carried out what God commanded. The result was Israel possessed what God granted to them as a gift.

When it comes to what God gives us as our possession, are we Caleb and expend the energy to possess our possessions? Or, do we lag behind and have to be exhorted like the seven tribes who had not possessed their possessions? “*And Joshua said unto the children of Israel, ‘How long are ye slack to go in to possess the land, which Jehovah the God of your father, have given you?’*” (Joshua 18:3). It is as if Joshua is saying, “What are you waiting for? Get busy and possess your possessions!”

Christians have been granted by God’s power all things that pertain to life and godliness. The grant of godliness comes through the knowledge of the truth (2 Peter 1:3, Titus 1:1). All

the ingredients needed for us to live godly lives have been granted unto God’s people. But each Christian must possess his possession. He is not automatically godly. He must train himself to be godly (1 Timothy 4:8). Are you lagging in your commitment to live the godly life? What are you waiting for? All that pertains to godliness has been granted. Get busy! Be godly!

Eternal life is granted in Christ, but we must continue to be faithful to the end in order to possess it. John writes, “*These things have I written unto you, that ye may know ye have eternal life, even unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God*” (1 John 5:3). We can endure the difficult times when our earthly possessions are taken from us “*knowing that ye have for yourselves a better possession and an abiding one*” (Hebrews 10:34). We have eternal life and have a better possession in heaven, but they will only be possessed by those who faithfully finish the course (2 Timothy 4:7-8).