



Don't Be Afraid -- Possess the Land

- ◉ What makes a church grow?
 - 70-80% Come from friends, relatives, personal contacts, and personal relationships
 - Other growth factors in descending order are:
 - » Walk in contacts
 - » Congregational programs
 - » Preacher
 - » Special needs
 - » Visitation evangelism
 - » Gospel meetings

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- ☉ **Joshua 1:1-9** -- The Lord speaks to Joshua on the eve of entering the promised land
- ☉ **Romans 15:4** ⁴ For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.
- ☉ The greatest enemy the Jews had entering Canaan was themselves.
- ☉ Joshua 40 years later: **Joshua 24:13-15** ¹³ 'I have given you a land for which you did not labor, and cities which you did not build, and you dwell in them; you eat of the vineyards and olive groves which you did not plant.' ¹⁴ " Now therefore, fear the LORD, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the LORD! ¹⁵ "And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

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Go and take the land(vs. 2-3)

- **Matthew 28:19**¹⁹ "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
- **Mark 16:16**¹⁶ "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.
- **Matthew 5:13-16**¹³ " You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. ¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ "Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. ¹⁶ "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.
- **Philippians 2:14-16**¹⁴ Do all things without complaining and disputing, ¹⁵ that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶ holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.



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- ⦿ None will be able to stand(vs. 5)
 - **Isaiah 54:15** Indeed they shall surely assemble, [but] not because of Me. Whoever assembles against you shall fall for your sake.
 - **Revelation 12:10-11** Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. 11 "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.
 - **Romans 8:37-39** Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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- ⦿ None will be able to stand(vs. 5)
- ⦿ I will not leave you nor forsake you(vs. 5)
 - **Hebrews 10:23** Let us hold fast the confession of [our] hope without wavering, for He who promised [is] faithful.
 - **Hebrews 13:5** [Let your] conduct [be] without covetousness; [be] content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."
 - **Matthew 28:20** "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, [even] to the end of the age." Amen.
 - **Psalms 27:10** When my father and my mother forsake me, Then the LORD will take care of me.



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- ☉ I will not leave you nor forsake you(vs. 5)
- ☉ Be strong and courageous(vs. 6)
 - **1 Corinthians 16:13** Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong.
 - **Hebrews 13:6** So we may boldly say: "The LORD [is] my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"
 - **Ephesians 6:10** Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

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- ☉ Be strong and courageous(vs. 6)
- ☉ Do all according to the Word(vs. 7-8)
 - **Philippians 1:9-10** And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, 10 that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ,
 - **2 John 9** Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son.
 - Meditate - **Joshua 1:8** "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.

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- ⦿ Don't be afraid(vs. 9)
 - The only thing that can stop us is us!
 - **Matthew 25:25** 'And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, [there] you have [what is] yours.'
 - **Acts 18:9-10** Now the Lord spoke to Paul in the night by a vision, "Do not be afraid, but speak, and do not keep silent; 10 "for I am with you, and no one will attack you to hurt you; for I have many people in this city."
 - **Revelation 21:8** "But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."



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- ⦿ **Victory Is Ours!!!!**
 - **Ephesians 3:20-21** Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, ²¹ to Him [be] glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.