

Every promise God gives us in life comes to us pregnant with potential and blessing. What we need to understand is that God intends us to work with His promises until we reap great fruitfulness and abundance. With every promise of God in our life there is a journey of faith until we reach...

Harvest Time

Psalms 67:6 (NIV) *⁶Then the land will yield its harvest, and God, our God, will bless us.*

Series Introduction

- A. We are learning to bring God's Promises to HARVEST in our life.
- There are over 8,000 promises in God's word.
 - They are all "yes" in Christ (2 Cor 1:20).
 - Take them from 'faith' to 'substance' (Heb 11:1).
- B. We have to MANIFEST spiritual reality, not just believe it.
- Harvest is "Possessing" time.
 - Being spiritual is not just believing but manifesting reality in Christ.
- C. God promised His land would always yield an abundant harvest to His people (*even when the world around was in famine*).
- D. All of God's Blessings for His people was tied to the Land (A type of Christ).
- E. All God has done for us IN CHRIST is a covenant of Promises.

- F. Every Promise comes to us "pregnant" with the potential of an abundant harvest!

Message Two:

Battle Over the Harvest

Isaiah 16:9-10 (NIV) *⁹So I weep, as Jazer weeps, for the vines of Sibmah. O Heshbon, O Elealeh, I drench you with tears! **The shouts of joy over your ripened fruit and over your harvests have been stilled.** ¹⁰Joy and gladness are taken away from the orchards; no one sings or shouts in the vineyards...."*

Jeremiah 5:15 - 17 (NIV) *"I am bringing a distant nation against you—¹⁶Their quivers are like an open grave; all of them are mighty warriors. ¹⁷**They will devour your harvests and food, devour your sons and daughters; they will devour your flocks and herds, devour your vines and fig trees.**"*

Jeremiah 5:24 - 25 (NIV) *²⁴[My people] do not say to themselves, 'Let us fear the LORD our God, who gives autumn and spring rains in season, **who assures us of the regular weeks of harvest.**' ²⁵Your wrongdoings have kept these away; your sins have deprived you of good.*

- A. God warned of the Battle over the harvests.
- The people's neglect of God's ways brought exposure to the enemy.
 - The enemy devoured their harvests
 - God's desire was that they continually experience regular weeks of good harvesting.
- B. There is a Battle over you harvesting God's Promises.
- Satan doesn't care if you believe; he cares if you become fruitful and begin MANIFESTING God's promises.
- C. If we do not take Joy in harvesting God's Promises, the enemy will rob us of our strength and fruitfulness.
- D. **1 Peter 5:8-9**. We have an enemy who DEVOURS.

- **1 Peter 5:8 - 9 (NIV)** ⁸*Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.* ⁹*Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.*

E. Satan doesn't care what you believe in God's word; he cares about what you produce with it.

There is a Battle over you Harvesting God's Promises in your life. Learn to take the battle to the enemy with the fruitful power of faith in God's word...

There are some things you need to learn about this all-important warfare...

1. Satan's contention: God's contact with you through His word

Genesis 3:1 (NIV) ¹*Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"*

John 8:44 (NIV) ⁴⁴*You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.*

- A. God's Word is your contact point with Him (to receive).
- Without God's word there is no place for agreement.
 - Without language and communication, how can a relationship grow?
- B. Satan's effort is to cut off God's word in your life.
- If there is no word, there is no faith-agreement with God.
 - Notice how God works: **Mark 16:20**

- **Mark 16:20 (NIV)** ²⁰*Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it.*

- C. Satan fills the void with lies (seeds of the wrong harvest in your life!)
- D. Satan's effort is aimed at keeping God's word out of your heart.

2. There is a Battle over God's Life in His Word

Matthew 4:4 (NIV) ⁴*Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"*

- A. You spiritually live by God's Word. (*The word contains and imparts God's life*)
- Matt 4:4
 - John 6:57
 - Taking in God's word allows God to impart Himself into us more and more.
- B. God's Life is in His word.
- Phil 2:16
 - 1 John 1:1
- C. Satan attacks God's Word to keep us from God's Life.
- The real battle is not just about truth vs lies, but life vs death.
 - The purpose of TRUTH is to lead us to LIFE.
- D. Jesus's example: "*It is Written*" (How the Lord fought satan – with the word)
- Matt 4:1-11

- Keep the word, keep life, keep light = can't be easily deceived.

E. Overcome by being strong in God's word. *1 John 2:14b*

- **1 John 2:14** says:
- **1 John 2:14 (NIV)** ¹⁴I write to you, fathers, because you have known him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

3. There is a Battle over the Harvest of God's Word in your life.

Mark 4:1-20

1. THEFT - Attacks on your sowing.

Mark 4:3 - 4 (NIV) ³*"Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up.*

Mark 4:14 - 15 (NIV) ¹⁴*The farmer sows the word. ¹⁵Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, **Satan comes and takes away the word** that was sown in them.*

- A. Watch what you are sowing (*the unavoidable law of the harvest = you reap what you sow*).
 - Satan uses Spiritual laws (God intended for our good) to defeat ourselves.
 - [Gal 6:7-8](#)
- B. Satan attempts to get us to sow bad seed in our fields.
 - [Matt 13:24-30](#)

- *"While everyone was sleeping"* - this is when the enemy works in our life: when we are not alert, spiritually asleep.
- *"sowed weeds in among the wheat"* - weeds look like wheat, but use up nutrients in soil first and take up more root space
- *'went away...'* - once the sowing is done he can leave and let law take over and reap results.
- Harvest always reveals what is sown
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C. Satan also comes to steal the good seed (God's word) from your heart.

- ¹⁵ *Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and **takes away the word** that was sown in them.*

2. PRESSURE - Attacks on your planted seed.

Mark 4:5 - 6 (NIV) ⁵*Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root.*

Mark 4:16 - 17 (NIV) ¹⁶*Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the word and at once receive it with joy. ¹⁷But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or **persecution comes because of the word**, they quickly fall away.*

- A. Once a seed takes root, growth will be quick. Satan attacks before we develop 'roots' to God's word in us.
- B. We develop "roots" by working inwardly with the word - hearing, meditating, praying over, and believing.
 - Luke 8:15
- C. Satan puts on OUTSIDE pressure to keep us inwardly in turmoil and fear.
- D. Your "troubles" in life are satans aim to keep the word from taking root in you.

3. CHOAKING - Attacks on the growing seed.

Mark 4:7 (NIV) ⁷*Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain.*

Mark 4:18 - 19 (NIV) ¹⁸*Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word;* ¹⁹*but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and **choke the word**, making it unfruitful.*

- A. If satan can't stop the root development, he attempts to choke the fruitfulness of the word with Distractions.
- This is about occupying up space for other things so that there is less room for the word.
 - What word-room is there in your soul????
- B. Worries, possessions and desires: the weeds of spiritual growth
- **"Cares"** (merimna = oppression of mind, weighed down by responsibility, disquieted by apprehension, worried)
 - **"Wealth"** – riches, possessions, money
 - **"Desires"** – legitimate, just inordinate
- C. What are you putting "spirit" into and giving life to?

4. PRODUCTIVITY– Attacks on the Harvested seed.

Mark 4:8 (NIV) ⁸*Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, multiplying thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times."*

Mark 4:20 (NIV) ²⁰*Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop—thirty, sixty or even a hundred times what was sown."*

- A. How much we multiply... 30, 60 or 100 depends on our determination to produce. (How far will you go with God's word?)
- B. How much will you be content with?
- C. How much, how deeply will you work with God's word?

4. The Attack on the Fruitfulness of your Vine-Life

Song of Songs 2:15 (NIV) ¹⁵*Catch for us the foxes, the little foxes that ruin the vineyards, our vineyards that are in bloom.*

John 15:1-4 (NIV) ¹*"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. 2He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. 3You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. 4Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.*

- A. "Little foxes" chew the vine and slowly kill the supply of life to the fruit.
- B. We need constant "pruning" by the word to stay fruitful.
- C. Where are your "pruning places"?
- D. Song 2:8-15. Are we unwilling to go with Him into places of spiritual fruitfulness?

5. Take your stand in your harvest field.

2 Samuel 23:11 - 12 (NIV) ¹¹Next to him was Shammah son of Agee the Hararite. When the Philistines banded together at a place where there was a field full of lentils, Israel's troops fled from them. ¹²But Shammah took his stand in the middle of the field. He defended it and struck the Philistines down, and the LORD brought about a great victory.

4 Attitudes needed to win the battle for your harvest:

1. Don't give in.

"... Israel's troops fled"

Don't forsake the harvest field of your soul.

2. Claim every inch of your life for God with a grin.

"But Shammah took his stand in the middle of the field."

3. Resist the enemy... don't wait, just begin.

"...He defended it..."

4. Stay in the battle until you win.

"... and struck the Philistines down..."

Conclusion:
