

Contending For The Prophetic Promise

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. **Today I want to talk about the importance of contending for the promises that God gives you in the prayer closet** and fighting the good fight of faith to bring it into the realm of reality. Have you ever been in prayer, and then God speaks to you and says, **“I want to do this for you..! Now, I want you to believe for it and persevere in prayer until it becomes a reality!”**
- B. **When God has given a prophetic promise, how are we to respond?** Many times, we just resign ourselves to wait for Him to bring it about in His divine timing without our involvement. The Word of God gives clear direction that we are to war over His promises.
- “This command I entrust to you, Timothy, my son, in accordance with the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you fight the good fight.” (1 Timothy 1:18)***

II. I CALL YOU TO TAKE ACTION!

- A. **When it comes to prophetic promises, hearing God's voice and responding to God's voice are two aspects of seeing them come to pass.** There is the promise revealed, and then there is the promise fulfilled.
- B. **We are called to fight the good fight in a battle called spiritual warfare.** And how do we do this? By knowing who God is, by what He has spoken to us through His Word and prophetic impressions, and by taking action in faith (Daniel 11:32). Believing for something and acting on it go hand-in-hand!
- “But the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits” Dan. 11:32b.***
- C. **Now let's talk about faith for a minute because in between the promise revealed and the promise fulfilled, there is a gap called the the fight of faith.** Jesus said, “all things are possible to Him who believes” and “Whoever says to this mountain – be removed and be cast into the sea – and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says” (Mk 11:23).
- “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen... But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him” (Heb. 11:1,6)***
- D. **The Bible says that Jacob wrestled with the angel and prevailed (Gen. 32:22-30).** He was at a point in his life where he was desperate for God's intervention in his life, and he was willing to contend with God at his time of desperate need – **he wanted to settle for nothing less than his full inheritance!**
- E. **In the same way – We are to actively engage in seeking the Lord for the promise.** You cannot afford to be a quitter! We cannot resign ourselves to a “It's good enough” attitude! So many throw up their hands and resign themselves to a *wait it out* attitude!

III. WHY CONTENDING IS NECESSARY

- A. Today, I want to give you four reasons why contending for the prophetic promise is so important for your future inheritance in Christ, for you and for your family:
- B. **Reason 1: It's for More Than Just You:** Realize that what you are contending for is more than just for yourself. What you are going through is bigger than you! Every personal breakthrough is given so that you can turn around and impart that same faith, courage and gift you just received from God to others. Your entire family, church, city, and nation depends on it!
- C. **Reason 2: It develops your faith muscle:** If you work out, you have a greater probability of looking fit. Contending in the spirit is a lot like lifting weights—there is a resistance factor that eventually works in your favor to build muscle. Your perseverance causes you to grow up spiritually. It tests your motivations and builds you up as a strong believer.
- D. **Reason 3: It dismantles the Enemy:** Why is contending necessary? Because there is a real enemy who does not want you to succeed in life, and you have no option but to get into the battle and fight for over your family and future. We were born into a great battle between the forces of good and evil. You must put on the full armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-18) because your wrestling match is not against your boss, your spouse, or your children. It is against evil demonic powers arrayed against you and the promises God has given you.
- E. **Reason 4: It Prepares the Next Generation:** Other people are watching you. It amazes me how much people are aware of what you do in life. We are all like open books. People watch how you deal with setbacks like sickness, economic delays, family troubles—and they see how you persevere and trust in God. This gives them hope—*If you can do it, I can too!*
- F. **Some people—when they are at the brink of crossing over from promises revealed to promises fulfilled—they quit!** There are promises of awakening for entire cities and nations that are dropped by one generation, only for another generation to rise up later and pick them up!

IV. ACTION POINTS FOR TODAY!

- A. I believe in action points for words of exhortation. In order to receive the promises, basic fundamental realities must be applied.
- B. 1. Focus your faith on the Giver, not the gift (Hebrews 11:6).
- C. 2. Hold on to the words (promises) God has given with expectancy.
- D. 3. Be thankful and praise God for the answer.
- E. 4. Fight the good fight of faith—do spiritual battle according to the Word of the Lord.
- F. 5. Put down imaginations and speculations and bring every thought captive to Christ (2 Cor. 10:5).
- G. 6. Embrace patience! There are no shortcuts (through faith and patience – Heb. 6:12)