

Becoming greater – Bible study notes

Objective

The objective of this bible study is to understand some attributes and mindsets that we need to develop if we will become everything that we are born to become in Christ Jesus.

Introduction

Joshua 17: 17 And Joshua spoke to the house of Joseph—to Ephraim and Manasseh—saying, “You are a great people and have great power; you shall not have only one lot, but the mountain country shall be yours. Although it is wooded, you shall cut it down, and its farthest extent shall be yours; for you shall drive out the Canaanites, though they have iron chariots and are strong.”

The promises of God are already ours for the taking. Jesus qualified us! Every blessing in the scripture is true for us, but just like we see in Joshua 17:17, the promises of God are not in a passive place. There are giants in the land, there are trees that need to be cut down, there are things that need to be done in order to possess what God has given us by His grace!

If God has already decided to bless us with the promised land why do we need to do any work at all? Why does God allow the giants in the land that he promised me? Here are 4 reasons:

- 1) You don't really know your potential or motivation until you face giants. Adversity introduces you to yourself. (**Deuteronomy 8:2**)
- 2) God wants you to really know Him. And there are aspects of who God is that you will only discover as you face the giants in your path. God did not introduce Himself as “The Lord” until there was a need to defeat Pharaoh. (**Exodus 6:2**)
- 3) It is as you face giants, that you will discover the extent to which the grace of God is and has been working for you. (**2 Corinthians 12:9**)

- 4) You only know how much you believe something is yours by what you are willing to do to get hold of it! Faith is not real faith until you are ready to act on it. The size of the action often determines the depth of the conviction.

There is so much greatness that we are yet to unlock. There is so much of God's goodness that we are yet to manifest here on earth. There is so much more that we can become! God has created us in such a way that we are always capable of becoming more and more like His perfect plan for us.

You are not like a sheep that will always be what it is right now, you can become more! If you do not like what you are right now, you can become something different. You are greater than your current station. Whatever you have possessed so far is not all that there is...there is more! It's just that it is wooded, you need to cut down some trees, drive out some Canaanites even though they have iron chariots!

Today let's look at some characteristics and attributes to build into who we are becoming, if we will be able to take hold of what God has for us and also be good stewards of the promises of God.

- 1- **Become dis-satisfied.** You will never step out of a level that you are fully satisfied with. Many people are not dissatisfied with their current level, which is why you are not ready for your next level! Comfort is sometimes the greatest enemy of growth. When you are too satisfied with where you are you get comfortable and unwilling to consider anything that takes you out of your comfort zone. Yet EVERYTHING that God has for you is beyond your comfort zone!

1 Chronicles 4: 9 Now Jabez was more honourable than his brothers. His mother had named him Jabez, saying, "Because I bore him in pain." 10And Jabez called out to the God of Israel, "If only You would bless me and enlarge my territory! May Your hand be

with me and keep me from harm, so that I will be free from pain." And God granted the request of Jabez.

Jabez was no longer satisfied with being in pain and being on that level that He called out to God! And the scripture says that he was more honourable than his brothers. There is a difference between this kind of Holy Dissatisfaction and a discontentment that comes out of a lack of appreciation and gratitude for where you are. There is a dissatisfaction that comes from knowing that God has promised you so much more!

Isaiah 49: 19For your ruined and desolate places and your ravaged land will now indeed be too small for your people, and those who devoured you will be far away. 20 The children you will have, after you have lost the others, Will say again in your ears, 'The place is too small for me; Give me a place where I may dwell.'

There comes a time when your land becomes too small for you! There comes a time when your children will start to say, this place is too small for us. There comes a time when your spirit starts to get too big for that friendship group, for that foolishness...but if you are satisfied with where you are, you will not stretch!

Don't fill yourself with so much junk that you are no longer hungry for what is real. Whenever you stop desiring more, something is wrong. If you want to unlock your next level of greatness, pay attention to your areas of dissatisfaction.

2- Become Broken - Your level of brokenness on this level will determine how far God can take you to the next level. David says in Psalm 51:17 that the sacrifices of God A broken spirit and a broken and contrite heart, God will not despise.

To be broken means exactly that, to be in pieces before God. It's not being in a place where you see yourself as a sorry worm or as a useless nobody, it is not being in a place where you don't see that you are loved and valued by God...that is not what scripture

teaches. To be broken is to be humble before God. It is to be before God with a consciousness that apart from the grace of God, you have nothing holding you up before God! The scripture says about Abraham our father of faith that if he had anything to boast about, it was not before God!

The problem with greatness is that you can be deceived by your level of achievement on this level that you actually feel you have some leg to stand on, apart from the grace of God! Brokenness is being sober minded enough to know that you are standing in the presence of the God before whom you have nothing to boast about! Brokenness is knowing that the ground you are standing on, was purchased by the precious blood of Jesus! Brokenness is sensitivity to the price that was paid for you to walk in boldness. Brokenness is humility.

Matthew 5:3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven

The poor in spirit are those who live conscious of the fact that when you consider what you know in the spirit compared to what there is to know, you don't know enough. The poor in spirit is blessed because they are always positioned to receive more! That's why true greatness is born out of brokenness.

Some of you are too strong to go to the next level. You're too full of yourself. You're drunk on your achievements on this level that you are not ready to hear from God about the next level. Jacob had to be weakened by God before He could change His name to Israel (Genesis 32:25

). The strength you have is for the work that you do in your life. But once you come into the presence of God, put your strength and achievements down.

Brokenness is the willingness to humbly yield the pieces of your life to the potter so that he can rebuild, restore and revive! God is the one who makes people great. He does it

from the broken pieces of your life. This is what real faith looks like, real faith is coming before God in pieces, with confidence that He will build you up.

Isaiah 57:15, Luke 12:19-21 Psalm 34:18

3- Become Exposed:

a) Exposed to new ideas

It is impossible to become greater than the boundaries of your mind. If your mind is not exposed to new horizons, you will not become greater than your current level.

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Notice what Paul is saying, you can be conformed to this world if nothing changes about your mind. You will take the shape of what you see around you, you will take the shape of your current circumstances, and stay in that shape until there is a renovation of your mind. You can pray about your situation, you can fast about it, you can put a praise on it...all of which are great and have their place, but you will never go into another level if your prayer, your fasting and your praise does not induce a change of mind!

Some of us are trapped in certain aspects of our lives because your mind which was supposed to be your servant has become your master. So just because your mind struggles with a certain concept you reject the idea and settle for one you're more comfortable with. But the reality is that you needed that new idea to go to the next level.

Many people are stuck on one level, because they are not willing to allow their minds to be assaulted by transformational ideas. Watch what offends you. Because I discovered that every time you are offended by the truth, your mind has just been assaulted by a transformational idea. In fact, that is how the god of this world keeps people trapped in sin, he blinds their minds to the gospel of Jesus. Because a blind mind is a mind that is not receiving any illumination, no light!

God showed up to Abraham and He was trapped by what was going on in His tent, saying Eliezer will be my heir. God had to bring him outside and make him count the stars...do you know how much work it takes to figure out how to count the stars? God assaulted the mind of Abraham, and it was only until He accepted what God was showing him that He was able to step into the greatness that awaited him. What are you exposed to? At some point in your journey of life you will need to allow your mind to experience difference. Someone once said **you are born looking like your parents, but you will die looking like your decisions!**

The most important ingredient for your exposure is not your money or your body, it is your mind. If your mind can go, there the rest of you will follow. Expose your mind! Every limitation you are experiencing so far is a problem of exposure. Expose your mind to the Word! Expose your mind to the incorruptible seed of God's word! Read a book! Study something. Expose your mind to new information. Expose your mind to the right information. Expose your mind to the influence of the Holy Spirit. Your next level will first happen in your mind, before it happens in your life.

Ephesians 3:20 - Now unto him that is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

One of the best ways to partner with God is to align your imagination with His Word! He supplies the Word; you actively engage the Word with your mind. He supplies the ability to do all that you have imagined!

In Genesis 11:6 - And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do.

b) **Exposed to risk.** You will not achieve great things if you are absolutely risk averse.

I don't believe we will be talking about the book of Esther, if she did not expose herself to death for a cause that is greater than her individual life!

Jesus stepped into another level of greatness, beyond the greatness that he displayed in his life, by exposing himself to death.

I'm not talking about blind and careless risks that are for the sake of your ego or your status. I am talking about risks for the sake of the King and His kingdom. Will you seek to just keep ticking over in your job or will you risk posturing yourself to become a captain in that industry? Some of you are due a fresh lease of life in your relationship, but you are not willing to expose yourself to being loved! You are not willing to expose yourself to forgiving those who hurt you! You want love without risk! You want a relationship without risk! Real faith is risky! Real faith in action is taking a risk on God's word. It is deciding that I'm going to take a risk and believe that I am loved! I feel powerless, but I will take a risk to believe in His power!

One of the things that Paul prays for us in **Ephesians 1:18** is that we may know the exceeding greatness of the power of God towards us who believe. Sometimes we don't want to take a risk because you fell on your face last time. Don't quit because you fell. The beauty of being righteous is that we can always get up. Failing is not what happens when you fail, it is what happens when you quit.

Conclusion

Make a decision to be purposeful about what you are becoming. We've already said this, but it is worth repeating; the will of God which has been made available to you by God's grace is not in a passive place. Make a firm decision to build your life on purpose. You are called to greatness. You have the capacity to become more. Let's reach for it!

Discussions

- In addition to the reason given above, why do you think God allows giants in your land?
- What kind of comforts often keep us from reaching for God's best for us?
- Make a list of practical things you can do to expose yourself to new ideas