

June 16, 2019

Pastor Larry Brey (LB for Short)

Sermon Title: The Other Side of the Promise - The promise, The Possession, and The Perseverance

U-Tube web link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HpGsdKbzpsM>

Elevation Worship – words for Here Again: *“Can't go back to the beginning. Can't control what tomorrow will bring. But I know here in the middle is the place where You promise to be. I'm not enough unless You come. Will You meet me here again? 'Cause all I want is all You are - Will You meet me here again? As I walk now through the valley Let Your love rise above every fear. Like the sun shaping the shadow In my weakness, Your glory appears. I'm not enough unless You come. Will You meet me here again? 'Cause all I want is all You are. Will You meet me here again? I'm not enough unless You come. Will You meet me here again? 'Cause all I want is all You are Will You meet me here again? Not for a minute was I forsaken. The Lord is in this place. The Lord is in this place. Come Holy Spirit, dry bones awaken. The Lord is in this place. The Lord is in this place. Not for a minute was I forsaken. The Lord is in this place. The Lord is in this place. Come Holy Spirit, dry bones awaken. The Lord is in this place. The Lord is in this place. How awesome is this place. How awesome is this place. I know the Lord is in this place. The Lord is in this place. Oh, the Lord is in this place. Oh, the Lord is in this place. I'm not enough unless You come. Will You meet me here again? 'Cause all I want is all You are. Will You meet me here again?”*

Scripture:

- **1 Chronicles 11: 1- 5:** 1 Chronicles 11 New International Version (NIV) - David Becomes King Over Israel. 11 All Israel came together to David at Hebron and said, “We are your own flesh and blood. 2 In the past, even while Saul was king, you were the one who led Israel on their military campaigns. And the Lord your God said to you, ‘You will shepherd my people Israel, and you will become their ruler.’” 3 When all the elders of Israel had come to King David at Hebron, he made a covenant with them at Hebron before the Lord, and they anointed David king over Israel, as the Lord had promised through Samuel. David Conquers Jerusalem: 4 David and all the Israelites marched to Jerusalem (that is, Jebus). The Jebusites who lived there 5 said to David, “You will not get in here.” Nevertheless, David captured the fortress of Zion—which is the City of David. 6 David had said, “Whoever leads the attack on the Jebusites will become commander-in-chief.” Joab son of Zeruiah went up first, and so he received the command. 7 David then took up residence in the fortress, and so it was called the City of David. 8 He built up the city around it, from the terraces[a] to the surrounding wall, while Joab restored the rest of the city. 9 And David became more and more powerful, because the Lord Almighty was with him.
- **Exodus 3:17** New International Version (NIV): 17 And I have promised to bring you up out of your misery in Egypt into the land of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites—a land flowing with milk and honey.
- **2 Corinthians 1:20** New International Version (NIV): 20 For no matter how many promises God has made, they are “Yes” in Christ. And so through him the “Amen” is spoken by us to the glory of God.
- **Deuteronomy 7:1** New International Version (NIV): Driving Out the Nations: 7 When the Lord your God brings you into the land you are entering to possess and drives out before you many nations—the Hittites, Girgashites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites, seven nations larger and stronger than you
- **Deuteronomy 7:22** New International Version (NIV): 22 The Lord your God will drive out those nations before you, little by little. You will not be allowed to eliminate them all at once, or the wild animals will multiply around you.

- **Hebrews 10:36** New International Version (NIV): 36 You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.



Sermon notes – Pastor Larry Brey – The Other Side of the Promise

- As Jacob explains in Gen 28 – we celebrate “This Place.”
- For some, it took everything they had just to get in Church today. We might be tired and even exhausted – but we have enough to get here – this place.
- Today, I want to specifically speak to someone today that feels that they are outside of the promise.
- When Jacob was exhausted he lies down and uses a rock as a pillow – and sometimes this is all that we have – a rock – and it is hard on every side – my finances are falling apart over here – my job is not working out over here – and my relationship with my wife could be better – Lord all that I have is hard – and sometimes the things that we are dealing with – the things we did not pick – and sometimes you have to go to bed with something that we did not choose.
- And when Jacob lies down in that hard place, God comes to him – and reveals to him the plans that he has for him – and the promises that he has spoken over him – just as God is reminding you of some things at this moment – and reminding you of somethings that he has forgotten – and then Jacob declares “how awesome is this place” and surely this is the house of God – He is now in this place.

- God is in you and God is in this place.
- If you are in a hard place right now, I want to say a prayer for you: When you are tired and weary – and in a tough situation – where it is hard on every side – even in the mist of this hard place, we sons and daughters of God – Holy Spirit – remind us of the promises of old. Remind us of the things that were spoken in previous generations – arrest our souls with the potential of this moment – God we love you – and you are surely in this place. We celebrate with you – and we put our hands together. Amen.
- Happy Father’s Day for all of you dads out there.
- Today we celebrate how far you have come as well as your future godly potential.
- Dads: Look how tall you have gotten while maintaining your dignity and integrity.
- Today I want to talk about promises.
- See 1 Chronicles 11: 1-5.
- The Title of today’s sermon is “The Other Side of the Promise.”
- In vs 5, we have two promises fulfilled in the same text. a. One is obvious – David would become King as declared by Samuel – this promise took over 20 years to be fulfilled and b. The second promise is happening for the nation of Israel to reach to promise land – and this promise took over 480 years to be fulfilled.
- **God is faithful to fulfill all his promises.**
- **Sometimes it will take 20 years and sometimes it will take 20 generations.**
- **And it is wonderful how God will weave all the threads of our lives together to make one beautiful tapestry.**
- For you, there is a promise that God has put into motion – and there is something that God deposited into your spirit this morning – in your row – in your section – and in one of the watch parties – all of this is weaved together and transcends many generations – because life is not meant to be lived in isolation.
- God is doing everything by community – This is why we need each other – someone needs your faith today – someone needs to hear the promise of God today. All of these things are in motion.
- And all of these things are on the other side of the promise
- **Say this word: Promise**
- May images come to mind when we hear this word promise.
- For Israelites, this word is taken differently.
- In Ex. 3, God put things in motion for the people of Israel – while they are in bondage in Egypt.
- See Ex. 3:17
- God says that he is going to take the Hebrew people out of slavery and bring them into the promise land that is rich with milk and honey.
- This is the promise that God made to them.
- I did not give my life to the Lord until I was in my mid 20s and did not understand this term milk and honey – and I had no idea what all of these other Christians were talking about.
- Where I thought – man – If can just get to the other side – well, there will be milk and honey for me baby!
- And I did not understand all this Christian lingo.
- For example, I would ask a Christian how they are doing today? and the person would respond: “Blessed and highly favored.”
- The perception that I had from all of this Christian lingo was that things are not that good here and they will get better on the other side – and I took this to mean that life is just going to suck until I get to the other side.
- Really??? Is this what we all signed up for? What about all of this milk and honey? Am I supposed to drink this? And am I to wait to get to the other side before I experience the blessings of the Lord.
- And we are to reject this immature Christian thinking.
- Milk and Honey is this place of favor that God is going to bring to you.

- And God has spoken promises over your life.
- He absolutely has.
- If there is one thing I want to stress to you today is that God has made you promises.
- The bible is filled with over 3000 promises – and all them are available to us by way of Jesus Christ.
- I also believe that there are individual promises that God has made over your life.
- And when you think of the promises of God, I want you to see what your specific promise was.
- What is your promise? Is it the promise that you can lay your head down tonight and not be dominated by prior shame in your life? Is it a promise to make your child free from an addiction? Has there been the promise of a child - and you have been waiting 15 years.
- I do not know what promise God has made to you – I do know that the promise of God is available to you.
- And the longer that we live outside of this thing, we incorrectly feel that we do not belong.
- Regardless of the situation, the answer is always Yes in Christ!
- **Every promise of God comes in the form of a Yes and amen.**
- **See 2 Cor 1:20 – “For no matter how many promises God has made, they are “Yes” in Christ. And so through him the “Amen” is spoken by us to the glory of God.”**
- What is the promise that God has made over your life? Is it Joy? Is it Peace? To never leave you and to never forsake you?
- For me the promise that God had placed on my life was forgiveness.
- What is yours?
- Please get an attitude about yourself that you will receive this promise.
- You need not settle for second rate or second-class Christianity.
- **And some have given up on a promise because the world has told you that “it” will never happen.**
- **And I am here to speak over today to tell you that the promises of God are going to pass – you will see the Goodness in your life – and they come in the form of Yes and Amen.**
- You are his first choice and you are not leftovers. You are His first option because you are the bride of Christ.
- If I teach you a very shallow version of Christianity, it will be all about the milk and honey – where everything gets better – this is not reality.
- If it was all about the milk and honey and then you got slapped with a problem – and then you say – what was that?
- And I remember when my wife Gina and I got married – wow! Now that is milk and honey baby.
- And then we realized later in our marriage – huh? Where is all the milk and honey? I did not know that marriage came with some difficulty? And I did not know that the promise comes with problems.
- **And some of us walk away from promises because we are expecting only milk and honey – and we get something that looks very different.**
- Stay this word: Possess
- **God has made the promise, but He wants you to possess it.**
- See Deut 7:1
- And who is going to drive out the enemy? God will.
- And who needs to possess it? You and me.
- Here we read about the seven nations that are larger and stronger than you – and now there is a problem with the promise.
- We all thought that the promise land was only about the milk and honey.
- What is with all of this larger and stronger business?
- God says: I am making you a promise to take you into the promise land.

- And yes indeed, it does flow with milk and honey – and you are going to love it.
- However, there is a problem with the property because there is someone that is already there.
- **Every new opportunity comes with a new opponent.**
- **Key point: Your promise comes with problems – where we all get smacked in the head with a struggle and face something larger & stronger.**
- Yes, there is milk and honey – but there is also larger and stronger.
- **And some of us walk away from the promises because we are not willing to deal with the problems.**
- **And if we do not understand the struggle, we walk away from the promise**
- **We cannot possess something that we do not understand.**
- God tells the Israelites that I am giving you this promised land and it is flowing with milk and honey, however, there are seven nations that are larger and stronger than you.
- And the next nation that you have to conquer is bigger than that last one.
- And we get too exhausted looking at what can never be.
- And now we are praising on Sunday – and the closer you get to the difficulty, you realize how big it is – the closer that you get to it.
- And sometimes we do not get to possess the promise is because we get intimidated by the inhabitants of the land.
- And God says – this land is yours and I promised it to you – however, there is a problem with it – they are bigger and stronger with you – recall when Moses dispatches 12 spies to scout out the promise land after escaping from slavery in Egypt – only 2 of the 12 thought that could inhabit the land.
- God says this: Stop telling yourself what you can't do – when I (God) have already provided for you.
- It is God's job to drive them out.
- Recall what Pastor Furtick said here: If it bigger than me, it is not my battle to fight. It is the Lord's to fight.
- This is our land and we are going to possess it.
- **And we need to be taught how to size up our opponents.**
- **Because, every level is a new opponent – and this opponent at his level can only be developed in us at this level.**
- So how exactly does one size up an opponent?
- **It is not our job to fight something bigger than us, it is our job to size him up – because the size of my opponent shows me the size of my promise.**
- Think of it this way: If the problem is the size of the sun, then I can wait to see the size of the promise.
- Have you walked away from the promise because you have been intimidated by the inhabitants?
- We understand this in video games – where every level gives you a new opponent.
- Consider the greatest video of all time – Mike Tyson Punch Out.
- Level 1 is "Glass Joe" with a record of 1 win and 99 losses.
- Then there is Bald Bull, Von Kyser, Piston Honda, and 14 other levels – until you get to Mike Tyson.
- This game also comes with a cheat code – 0073735963 – that will cheat you through 14 levels and take you right to Mike Tyson.
- **There are no cheat codes in the promises of God. You cannot bypass levels and you have walk through each one of them.**
- **See Deut 7:22 - It is not your job to fight it – but it is your job to possess it – God will drive them out before you – little by little.**
- We are not allowed to eliminate them all at once.
- How do we possess the land? Little by Little.

- **God provides an important lesson here: If God allows us to eliminate them all at once, we don't develop the gifts that can only be developed through one opponent.**
- God says: If you bypass that opponent, you are going to bypass the gift that God has for you.
- And some of us get confused – where we think that when we get to the other side we will be standing in the promise – no – the very fact that we started the challenge (or the Mike Tyson Punch Out game), we are facing an opponent – and we go from promise to glory – from glory to strength and strength to strength.
- This is what is meant by growing in the promise of God.
- **We do not get to grow into the promise – we grow in it – not just standing in it.**
- Both milk & honey and larger & stronger.
- And every opponent builds a dependence on the Lord.
- The greatest gift that God can give you is dependence.
- See our 3rd word today: Persevere.
- See Hebrews 10:36
- When we expect milk & honey but get bigger & stronger – we complain to God asking – Hey God, did You forget your side of the deal here? Where are my promises at?
- **And God's answer is Yes & Amen – and God will always be there for you – and we need to be reminded of our responsibility on this side of the promise – to persevere – to keep moving towards the possession of the promise.**
- So how do we persevere?
- Little by Little.
- Perseverance is one of the greatest gifts.
- When we start interpreting the promises based upon the scenery without moving towards the possession, we start holding up our finger trying to sense the wind direction of the promise – to guess that God is or is not in our favor today.
- God's promises are Yes and Amen - in spite of and regardless of the circumstances that are going on around you – and some days when it looks like milk & honey – you are skipping towards the promises of God – and some days when we are confronted with larger & stronger – you just stop moving.
- **Possession is not a passive experience – it is an active participation.**
- **The other side of my promise is perseverance.**
- What do we do when we don't feel like keep moving?
- How do we persevere when we feel forgotten and knocked down?
- God says to get back up and if you can't then roll forward while you are down.
- I get confused here – I think I have to have the greatest motives to persevere.
- Because imbalanced teaching will tell us: Well, you just need to do it all for the glory of God – and therefore you will never have impure motives. This does not reflect reality.
- And then we get our promises, our prayers, and our preferences all mixed up.
- And sometimes I get in a world where I can't discern between my preferences and His promises.
- Here is what I do know: If he promised it, and if it came from God, then 'it' has the potential to be positive experienced in my life – it is yes & amen – and is available to me to possess – but the promise that I can possess – I must persevere towards it.
- Does God answer all prayers? Sometimes like I want - and sometimes not like I want – but we are to persevere toward it.
- Does God answer personal preferences? Perhaps. Maybe I guess.

- For the young women that wants man, her preferences are that this man is 6 ft – 4 inches, loves the Hallmark Channell, still manly enough to cut his own Christmas tree, has a six figure income, and loves cats. Maybe God will give you that. Perhaps not.
- **I do know this. My God who is big enough to save me, redeem the world, and bring Jesus back from the dead – and therefore is good enough to purify my motives - provided that I keep moving towards him.**
- He is big enough to do that.
- We just have to keep moving.
- Praise God that the only reason that you came to church today was because a pretty girl invited you – God can work with that.
- As we keep moving, God then updates our preferences and purifies our motives as we grow and mature.
- This is why I love David in scripture.
- See 1 Chronicles 11
- This is the 3rd time that he was anointed.
- The first time that he was anointed was in his teenage years – recall Saul commanded Samuel to go to Jessie's house to anoint a new king from one of the eight brothers. And David now grows into the promise after stepping into the promise. And then there is the battle with Goliath. Important point here. When David brings food to his brothers on the battle field, his first question is what is in it for me if I kill Goliath? He was acting out of rational self-interest. David's primary motive was selfishness. And then God blessed him with good fortune.
- And even if you are progressing with bad (selfish) motives today, God will upgrade those as you keep moving forward in a direction towards Him.
- God will meet you exactly where you are at.
- Although David did not have the best of motives, at least he was moving.
- **Perseverance keeps moving and does not stand still.**
- The 2nd time that David was anointed is when he is in his 20s and Saul dies. There we 12 tribes of Israel and they would decide who that wanted to have as their king. And only 2 of the 12 tribes picked David to be king – and 10 of them picked one of Saul's sons. This sounds a lot like the spies for Moses that were assessing the promised land – and ten of them got it wrong.
- Key point: Some of you are standing outside of promise because you did not get picked.
- God's promises are still available to you – even if you have been overlooked.
- Even if you did not get picked, the answer is still Yes & Amen.
- And God is faithful with David – in all of these small steps - little by little David enters the other side of his promise.
- See 1 Chronicles 11: 3-4 when David is in his 30s.
- What you see now is the fulfillment of the promise – through Samuel.
- God blessed David so that he could be a blessing for Israel.
- And once David is anointed, he goes running to His promise.
- When David is anointed a 3rd time, he knows that it is not about him any longer – where he marches toward Jerusalem with the Israelites – walking toward their promise - here David concludes that he is on the other side of the promise - when he is no longer at the center.
- In Christ, we know that we are on the other side of the promise – when it is not about us – where we are not the center of everything.
- As David is leading the Israelites toward Jebus (Jerusalem).
- Here is the context of the story: 480 years have passed from Ex 3 to this moment – 12 generations have passed – and little by little the Israelites are marching towards the promise.

- And David is realizing that some of the promises will be realized by the generations that follow him.
- In 1 Chronicles 11, this is the 7th nation or 7th opponent that the Israelites now have to confront – and this nation is the strongest and biggest of the seven - and this last remaining nation is located at the center of Israel.
- This will be the hardest enemy to remove and had been there for generations - and is protected with thick fortified walls - and never had been defeated there before.
- There is one space that is at the center of the promise land that represents the greatest challenge.
- **It is funning that the picture of the spiritual land represents in all of us the condition of our hearts – there is one space in the center that is still enemy held – parts of our minds, our relationships, and our hearts – that is still enemy held territory.**
- And God says enough! This is my promised land and will be made available to you.
- Seven means complete. It means whole.
- God’s greatest promises (not the ones you wear, drive, or live in) are the ones that bring you the most joy.
- But we must first conquer this enemy held territory that is located right at the center.
- We might be driving a great car -and dressed well - and look great – yet inside we are dying – inside you feel like you are leaking inside you are doubting weather God even exists – I am talking about that place – where God wants to make you whole.
- This is God’s desire this place – to make you whole.
- And all of us have these battles that we have been facing for a long time.
- One of the promises that I am asking God for is the promise of forgiveness - for the relationship with my father – because my dad was handed a generational thing called alcoholism – and the chaos and calamity that came with it.
- And I had to go through these levels of opponents and levels of forgiveness to come to a point where I could forgive my dad – this is because forgiveness is not a moment – it is a process.
- It is something that you walk out little by little.
- And it has taken me 40 years – where one level I was being angry at my Dad – and at other level I was being angry at everybody – and I started to deal with my own anger issues – and came to a level where I accepted that things were not right – followed by another level of forgiveness.
- Forgetting is not forgiveness.
- His name is my Leon Charles Brey
- I arrived at the other side of the promise when I was able to forgive.
- It was a multi-year process.
- If we don’t understand the nature of the struggle, we will not possess the promise.
- It was a little by little 40-year walk of forgiveness.
- For some families, there is a multi-generational problem – “the Jebus” at the center of the family.
- Facing this unforgiveness issue within me – solved the problem for the next generation – and showed them the next level of the promise.
- See 1 Chronicles 11: 4 David and all the Israelites marched to Jerusalem (that is, Jebus). The Jebusites who lived there 5 said to David, “You will not get in here.” Nevertheless, David captured the fortress of Zion— which is the City of David. 6 David had said, “Whoever leads the attack on the Jebusites will become commander-in-chief.” Joab son of Zeruiah went up first, and so he received the command. 7 David then took up residence in the fortress, and so it was called the City of David.
- This is sound of perseverance.
- **This is the attitude of a follower of Christ – you eill possess the promises that God made for you – but you will not possess it if you do not preserver towards it.**