

FINISH THE JOB!

Joshua 17:10-18 (NLT)

- There are 3 people sitting in each seat this morning – the person we are, the person we could be for evil, and the person we could be for good and for God.
- We should want to live victorious lives and never be content with living a “mediocre life.”
- While Caleb (Joshua 14) is an illustration of those who live a “mighty life,” the tribe of Manasseh illustrates for us those who live “mediocre lives.”
- Question – *“Why do people fail to reach their potential with the Lord?”*

WE FAIL TO REACH OUR POTENTIAL WITH THE LORD WHEN:

WE EXERCISE PARTIAL CONQUEST (Joshua 17:12-13)

- God wants us to drive all of the “Canaanites” (ungodly ambitions, attitudes, actions and relationships) from our lives (Joshua 16:10; Judges 1:27-31, 33).
- Question – *“What ‘Canaanites’ do I still have existing in my life, and why do I allow them to remain in my life?”*

We Fail To Drive All Of The “Canaanites” Out Because Of:

- **COMPROMISE IN OUR LIVES (Joshua 17:12)**
 - Compromise in any way with the Word and will of God is partial obedience in our lives – and partial obedience is actually total disobedience.
 - Question – *“What areas of compromise do I have in my life?”*
 - God doesn’t accept partial obedience in our lives (1 Samuel 15:3-19).
 - Many Christians have a “cafeteria-style” Christianity – picking and choosing what they want to believe or obey.
- **COMPLACENCY IN OUR LIVES (Joshua 17:12)**
 - Question – *“What ungodly or uncommitted arenas of my life am I complacent about?”*
 - Many Christians specialize in “misdemeanor sins” rather than “felony sins” – but those

“misdemeanor sins” still keep us from being obedient to the Lord and experiencing all He has for us in our lives.

- **COVETOUSNESS IN OUR LIVES** (Joshua 17:13)
 - Sometimes we don't fully surrender to the Lord because doing so would keep us from getting what we want for ourselves in our lives.
 - *“Let there be no sexual immorality, impurity or greed among you.”* (Ephesians 5:3 NLT)
- **COWARDICE IN OUR LIVES** (Joshua 17:13, 16)
 - Many Christians are afraid to try to drive out the “strongholds” from their lives.
 - Christians who love the Lord and are “filled with the Spirit” can overcome every struggle or stronghold in life.
 - *“Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”* (1 Corinthians 15:57 NKJV)
- “In war, there is no substitute for victory.” (General Douglas McArthur)
- Question – *“‘What’ or ‘who’ do I need to drive from my life so I can live a ‘victorious life’?”*

WE FAIL TO REACH OUR POTENTIAL WITH THE LORD WHEN:

WE EXPECT PREFERENTIAL CONSIDERATION

- Many believers expect to experience God's blessings without pursuing the Lord and implementing His principles in their lives.

We Expect Special Treatment From God And Others Because Of:

- **ARROGANCE IN OUR LIVES** (Joshua 17:14)
 - **Pride is a devilish thing in our lives that causes distraction, defeat and destruction.**
 - *“The LORD will destroy the homes of arrogant men . . .”* (Proverbs 15:25 TEV)
 - *“Pride will destroy a person; a proud attitude leads to ruin.”* (Proverbs 16:18 NCV)
 - *“God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”* (James 4:6 NIV)

- **God hates pride because pride is what made the Devil and the devil is what brought about the fall of the human race (Isaiah 14:12-14, Genesis 3:1-6).**
- Jesus – *“Without Me you can do nothing.”* (John 15:5 NKJV)
- **Arrogance and pride keep us from growing in the Lord and going on with the Lord.**
- **INDOLENCE IN OUR LIVES (Joshua 17:15-16)**
 - *“Lazy people are soon poor”* (Proverbs 10:4 NLT)
 - *“Work hard and become a leader; be lazy and become a slave.”* (Proverbs 12:24 NLT)
 - **Laziness will keep us from growing in the Lord and going on with the Lord.**
- **Question – *“When have I allowed pride or laziness to keep me from being all God wants me to be or doing all God wants me to do?”***

WE FAIL TO REACH OUR POTENTIAL WITH THE LORD WHEN:

WE EVADE PRIORITY COMMITMENTS (Joshua 17:17-18)

Fulfilling Our Potential Requires Getting Rid Of The:

- **HARMLESS THINGS THAT CLUTTER OUR LIVES**
 - **Oftentimes the good or the neutral gets in the way of the best for our lives.**
 - Jesus – *“The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful.”* (Matt. 13:22 NIV)
 - **We will never find time for God – we will have to make time for God and His work!**
 - **Question – *“What activities need to be reduced or eliminated from my life so that I can focus on those activities that are most helpful for my life?”***
- **HARMFUL THINGS THAT CORRUPT OUR LIVES**
 - **There are some bad “Canaanites” (hurts, habits and hang-ups) in each of our lives that must be dealt with and overcome if we are to live victorious lives.**

- When we deal with the “harmless things” first, it enable us to overcome the “harmful things” in our lives.
- We will never have the power to drive out the bad hurts, habits and hang-ups of our life until we surrender our will and ways to the Lord.
- **Question – “What ambitions, attitudes or activities do I need to get rid of in my life so that I can reach my full potential with the Lord?”**
- **SELF-ASSESSMENT**
 - ___ I have been compromising at times on my Christian beliefs, values and commitments
 - ___ I have been allowing certain habits or strongholds to remain in my life
 - ___ I have been desirous of having experiences or relationships that are not good for me
 - ___ I have been fearful about dealing with and getting rid of bad habits or relationships
 - ___ I have been trying to live by my strength and ability rather than depending on the Lord
 - ___ I have been lazy, complacent or selfish with my time and abilities
 - ___ I have some unnecessary time-sucking activities in my life that I need to cut back on
 - ___ I have some serious hurts, habits or hang-ups (Canaanites) in my life that need to be dealt with
- **Question – “What are 1-2 steps that I need to take to begin moving towards reaching my potential with the Lord?”**

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