

The Man Who Lived on Promises

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Joshua 1.
- B. It is always too soon to quit.
- C. The promises of God kept Joshua going.
- D. We do not live on explanation. We live on promises.
- E. There are dangers that can be overcome by leaning on God's promises.

II. The danger of looking back.

- A. This does not mean that we should not learn from the past.
- B. We must not simply seek to go back to the way it was.

III. The danger of standing still.

- A. True faith leads to motion.
- B. We have to reach forward.
- C. Living by the promises of God is looking forward to the future.

IV. The danger of giving up.

- A. God promises that he will not leave us. (Genesis 28; 31; 26; Deuteronomy 31; Philippians 1:6)
- B. We can have courage in the face of danger. (Hebrews 13:5)

V. The danger of falling short.

- A. Spiritual locations: bondage, inheritance to claim, wilderness.
- B. We need to point out the inheritance to people when the danger of falling short is apparent.

VI. The danger of taking over.

- A. The ministry must be given over to God's hand.
- B. The church is not our own.
- C. Joshua discovered that he was not alone, that he was second in command, that he was on holy ground, and that he had already won the battle.
- D. Taking over God's will is called pride.

VII. Conclusion.

- A. Claiming the promises of God gives us power.
- B. We must take time to meet God in order to claim the promises.

Application questions:

1. How have you seen the danger of looking back come to a reality in your experience?

2. When have you persisted through something that you were tempted to give up in? What did you learn?

3. How would you explain the danger of falling short?
