

Promised Land – Our Life

(Continue Gary's theme—the importance of the way we think)

The story of the Promise Land is a picture of the Kingdom Life—the Christian life. The story of their journey is also your journey—your life. When God gives you a promise, it means he's giving you a territory occupied by the enemy. The battle is in the mind (actions follow thought...) so where is the enemy?

“And consider the example that Jesus, the Anointed One, has set before us. Let his mindset become your motivation.” (Phil.2:5)

“**Learn this well: Unless you dramatically change your way of thinking and become teachable, and learn about heaven's kingdom realm with the wide-eyed wonder of a child, you will never be able to enter in.**” (Mt. 18:3)

It's not going to be possible to become like Christ if you don't think like Christ. “...we possess Christ's perceptions.” (mind of Christ) --1Cor.2:16

This is a promised land—to be occupied. At present, it has enemies in it.

Is becoming like Christ a real concept? Scale of 1-10: 0 = not possible; 5 = possible, but I don't think much about it; 10 = It's a driving passion.

(Stinissen 2/11)

There is an abyss between the way humans think and the way God thinks. God never considers his rights. He even abdicates his

right to be God to become one of us (Phil 2:6–7). God never repays evil with evil; he conquers evil with good. And when evil becomes greater, he gives even more love. “Where sin increased, grace abounded all the more” (Rom 5:20). We cannot deny the presence of evil in human beings. But, deep down, the other is always a brother or a sister, and it is this depth we must love.

The ability to change the way you think is essential.

This muscle must be developed. (At the root is the ‘choose’ muscle)

Notice the ‘choose’ muscle necessary in this scripture: (Phil. 4:8)

“Keep your thoughts continually fixed on all that is authentic and real, honorable and admirable, beautiful and respectful, pure and holy, merciful and kind. And *fasten your thoughts* on every glorious work of God, praising him always” **Choose!**

What actually is in the mind may take a real/significant challenge to be revealed (meltdown). When this is revealed, it’s not a failure—it’s evidence that a map shift is necessary. It should be treated as *essential revelation*.

Remember--Never let a mistake/failure migrate or morph into your identity. No blame or shame. (there’s still an enemy in your mind)

Breakdown is almost always the location of breakthrough, unless you respond like a victim.

Victim thinking destroys *any* possibility of breakthrough (complaining). When you *think* the problem is ‘out there’, *that thought is* the problem.

(His strength is perfected in your weakness -- 2 Cor.12:2)

(James 1:2-4...count it all joy) (Heb. 10:36...endurance=promise in full)

We know that transformation takes place thru the renewing of the mind (Rm.12:2). Some may think it's just 'what you learn that's new' that renews the mind. **It's not.** It's how you choose to think (the map; shifting values that govern behavior) It's a paradigm shifting, not just learning. The measure of integrity is when actions fit your words, not just agreeing with a concept.

It's doing battle w/ your prophecies. (1 Tim.1:18)

If everything we intellectually know about God had been allowed to sink into—and come alive in—our hearts, *we would have become saints long ago.* (**It's not about *intellectual assent*.**)

Metanoia—(repentance) change the way you think—repentance is where we come face-to-face with our great need for God. To fully yield our lives to Jesus is to be emptied of self-confidence & selfish ambition.

Humanism is the religion of the worldly culture (dark world)—individualistic; critical spirit; emphasis on the secular culture; doctrine centered on human interest or values; rejects *supernaturalism* & stresses individual's dignity/worth; it is self-realization thru *reason*.

(Read: 2 Cor.10:4-6)

(translator's note:)

“...in this case the prisoners held captive are faulty patterns of thought that defy God's authority.”

The 1st generation of the Children of Israel couldn't go into the Promised Land because they were afraid of the giants. When they ultimately did go in, how many giants did they face? (Zero!) Sometimes you just need to 'show up' to receive the victory!
The promised land is not coming to you; you must go to it.

Some things come quickly, other things we ask for, we must be prepared/trained for. Often times the difference between *real faith* & *spiritual fantasy* is training & preparation. (process)

God wants to trust you so that He can entrust you. He must be able to trust you so that His blessings don't kill you. You must become 'hear & obey' trustworthy! There is no logical component involved in real faith (only believe--choose).

Before you entrust someone else, they should **show** (actions) that they can be trusted, *not just show you things that cause you to like them — things that impress you.* Their thinking, when they're in the 'red zone', must be observed for what it really is (their true character)—not just observing them in 'high circle blue' (their 'act'). The 'red zone' is where their **real** 'mind' is revealed. Again, any sign of *victim thinking* will **never** be able to be trusted. (the identifier is always the language)

When God gives you a promise, He's inviting you to war. *If I look to me, I'm overwhelmed by the task.* (Self-sufficiency will always fail you)

”Rebellion is the inability to subordinate to a higher authority, even if the higher authority is ‘yourself’.” (The haughty can’t make themselves reach out their empty hands to God—pride restricts & restrains.)

“*Surrender*—puts the death nail in your self-sufficiency.” Our pride is tough, and it often takes a long time before we finally yield *fully* to God.

Pr. 16:3 — “Before you do anything, put your trust **totally** in God and not in yourself. Then every plan you make will succeed. The Lord works everything together to accomplish his purpose.”
(again--process)

What God wants to do for you is to set you up to do something thru you.

(Your blessings are not just about you, but rather getting it thru you to others)

Again -- *The promised land is not coming to you; you must go to it.*

Ps.37:4-5 “Make God the utmost delight and pleasure of your life, and **he will provide for you what you desire the most.** Give God the right to direct your life, and as you trust him along the way you’ll find he pulled it off perfectly!”

Review:

1. Every promise God makes is as sure as tomorrow's sunrise & every promise is occupied by an enemy. The battleground is the mind.
2. When what's really revealed in the mind is 'stinking thinking'—this is your opportunity to take meaningful territory—no blame, no shame. The problem is not 'out there'.
3. Renewing the mind is not the same as intellectual assent.
4. 'Breakdown' is usually the location of 'breakthrough'.
5. Victim thinking is cancer to Kingdom living.
6. Beware of the 'yeast' of the Sadducee'—Humanism—individual's rights—self-realization through reason.
7. The promised land is not coming to you; you must go to it.

Prayer: Father, we thank you for your great love for us! Lord, we delight ourselves in you. We take no delight in any part of our life more than you. We release every care into your safe hands. You will bring us the *breakthrough* and *wisdom* we need. We align our thoughts to yours, instead of allowing them to be consumed with *angst*. You are perfect in every way, trustworthy, our faithful Savior, to whom we yield every fear and question **without reservation**.

I pray for you as Paul did: "I pray for your love to grow and increase more and more until it overflows, bringing you into the rich revelation of spiritual insight in all things. And with this

revelation you will come to know God fully as he imparts to you the deepest understanding of his ways. This will enable you to *choose* the most excellent way of all—becoming pure and without offense until the unveiling of Christ.” (Phil.1:9-10)