

***INTRODUCTION... TURN TO JOSHUA 1***

- The last Sunday of the year I ask the Lord to give us a prophetic word for the coming year
- Before I get into this year's message, I want to remind us of what the Lord spoke for 2019

***HE SAID... AS WE MOVE INTO 2019...***

- We can expect spiritual battles...
- There is an enemy who makes war with you
- We can expect the enemy to use people to attack us
- But remember what Elisha said... do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them
- And treat your attackers with kindness and compassion because they may not realize they are being used by the enemy
- Don't let skepticism keep you from stepping into God's plans and purposes for 2019.
- Leave skepticism in 2018 and step into 2019 full of faith, trusting God for what He desires to do.

***AS I REFLECT OVER 2019... I CAN SAY IT WAS A YEAR OF BATTLE***

- The warfare was intense and it came through people
- It was intense in our nation... we witnessed an unprecedented impeachment of a sitting President
- It was intense in our city... with the homeless issue that divided the city
- It was intense in our church with regards to our building
- We were told at the beginning of the year, if we did certain things we would be able to move into the building before Easter
- We did everything we were told and then were told it wasn't enough
- What we didn't know is the inspector assigned to us was anti-church
- This person put a burden on us that we didn't have to carry and added a layer of confusion that we couldn't understand... this went on 8 months

***During this time, someone asked me if I was sure the Lord was in it***

- After nearly 2 ½ years either the Lord doesn't want it or Satan doesn't want it and I had people telling me the Lord wasn't in it
- But the fog of confusion was so thick that I knew we were in the middle of a spiritual battle because God isn't the author of confusion
- For a period of time it began to divide the church because of unbelief

- So I prayed for breakthrough and the Lord sent a deliverer to break through and he was able to cut through the confusion
- But even with a breakthrough there were unexplained delays...
- Faulty equipment, contractors not showing up, added inspections
- I kept praying for breakthrough and the inspector assigned to us had a sudden death in the family and couldn't finish our inspections
- Another inspector came who was a believer
- When he came and signed us off, the inspector apologized and he revealed to us the other inspector was anti-church... anti-Christian
- He was doing everything in his power to make things difficult for us
- He said we signed off in March... that's real spiritual warfare

***When we announced December 1st would be our first Sunday...***

- We didn't have our final inspections at that point...
- BUT the Lord spoke to me and told me this was a battle and I needed to stand by faith in order to see the Breakthrough
- But here's the part that blew me away.... during this 2 ½ period of confusion, delay and battle... we paid \$ 116,000 in double rent and guess what... the LORD provided through His people!

***The warfare was intense in the churches of San Clemente...***

- There have been battles lost... I know of one church that closed
- There have been casualties of war... I know of pastors who were taken down by the enemy... two that are gone from our city
- I know of many churches that are struggling financially... which is a byproduct of skepticism and unbelief... I don't trust God and I don't trust church leadership so I'm not going to give

***The warfare was intense in families***

- I personally know of several families dealing with divorce
- Others dealing with the consequence of sexual sin and addictions

***Roxie and I face intense spiritual warfare on a daily basis***

- Our son is mentally ill, homeless and Roxie's mom is on hospice...
- We understand some battles may not end in this lifetime

***As I reviewed the word God gave in 2019 it was a reminder***

- We can't forget that the battle is real...

- BUT God is powerful and the weapons of our warfare are mighty through God to fight our battles
- The enemy will seek to discourage, to wear out through delays, to promote skepticism which is another word for unbelief
- BUT Rather than slide into unbelief, I need to determine to stand by faith
- I've learned more than ever... God is a Promise Keeper, a Way Maker, a Miracle Worker and we are here today because God brought us through... but don't get comfortable... there's more to come
- I believe 2020 will be a year of storms
- It will not be a year of clearer vision, but a year of tested vision
- But all who trust in the Lord will be safe
- Not only will they survive... but they will thrive

### ***The Lord brought me this year to Joshua 1***

Joshua 1:2–9 (NKJV)

<sup>2</sup>“Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them—the children of Israel. <sup>3</sup>Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses. <sup>4</sup>From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the River Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your territory. <sup>5</sup>No man shall *be able to* stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you. <sup>6</sup>Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. <sup>7</sup>Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go. <sup>8</sup>This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. <sup>9</sup>Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God *is* with you wherever you go.”

### ***This is what I believe God has for us in 2020***

- First of all... ***WE ARE TO GO***
- Notice vs. 2 God says go to the land which I am giving you
- God says every place the sole of your foot will tread I have given you

- Joshua is crossing the Jordan into the Promised Land and for us the Promised Land is San Clemente
- The message is simply and clear... go to the land, walk the land, make yourself known in the land and wherever you go know that it's yours

Several years ago, the Lord spoke to me and told me to stand on the pier and look towards San Clemente. He told me to look to the left and to the right. I could see from Dana Point to Trestles Beach and He told me all the land that I can see is given to me. He would establish the Church and He will give us the land.

- Now what does this mean for us specifically?
- It means 2020 is a year of outreach but notice... it's personal outreach
- It's you personally and making Jesus known to your neighbors
- God says be confident because He's already prepared the people to receive... all He needs is someone who will go
- I would invite you to pray... pray and ask God to show you ONE person that you can pray for, share Jesus with, invite to church
- Don't pray for a specific person or focus on a specific person
- But ask God to open your eyes to SEE who He's already speaking to
- And then ask that person... is there something I can pray for you about?
- Maybe the Lord will give you a verse for them as you pray or something to share with them... be open in 2020 to be used by the Lord

### ***Second of all... We are to go in His Presence***

Joshua 1:5 (NKJV)

5 No man shall *be able to* stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you.

- We know theoretically that God is with us
- But do you experience His Presence? Are you aware of His Presence?
- The key to victorious living in 2020 is the awareness of God's Presence
- Those who walk in the awareness of God's Presence are at rest... even in the midst of the storms
- They aren't filled with worry and anxiety
- They know God is with them and will not abandon them and so they have peace in their hearts
- 2020 will be a year of storms... BUT DON'T BE AFRAID

- I expect the awareness of God's Presence to increase and I would ask you to pray for an increase in our awareness of God's Presence

***Third.... notice vs. 6 the land will be divided***

Joshua 1:6 (NKJV)

6 Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them.

- To me this speaks of new ministries and new ministry opportunities
- I believe we are a HUB for ministries and ministry leaders
- We have a home base, a facility to minister from
- I would ask you to pray... pray for ministries to fill this building
- I believe we are a center for families... pray for family ministries
- I believe we are a center for equipping leaders... pray for God to raise up equipping ministries... Bible Schools, Training Classes, Discipleship
- I believe we are a media center for the gospel
- Our radio program Worship Life Radio is in it's 10<sup>th</sup> year
- Worship Life Today has 15 television programs ready for distribution
- All supported by those who believe in the teaching ministry of our church
- I believe we are a center for music and the arts
- For the past 2 years I've led the West Coast Worship Conference for the Calvary Chapel Association and pioneered a music platform to encourage the writing of new worship songs called [WorshipSong.com](http://WorshipSong.com)
- Calvary Chapel is known for a new song
- The songs written in our church are being used all over the world...
- I believe we are a center for healing... physically, spiritually and psychologically
- Pray for an outpouring of God's mercy and grace through the power of the Holy Spirit in various healing ministries
- If you are looking to be trained in how to minister in the power of the Spirit come to our Afterglow meetings
- We are a center for compassion and the love of God
- Pray for God to raise up compassion ministries
- I'm asking God to raise up ministries to the homeless, to those with mental illnesses, to the elderly who are unable to care for themselves
- Pray in all these things that God will bring likeminded leaders who will come alongside the vision God has given us and lead these ministries

***Fourth... we are to prioritize God's Word***

Joshua 1:7–8 (NKJV)

7 Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go. 8 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

***When asked to define Calvary Chapel, Chuck Smith said...***

It is the exposition of the word of God. It is encouraging people to read the Word of God and expounding to them the Word of God. It's really built on the Word of God. It's just God honoring His word as He said He would.

***God said He would honor His Word even above His name***

- This is why we place a high priority on teaching God's Word
- God said be strong and very courageous... speaking of believing in God's Word
- Strength speaks of determination... which is an act of the will
- Courage speaks of faith because Fear is rooted in unbelief... courage is rooted in faith
- God says to Joshua... make it your determination to trust God's Word
- Choose to trust God's Word... fear is a feeling but faith is a decision
- God says don't let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth
- Talk about it, share it, let it fill your speech, your language
- Meditate on it day and night... think about it
- Observe to do all that is written in it

***Here's the promise...***

- For when you do the Lord will make you prosperous (financially successful) and you will have good success (meaning you will thrive)
- We are a people of the Book
- Make it your commitment in 2020 to join us Thursday for Bible Study
- Make it your commitment to read His Word daily

***Finally... the Lord gave Joshua this final admonition***

Joshua 1:9 (NKJV)

9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God *is* with you wherever you go.”

- Pastor Chuck used to say... don't trade what you know for what you don't know...
- This is something we know... God is with us wherever we go
- Be strong, be courageous, don't be afraid, don't get discouraged or overwhelmed... God is with us

***As we go into 2020 I believe the Word of the Lord is clear***

- Go and take the land that He has given us
- Storms are coming... BUT DON'T BE AFRAID
- Storms can be caused by demonic powers trying to stop the work of God as we saw with Jesus in Luke 8
- Storms can be caused by the land spewing out it's inhabitants for defiling it as God said in Leviticus 18
- Storms can be caused by natural causes and we enter into these storms because we're not walking in wisdom as we saw with those who took Paul to Rome in Acts 27
- HERE'S THE REASON WHY... GOD IS WITH YOU WHEREVER YOU GO... SO GO WITH CONFIDENCE
- Go in His Presence and start new ministries
- Prioritize God's Word
- Determined to take God at His Word and TRUST HIM
- Those who do will prosper and thrive
- With that I want to invite you to pray with me... next week is Prayer Week... we devote the entire week to prayer.
- Pray for open doors to share the love of God
- Pray for prodigals to come home
- Pray for God to use us to reach the lost and to fill this church with people hungry for His Word
- Pray for new ministries and pray for likeminded leaders
- Pray for those who currently lead ministries at Calvary Chapel
- Pray that God would continue to bless Calvary Chapel