

May 3, 2017

Faith in Action

"So Joshua said to the Israelites, "How long will you delay going out to take possession of the land that the LORD, the God of your fathers, gave you?" (Joshua 18:3)

In the verse above, we can sense Joshua's frustration at the people of Israel. They had been given ownership of Canaan, the Promised Land, yet they had not done anything on their part to possess it.

As a former high school baseball coach, I can remember students telling me how good of a ballplayer they were and that they had an awesome fastball or could hit like Albert Pujlos. Yet, when I would invite them to come and tryout for the team, I would never see them. They failed to take possession of an opportunity to make the baseball team.

Our right relationship with God is the same way. Unless we fail to accept ownership (the gift) that we have received in Jesus Christ, we can never expect to be righteous. Our gift of righteousness – being in a right relationship with God and with others – comes from God as a gift of faith (Romans 3:22; Philippians 3:9). However, like the Israelites and their gift of the Promise Land, we must take possession of it. In short we have to live out our faith!

In John 1:43, Jesus invites Phillip, "follow me." He was inviting Phillip to walk in his footsteps and accompany him. Phillip said yes, and because of this decision he was able to have a deep relationship with Jesus and then point others to God.

Jesus also gives you the opportunity to follow him and point others to God. Will you take possession of this opportunity?

Step-up to the plate and take a swing!

Question(s): Are you missing out on your opportunity to have a right relationship with God and others?

Challenge: Take time this week to read Joshua 18:3, John 1, Romans 3:22, and Philippians 3:9.

Prayer: Thank you Jesus for your gift of mercy and grace. Thank you for the opportunity to live in freedom and be reconciled with you! Thank you for providing my life with a purpose and an opportunity to point others to you.

-- Todd Burger – NOVA/DC FCA Baseball