

DEFEATING BARRENNESS AND FULFILLING YOUR DESTINY

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Matthew 11:12

From the days of John the Baptizer until now the Kingdom of Heaven has been administered by force, and only those in power can control it.

- This tells us that the moment we choose to follow Jesus, His enemies become our enemies.
- We are at war.
- Even though Jesus has already won the victory, we will encounter opposition and resistance.
- We must be the ones in power so we can control what goes on in the Kingdom.

This is the answer to the million dollar question people ask:

- Why?
- Why did they die?
- Why don't I have enough?
- Why can't I succeed?
- Why is this happening to me?
- Why do bad things happen to good people?

God is a good God and the devil is a bad devil. Let's put the blame where it belongs:

- Every good and pleasant gift comes down from the Father of Light.
- The thief comes to steal, kill, and destroy; but Jesus came to give life and that life would be more than abundant.

Peter instructs us to be wise and not ignorant of our enemies schemes and the devices he uses to thwart God's plans for our lives; so this morning we are going to focus on one tool he uses--
BARRENNESS.

When dealing with barrenness you are dealing with stagnation and limitation.

- It seeks to curtail your life; your status; your ministry; your church; your business and your family.
- Barrenness wants you to remain where you are.
- It hates progress; enlargement and growth.

Scripture tells us that those who broke barrenness did not just bring forth an ordinary child, but something miraculous and amazing that brought deliverance to their generations.

- Isaac was the promised seed out of whom came God's covenant people.
- Joseph, whose name means 'addition', became the deliverer for God's people in the midst of famine and recession.
- Samson delivered God's people from their enemies.
- Samuel became a king maker.
- John the Baptizer was the forerunner to Messiah.

Why did the devil attack the women who bore these men?

- Because they would all bring forth 'deliverers'.
- The devil is afraid of what you are about to give birth to!
- That is the reason he has blocked your life.

Judges 13:2-3

- From times past she was unable to conceive
- The Word of the Lord was spoken
- Change was coming to her life
- Barrenness would no longer hold sway over her

Luke 1:5-7

- This is where so many of us find ourselves today.
- Righteous, yet barren
- Blameless, yet barren
- A priest, yet living a non-productive life.

Genesis 1:28

- God's first dealings with mankind was a promise of fruitfulness.
- God is all about addition and multiplication.
- There is a divine mandate on your life to grow and multiply.

No matter what you are going through or what crisis the world is going through, you do not have to taste or experience barrenness!

There are three laws found in Genesis:

- Everything reproduces after it's own kind.
- Seedtime and harvest--without a seed, there is no harvest.
- Be fruitful and multiply--replenish and dominate.

These laws came out of the mouth of God! They are unchangeable!

- Barrenness is a curse.
- It violates one of the laws of Genesis.
- Barrenness seeks to make the Most High God look like a liar before humanity.
- Barrenness challenges the very first words spoken by Abba to mankind.

What is barrenness?

- It is primarily a spiritual issue that manifests in the natural in different levels and different ways.

Genesis 11:30

- The word for 'barren' here is 'aqar'
- It means 'beyond the natural ability to conceive and bear a child as the generative organ was destroyed'
- Another word is 'shakol' meaning to 'miscarry, suffering loss and abortion'; to be deprived and childless after conception; to be left in a place of desolation

Leviticus 26:22

- Notice these words:
- Rob you of your children
- Destroy your cattle
- Make you few in number
- And your high ways desolate

This is what 'shakol' does to a person; a business; a ministry.

- Those who are attacked by 'shakol' remain few in number--never waxing great
- When they do get a breakthrough, it is just a matter of time before they lose it and go back to square one.

Another Hebrew word for barren is 'oster'

- To shut up; retain, detain, withhold,
- Restrain, close up
- Be oppressed
- Be in prison

'Oster' oppresses and restrains a life from producing.

- It is an invisible prison, shut up and withheld from abundant life.
- It is to experience a closing in whatever endeavor you undertake.
- Nothing flourishes--not business, church, ministry, relationships..

Another word is 'melechah' meaning

- Salted, deserted, and barren land
- Barrenness is not just biological, but territorial as well

'tsiyah' is yet another word meaning

- No life and no vibrancy
- Solitary
- Dryness, drought

Deuteronomy 28:37-44

- You feel like an object of scorn and mockery
- You sow much, but reap little
- Your harvest is eaten up; as soon as it comes, it leaves
- You feel as if there is a lack of anointing over your life
- You cannot enjoy your children, they are prisoners of vices
- Your belongings are destroyed and devoured
- You are left behind and others progress before you
- You lack money; you are in debt

INDICATORS THAT BARRENNESS IS OPPOSING YOU

- Your finances have remained the same for years
- Your business is not growing and you find yourself in debt
- Whatever you start, you cannot finish
- You are overlooked for positions in favor of someone less qualified
- No matter how hard you work, you have nothing to show from it
- Every time you receive an increase in your life, a problem crops up and you can't enjoy the increase
- No matter what you do, you cannot seem to go forward
- Life is a constant source of frustration
- You have been married a long time and have not been able to conceive or birth a child
- Your children have not progressed beyond you; they have the same struggles that you have
- They were raised in a Christian home, but are struggling with vices
- There is no excitement or vibrancy in your life
- Dissatisfaction and despair cloak your thoughts

These are just a few indicators that you need to take seriously.

If you see any of these indicators in your life then barrenness has gained an unfair advantage.

- Barrenness is refusing to give you room to move forward.
- Barrenness is operating in your life; restraining and delaying your

destiny.

- Barrenness is opposing you and has earmarked you for failure.

Let's look at the patriarchs and their battles with barrenness to give us courage to rise above barrenness and move forward to the life of abundance that Jesus redeemed us for.

Genesis 12:1-4 Abraham and Sarah

- Abraham left Ur with a promise from God
- He had a covenant with God
- Yet he battled barrenness for 24 years
- Sarah was afflicted with 'aqar' barrenness
- It looked like that promise would never be fulfilled as 'aqar' endeavored to stop the Messianic lineage
- But Abraham and Sarah broke the spirit of barrenness and brought forth the promised seed--Isaac

How did they do it?

- They believed the Word of God
- They changed their names
- They began to see themselves differently
- They began to speak
- They began to call those things that be not as though they were
- Abraham means 'the father of many nations'
- Sarah means 'princess'--why that?
- in the culture of those times barrenness brought great shame upon a woman and her family---Shame destroys your self-image
- God deals with the root [story of 'Joshua died-he died']

Genesis 25:20-21 Isaac and Rebekah

- Isaac and Rebekah struggled with barrenness, too
- He was 40 years old when he married
- He was 60 years old when his boys were born

- They were barren for 20 years

Genesis 24:54-60

- Notice the powerful prophetic blessing spoken over her
- Isaac was the promised seed and Rebekah had a powerful prophecy decreed over her, yet, they remained barren for 20 years
- Their prophetic words and destinies were being challenged by barrenness!
- But barrenness was broken when Isaac 'entreated' the Lord for his wife
- Matthew Henry commentary tells us that the Jews have a tradition--saying Isaac took Rebekah to Mount Moriah where God had promised that He would multiply Abraham's seed; and there, in his prayer with her and for her, pleaded the promise made in that very place...And God heard...

How did they defeat barrenness?

- Prayer
- They went to the Court of Heaven and pleaded their case

Genesis 28:10-14 and Genesis 29:17, 31 Jacob and Rachel

- Jacob received the promise
- Yet, Rachel, the woman he loved was barren

Rachel was

- Beautiful, yet barren
- Loved, yet barren
- Married to a great patriarch whose life was under prophecy, yet barren

Genesis 30:1; 22-24

- Rachel gave birth to Joseph--a great deliverer
- Jacob and Rachel broke away from reproach and added to their lives when barrenness was defeated

How did they defeat barrenness?

- A good verdict was rendered from the Court of Heaven

The three great patriarchs fought barrenness and came to a place of destiny and honor.

- We will have to fight barrenness too
- The devil wants to keep you small
- He wants to limit your potential
- He wants to restrain your growth and blessings
- He wants to keep you in a small box
- He wants to frustrate you and control you with barrenness.

There's a huge difference between our battles and the patriarch's battles.

- They had covenant relationship and a word from God
- We have covenant relationship, the Word of God, the Blood of Jesus; the Name of Jesus AND the word of our testimony!
- We have the same Spirit living in us that raised Jesus from the dead!
- We have more weapons and tools at our disposal to use against the adversary
- More than that--we possess the VICTORY! Jesus defeated the devil

What does this mean?

- We shouldn't have to wait 20-25 years to see results!
- When we operate in the ways of God, we will see results the same way Jesus did.

Mark 9:14-29

- A lifestyle of prayer with fasting is needed to see the same results that Jesus had
- It's in those times of focused prayer and fasting that prepare us to

know how to deal with the strategies that are designed to stop God's plans for our lives.

- We must stay connected to Heaven long enough for the process of downloading your miracle to come to full fruition.
- Just like downloading a file to your computer
- It must stay connected to the internet long enough for the transfer to be complete
- It is transferring from one location to your location
- When it is completed--it manifest to your hard drive
- There will be a transfer from the spirit world to the natural world if you will stay connected!
- Pray through until you get a release; a note of victory; etc...
- Prayer is the most important and effective tool we have that will ensure God's will is carried out in the Earth and in our lives.
- Failure is a result of not enough prayer.

Let's review:

- Recognize the signs of the spirit of barrenness
- Deal with it in the Court of Heaven
- Live a lifestyle of prayer and fasting
- Always enter the Court of Heaven with praise
- Then move into praying in the Spirit, because He knows exactly what to pray
- Follow His lead and deal with the issues He brings up through confession, repentance and pleading the Blood
- Move back into praise as the Spirit leads
- Then begin to give voice to prophetic words as the Spirit leads
- Seek direction on what and where to plant a seed
- Release the power of God through your words--commanding barrenness to leave; decreeing and declaring what is lawful and unlawful in your life