> Revelation 3:11 – “I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown.”

This verse underscores the importance of perseverance and faithfulness in the Christian life. The phrase “hold on to what you have” is not merely about physical possessions or titles, but about safeguarding the spiritual gifts, callings, and responsibilities that God has entrusted to us. Jesus is coming soon, and it’s crucial that we don’t let others or even our own neglect cause us to lose the crown (the reward) prepared for us.

Notice that it doesn’t say, “so that the devil won’t take your crown,” but rather, “so that no one will take your crown.” The devil can’t take your crown because it holds no value to him. It is people—either through indifference, deception, or spiritual apathy—who can rob you of what is rightfully yours. The devil’s role is more often to distract, tempt, and weaken you, but it is ultimately your own choices and actions that allow someone else to take what God has given you.

THE EXAMPLE OF JUDAS ISCARIOT AND MATTHIAS

Let’s break this down further using biblical examples. Judas Iscariot was entrusted with a place among the twelve apostles. He was given the responsibility of stewarding the finances of the ministry, but he betrayed Jesus for thirty pieces of silver. His failure to value what was entrusted to him caused him to lose his place, and as a result, Matthias took his place in the ministry.

> Acts 1:24-26
>
> “Then they prayed, saying, ‘You, Lord, who know the hearts of all men, show us which of these two You have chosen,
>
> 25 to take part in this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place.’
>
> 26 And they cast their lots, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

Matthias didn’t take the place of an apostle by ambition or desire for power; he was chosen by God. This highlights a theological

point: God calls individuals to specific roles and ministries, and when someone fails to carry out their calling faithfully, God will raise up someone else. Jesus had already warned that it would be better for someone to have never been born than to betray Him (Matthew 26:24). Judas's failure to appreciate his calling cost him everything.

THE EXAMPLE OF ESAU AND JACOB

Another biblical example comes from the story of Esau and Jacob. Esau, the older twin, was entitled to the birthright, which carried both physical and spiritual blessings. However, Esau despised his birthright for a single meal and sold it to Jacob, his younger brother. This decision was driven by immediate gratification, and it cost him the inheritance he could have received.

> Hebrews 12:16-17
>
> "16 Lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright.
>
> 17 For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit

> the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears.

Esau’s disregard for his birthright is a clear example of how spiritual blessings and positions can be forfeited if they are not valued. In Hebrews 12:16, Esau is described as “profane,” meaning that he treated sacred things with contempt. This is a powerful warning to Christians not to despise the spiritual inheritance and callings we’ve been given. If we take them lightly, we risk losing them, just as Esau lost his birthright forever.

THE THEOLOGICAL IMPACT OF FAITHFULNESS AND STEWARDSHIP

In both examples—Judas and Esau—we see the principle that God entrusts each person with responsibilities and blessings, but it is our responsibility to maintain, value, and faithfully steward them. This concept of stewardship is central in Christian theology. 1 Corinthians 4:2 states, “Moreover, it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.” Faithfulness is the key to preserving our spiritual inheritance. God has called us into a divine partnership with Him, and it is our job to take care of what He has given us. If we neglect our calling, someone else will rise up in our place.

Consider the parable of the talents in Matthew 25:14-30. The master entrusts three servants with different amounts of money (talents), and they are expected to invest and grow these talents. The one who did not invest his talent was rebuked and cast into outer darkness. This illustrates that God holds us accountable for what He has entrusted to us. If we fail to invest the gifts, callings, and opportunities He has given us, we risk losing them and forfeiting our reward.

THE URGENCY OF BEARING FRUIT

In this season, the axe is already laid to the root of the trees, ready to cut off every branch that does not bear good fruit. This echoes Luke 3:9, where John the Baptist warns, “And now also the ax is laid to the root of the trees: every tree therefore which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.” God is serious about fruitfulness. Spiritual fruitfulness is the outward expression of our relationship with Him and the good stewardship of what He has given us. If we are not bearing fruit, there will be consequences.

> John 15:2

> Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

Here, Jesus teaches that every believer is meant to bear fruit. The fruit we bear—whether in evangelism, service, or righteous living—is a reflection of the health of our relationship with Him. God will prune and refine us to make us more fruitful, but He will also remove those who refuse to bear fruit, as they have no value in His Kingdom.

CONCLUSION: HOLD ON TO WHAT YOU HAVE

The message is clear: Hold on to what you have. Don’t neglect your calling, your ministry, or your spiritual gifts. Whatever God has entrusted to you—whether it’s evangelism, intercession, hospitality, or any other ministry—do it with all your heart. Don’t allow anyone to take your crown.

In 2 Timothy 4:7-8, Paul says, “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous

Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for His appearing.”

May we remain faithful, diligent, and vigilant, holding fast to the crown that God has set before us. May we bear fruit in every season and live out the calling He has given us, so that when He returns, we can say, “I have kept the faith.”

May the Lord bless you and help you hold on to what you have been entrusted with.

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