

Spiritual Victory - Part 5

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I. Spiritual Victory: Courage (Numbers 13)

A. Moses sent men to spy out the land of Promise.

B. They were to see what kind of people and land it was.

C. They were to be of good courage and bring some of the fruit of the land.

1. Some people think Moses made a mistake here because God had already promised the land.

2. God does not condemn common sense; He just says do not lean on it.

(Proverbs 3:5-6)

3. Peter was released from prison by an angel and he hid where the authorities couldn't find him. (Acts 12:17-19)

4. Israel searched the land and found it to be good land. (Numbers 13:21-27)

5. Nevertheless, they feared the people.

6. Caleb stilled the people, encouraging Israel to possess the land, trusting the promises of God.

7. Victory is already ours. (1 Corinthians 15:57)

8. But Israel refused to believe God here, seeing the people as stronger than themselves; their minds were on selves, bringing defeat.

9. God never said they were able in their own strength; only in God's strength are they sufficient.

a. Being weak is irrelevant for God's strength is made perfect in our weakness. (2 Corinthians 12:9)

b. The real issue is faith; God already promised the land to Abraham. (Genesis 15:18-21)

c. The enemy is real but God is greater.

d. The problem with Israel was unbelief. (Psalm 106:24)

e. Courage is not pretending, but acknowledging difficult and believing God anyway.

1) Courage is doing the thing you are afraid of.

2) This begins with perspective.

3) From a high perspective giants and dwarfs are the same.

4) In God's eyes all men are alike.

10. Israel also forgot the objective of going in to Canaan to bless the world.

- a. We also go in to the world to bless all with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- b. We are not going into the world for our own ease and pleasure.

D. The facts.

1. Rahab knew that the Lord had given the land to Israel and that fear had fallen on the Israelites. (Joshua 2:9-11)

2. The people feared since the time of the Exodus.

3. Israel failed to look at the facts and began to fear.

- a. Flying over the Midwest farm fields look like squares.
- b. We must look at life from God's viewpoint.
- c. If we do not then problems will knock us off course.

E. Kings should not multiply horses, wives, or silver and gold to himself. (Deuteronomy 17:14-20)

1. Horses can make a person proud. (Psalm 20:7; 33:17)

2. Many wives make one trust in flesh. (1 Kings 11:2; Nehemiah 13:26)

3. Riches make one trust in self. (1 Timothy 6:7)

- a. Loving money caused kings to tax the people heavily. (1 Kings 12:11)
- b. This is against the will of God.

4. These represent the lust of the flesh, of the eyes and the pride of life.

5. An antidote to this is to write out the word of God's Law.

- a. We are to love God's word.
- b. We are to be humble.
- c. We are to be obedient to God.

F. Priests should be satisfied with the offerings of the people. (Numbers 18; 1 Timothy 6:6)

G. Moses also taught purity to the people. (Deuteronomy 18:9-12)

H. Moses gives principles of war; war is inevitable. (Deuteronomy 20)

1. Take the offensive.

2. Do not fear; that is, do not be controlled by fear.

- a. In *Winning Ways* a marine tells of helping a man being assaulted by six people.
- b. In spite of great fear he helped the man.

3. Trust God in the battle.

- a. God goes with us in the battle.
- b. He fights for us.

4. Those who have their minds on other things than the cause of God should be dismissed from spiritual battle. (Luke 14:18-20)

- a. Possessions can distract us from God's purposes.
- b. Work can distract us from God's purposes.
- c. A wife can distract us from God's purposes.

5. If any are fearful they also should leave the battle, lest they cause others to lose heart. (Isaiah 8:12-13)

- a. Those always pointing out the negative should not go into battle.
- b. We need to focus our minds on God.

6. When involved in war a long time we should not destroy the trees of the field. (Deuteronomy 20:19-20)

- a. Do not damage long term relationships in order to try to win one person.
- b. Use common sense in spiritual warfare.

I. Moses summarizes the principles of warfare. (Deuteronomy 30)

- 1. They have a unique personal relationship with God.
- 2. We should love the Lord thy God. (John 14:21)
- 3. Death and evil is set before Israel and they are encouraged to choose life (Deuteronomy 30:15)
 - a. Our lives can be fruitful or empty.
 - b. Our decisions are crucial.

II. Summary.

- A. Remember your relationship with God.
- B. Love God with all your heart.
- C. Give God your life today.