

# **Spiritual Victory - Part 6**

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## I. Spiritual victory

A. God has a training program in the wilderness.

1. Israel was in bondage for over 2 centuries.
2. God took turned them in to warriors.

## II. God used battles to train His people.

A. All these things happen as examples for New Testament believers.

1. There is no victory where there is no battle.
2. We stand on the promises and this will be all we have.
3. Sometimes the future looks so hopeless that God's promises are all we have.
  - a. We all get to where we cry ourselves to sleep.
  - b. We all get tested like this.

B. The first lesson about Jesus in the Bible was in connection with battle. (Genesis 3:15)

1. We have joined forces with Jesus and the battle is on us.
2. Conflict will not end till Jesus returns.

C. God chooses servants to fight his battles. (Joshua 1:1)

1. Moses is referred to as a servant or a man of God.
2. What makes one a man of God?
  - a. His one desire in life is to serve God.
  - b. This leads to great devotion to God.
  - c. One who leads and has never served can become a tyrant.
  - d. Seeking power for personal use is misuse.
  - e. No one who desires power is fit to wield it.
  - f. Paul was a servant before an apostle. (Romans 1:1; Titus 1:1)

- 1) He was a servant.
- 2) His task in the body was apostleship.

g. There is always room for another servant.

- 1) Stephen was chosen to serve the body. (Acts 6:5)
- 2) Stephen knew the Bible yet he served the widows.
- 3) He became the first martyr of the church.
- 4) He may have missed this opportunity had he not served.

h. Servants don't lord it over the flock but serve them. (1 Peter 5:3)

i. Princes of Gentiles exercise authority over others but princes in the church must serve others. (Matthew 20:25-28)

3. Why did God choose Joshua?

a. Joshua was a man of courage. (Numbers 13)

- 1) God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble. (1 Peter 5:5-6)
- 2) I met a man who went into missions to straighten out those on the field
- 3) That proud spirit needed to go.
- 4) He humbled himself and sought forgiveness from others.
- 5) This marked the first time he found satisfaction on the mission field.

b. Joshua was a man of faith. (Joshua 1:11)

- 1) He trusted in God's promise and the presence. (Joshua 1:9)
  - a) God has promised not to leave us or to withdraw support. (Hebrews 13:5)
- 2) Joshua knew he was in the will of God.
  - a) Paul knew it.
  - b) We need to know we are in God's will.
  - c) The experiences we have had will encourage us for the present, yet we must not think of these experiences as a pattern for the future. (1 Chronicles 16:7-36)

d) How did Joshua know God had spoken to him?

i. God spoke from the tabernacle. (Leviticus 1:1; Deuteronomy 31:14)

ii. God had Joshua anointed. (Numbers 27:15)

e) Learning to commune with God is key to spiritual victory.

3) Joshua sanctified himself to prepare for the miracles God planned to do among them. (Joshua 3:5, 11, 15)

a) God had Israel cross the Jordan in flood time. (Joshua 5:1)

b) God's ways are not our ways.

c) Joshua committed himself and there was no turning back. (Joshua 3:17)

d) God took Israel out of Egypt by miraculous deliverance. (Exodus 14:10-12)

i. God fought for Israel.

ii. God became the help Israel needed. (Psalm 106:9-10)

4. God overcame Israel's problems through prayer. (Exodus 17:8-16)

a. Prayer is basic to winning the spiritual wars we face.

b. God promised to destroy Amalek, the enemy of Israel.

c. The first lesson they learned here is that the devil is a dirty fighter. (Deuteronomy 25:17-19)

d. There is no magic formula for victory.

1) We must get directives from God day by day.

2) After victory they build a memorial to God.

3) We often build memorials to each other.