

Spiritual Victory - Part 1

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I. Spiritual Victory

B. The events of the Old Testament happened for the admonition of New Testament believers. (1 Corinthians 10:11)

1. This brings the Old Testament to life.
2. The Egyptian army closing in on the children of Israel causes us to wonder how we would have responded to this threat.
3. The wall of Jericho causes us to wonder what we would do in that circumstance.

C. The principles of war in Deuteronomy.

1. There is no victory without battle.
2. Victory is basic to Christ-centered living.
3. The first reference to Christ includes warfare. (Genesis 3:15)
4. The continuing fight between good and evil goes on today.

II. God led Israel through the way of the wilderness so they would not have to fight the Philistines. (Exodus 13:17)

A. God led them, even though they doubted Him.

1. God led them the right way. (Psalm 107:7)
2. God knows what he's doing and He has our best interest at heart.
3. God needed to prepare Israel for war.
4. If you feel lost in a maze of confusion, trust that God is leading you in the right way. (1 Corinthians 4:5)
5. Israel had been slaves, and the change from slavery to soldier requires discipline.
6. God will not leave us in a wilderness but will take us through it.
 - a. He led Israel by cloud during the day.
 - b. He led them by fire during the night.
 - c. This is summarized by Nehemiah in chapter 9, verses 13-21.

7. When Pharaoh came near Israel cried out in fear and doubt. (Exodus 14:10-12)
 - a. They thought it would have been better to serve the Egyptians than to die.
 - b. Liberty is always accompanied by difficulty.
 - c. Moses told them to fear not but to stand and see the victory of God (Exodus 14:13-14)
 - d. The angel of God blocked the way of Pharaoh from Israel.
 - e. When Israel needed protection God became their protection.
 - 1) God is the great “I am.” (Exodus 3:14)
 - 2) Whatever God’s people need He becomes.
 - 3) He led them through the Red Sea. (Psalm 106:9-10)

8. No one could have predicted the deliverance of God.
 - a. God’s ways are higher than man’s ways. (Isaiah 55:9-10)
 - b. We should not second guess God.
 - c. If you are in a corner tonight, stand still and see the salvation of God.

B. After their deliverance Israel sang and praised the Lord; shortly after, however, they complained at the waters of Marah.

1. Disappointment will cause either doubt or trust to spring up.
 - a. David praised God. (Psalm 63:1)
 - b. Israel complained.
2. Be encouraged because after bitter waters come sweet waters of blessing. (Exodus 15:27)
 - a. Pray that in your wilderness blessings will follow.
 - b. God trains his people in wilderness experiences which can make or break you.
3. This training transformed Israel into a nation with confidence in God.
 - a. We all need to come out of our slavery to sin.
 - b. We need to become more than conquerors.

III. There are six lessons God teaches in the wilderness. (Deuteronomy 30).

A. The first lesson God teaches in the wilderness is faith. (Exodus 16:1-8).

1. Israel desired to return to Egypt when they desired meat, doubting if the Lord really did deliver them.

a. We all doubt at times.

b. We doubt God Himself, causing us to examine whether we believe in the sovereignty of God.

c. We argue with God when things go wrong.

1) God hears our murmurings and He is not impressed.

2) But God's truth extends to the clouds and his mercy is over all.

2. Israel wanted to kill Moses, proving that leaders can do seventeen things right but one thing wrong and people will turn on them. (2 Corinthians 12:15)

3. Murmurings are against the Lord.

4. Trusting and obeying God is the only way to live in Christ.

5. Tests come to all God's children causing us to doubt His goodness and His power.

6. God is developing solid faith in us, even arranging difficult circumstances for us so that we can learn to trust Him.

a. If Jesus' disciples had remembered what Jesus said, "Let us go over to the other side" they would have trusted Him, but they focused on the wind and the waves. (Luke 8:22)

1) Jesus told the disciples to prepare the room for Passover. (Luke 22:7-13)

2) Jesus told the disciples to find a colt for his entry into Jerusalem. (19:29-35)

3) God told Moses there would be meat to eat. (Exodus 16:12)

b. God told the people to gather a double portion of manna for Sabbath but some went out on Sabbath anyway, and God rebuked Moses because he was responsible as the leader of the people. (Exod 16:27-28)

1) Be not many leaders. (James 3:1)

2) Leaders incur greater condemnation.

7. Daniel went into see the king confident he could make the interpretation known. (Daniel 2:16)

8. Moses struck the rock and water came forth. (Exodus 17:1- Psalm 78:15-16; Psalm 114:8; 1 Corinthians 10:4)

B. Israel's first battle was with Amalek and we can learn three lessons from it. (Exodus 17:8)

1. The devil is a dirty fighter. (Deuteronomy 25:17-19)

a. Prayer was the instrument God used to win this battle.

b. Aaron and Hur supported Moses in this prayer effort.

c. The more spiritual the service the more weariness can be incurred, but God is our victory. (1 Corinthians 15:57)

d. Joshua did not win the battle; God did.

2. There is no magic formula for spiritual victory.

a. When Pharaoh was closing in on Israel needed to stand still.

b. Against Amalek they had to fight.

3. The battle is won by prayer.