

Spiritual Victory - Part 9

LeRoy Eims

I. Israel is given a warning in spiritual warfare. (Joshua 23:7)

A. They are not to associate with the surrounding nations.

1. They should not sin with the nations.

2. They should not learn their ways.

a. But Israel failed. (Numbers 3:12)

b. They had 40 years of peace then failed. (Judges 3:11)

B. There are three reasons for failure.

1. The corrupt nature is prone to wander from what is right.

a. A drunken man asked a girl to stop humming *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing* and when she asked why he said he wrote it.

b. The words of this song say we are prone to wander, and it's true.

2. The ill effects of a soft life are bad.

3. The need of good leadership is crucial. (Judges 5:15)

a. Pride and abundance of idleness and neglect of the poor led to Israel's downfall. (Ezekiel 16:49)

b. The nation was cursed because they did not help in the battle. (Judges 5:17, 23; Proverbs 3:27)

c. Israel saw no need of helping one another, yet we are a body and need each other, especially in this battle.

d. The enemy came to destroy Israel in the day of Gideon. (Judges 6:5)

1) The enemy is out to destroy believers.

2) Israel was impoverished, but continued in their sin.

3) A child of God has three birthrights.

a) Freedom. (John 8:36)

b) Provision. (Philippians 4:19)

c) Victory. (Philippians 4:13)

4) Yet Israel lived in defeat because of sin. (Proverbs 28:1)

e. A prophet came to deliver Israel but they wanted deliverance in their sin, which is impossible. (Judges 6:8)

f. Gideon was alone when he was commissioned by God (Judges 6:11)

1) He was humble.

2) He was hard working.

3) But Gideon had a problem with faith. (Judges 6:13)

4) God helped him by promising his presence and victory.

5) Gideon complained of his poor condition.

g. Moses also had a problem with faith. (Exodus 3:6)

1) He was afraid to look at God.

2) God said he wanted to deliver Israel.

3) God called Moses to lead Israel.

4) Moses complained about his poor condition, saying, "Who am I?"

5) God answered him by promising divine presence in the battle.

6) God is not looking for superstars, but for submitted people.

h. The word of God came to Jeremiah ordaining him a prophet. (Jeremiah 1:2)

1) Jeremiah complained of his poor condition.

2) God answered by promising his presence.

i. Gideon is commanded to tear down the altars of Baal. (Judges 6:25)

1) Gideon tore it down at night.

2) Gideon then asked for signs to confirm God's promise to deliver Israel through him. (Judges 6:36-40)

3) God's objective in battle is to get people's hearts back to himself, so he whittles down Gideon's army to a few lest they think they won the battle themselves. (Joshua 7:2)

4) In the end it's 300 against the multitude but he had three things to hold onto by faith.

a) God's commission.

b) The promise of God's presence.

c) God's promise of victory.

5) The watchful were the ones God chose.

6) There are three groups of people in the world.

a) Those to whom Christ is nothing.

b) Those to whom Christ is something.

c) Those to whom Christ is everything. (1 Corinthians 1:27; 2 Corinthians 12:9-10)

7) Some men complained with Gideon after he won the victory. (Judges 8:1)

a) This is common. (1 Peter 2:22-23)

b) Leaders need to learn that the complaints of others will be dealt with in heaven.

4. Sin caused God to give his people again into slavery. (Judges 13:1)

a. Israel battles with the Philistines after the 40 years of discipline by self effort, without repentance or reliance on God. (1 Samuel 4:1)

b. Next they tried to get the aid of God while living in sin, which is foolish. (Proverbs 19:3)

c. They next trusted in the Ark of the Covenant in disobedience. (Deuteronomy 12:9-11)

1) Even ungodly men brought the ark up.

2) Israel was defeated.

3) They did not repent for 20 years but finally they did. (1 Samuel 7:2)

a) Turn from idols.

b) Serve God.

c) Get their hearts right.

d. Israel defeated their enemies after repentance and after Samuel prayed for them. (1 Samuel 7:8)

1) The Lord helped Israel. (1 Samuel 7:12)

2) Samuel was the leader Israel needed in this time of need.

5. We all must learn the power of personal prayer.

a. Prayer is not preparation for the battle.

b. Prayer is the battle.

c. We often only pray when all else fails.