

Spiritual Victory - Part 10

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I. Saul teaches us an important principle in spiritual victory after being made king. (1 Samuel 10:19)

A. Israel had rejected God as their ruler so they desired a king.

1. Saul is chosen king and his initial response to the office of king shows him hiding.
2. Saul realized the enormity of the task and it humbled him.
3. He did not quickly begin ordering people around but returned to his home.
4. He bided his time until a big problem came up.
 - a. Nahash the Ammonite threatened Israel and Saul stepped out in faith to come to the rescue. (1 Samuel 11:1-4)
 - b. He delivered the people and they rallied behind him. (1 Samuel 11:12)
5. Suddenly Saul has a big change when the next big challenge comes up. (1 Samuel 13:9)
 - a. Samuel told Saul to wait until Samuel came to Gilgal. (1 Samuel 10:8)
 - b. Saul got impatient and offered a sacrifice without Samuel.
 1. Saul was self-sufficient.
 2. Saul was self-defending.
 3. Samuel came two hours after Saul offered the sacrifice.
 4. This act of self-will cost Saul the kingdom.

B. We can all get out of the will of God by coming to a blank wall and taking matters into our own hands without getting orders from God.

1. Abraham tried to get a son through Hagar.
2. This was Abraham's most glaring mistake.
3. This mistake brought into existence people who are radically opposed to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
4. Saul destroyed his kingdom by acting outside the will of God.
5. Any of us can destroy our effectiveness in the kingdom by acting outside the will of God.

II. David and Goliath provide principles of spiritual victory. (1 Samuel 17:1, 4, 11)

A. Israel was greatly afraid of Goliath.

1. Saul had been courageous. (1 Samuel 11:6)
2. Now he is afraid.
3. Goliath cursed Israel by his god.
4. David came to Goliath in the name of the Lord (1 Samuel 17:46)
 - a. David won the battle in the strength of the Lord.
 - b. The battle was the Lord's.

B. David fought again against the Philistines. (2 Samuel 5:17, 19)

1. David was a Philistine fighter and many times after inquiring of the Lord he won great battles. (2 Samuel 5:19)
2. David could have taken it for granted that he could win these battles in his own strength, but one time he asked God the Lord said to not go up directly but to circle around them. (2 Samuel 5:23)
3. The Christian life is not life by theology and logic but on communion with the Lord and there is no magic formula to know what to do.

III. Hezekiah teaches us another lesson in spiritual victory. (2 Kings 18)

A. The king of Assyria threatened Israel and Hezekiah gave him money, thinking he could make a deal with his enemy.

1. We cannot make a deal with the devil.
2. We resist the devil in the name of the Lord.
3. Negotiating with the devil does not work.
4. After Hezekiah bought off the King of Assyria he just came back to attack anyway (2 Kings 18:31-32)
 - a. Hezekiah's enemy boasted great swelling words to make him fear.
 - b. The king sought another deal with Hezekiah, making himself out to be greater than Yahweh.
 - c. Hezekiah prayed in the house of God and sent word to Isaiah the prophet. (2 Kings 19:1)

d. One king and one prophet's prayer moved God to kill 185,000 men of Assyria, delivering Israel. (2 Kings 19:35)

e. The king of Assyria's pride brought him down.

1. Pride is a cause of much defeat in spiritual battles.

2. When David proudly numbered the people 70,000 men died. (1 Chronicles 21:1-7)

3. When he committed adultery with Bathsheba only one person died as a result of that sin.

4. Without trying to weigh one sin against another it is important to remember that God resists the prideful but gives grace to the humble.

B. We will all face spiritual battles where the enemy will appear to be greater than us, and we must not become prideful but rely on God.

IV. Jehoshaphat won a great battle against Moab, Ammon, and others. (2 Chronicles 20)

A. This is like the Chinese army surrounding Oklahoma.

1. Jehoshaphat feared greatly and sought the Lord by fasting and prayer.

2. He reminded himself that God is Lord of heaven and earth and that he has power and might to deal with anyone.

3. He reminded himself that God is Israel's God.

4. He claimed the promise made to Abraham in prayer.

5. The promises of God inspire us to pray and prayer activates the promises.

6. Jehoshaphat recognized his inadequacy but relied on the adequacy of God.

7. The prophet came to assure Jehoshaphat that the battle is not his but the Lord's. (2 Chronicles 20:15)

8. The prophet commanded him to go out tomorrow against the enemies because God would fight for him.

9. He was commanded to believe in the Lord and to believe in his prophets and see the victory.

10. Jehoshaphat placed singers out in front to praise the Lord. (2 Chronicles 20:21)

11. The Lord won the victory as the people exercised faith in him.

12. There is coming a time in each of our lives when we all have no strength to fight the enemy and praise and worship is the only thing we can offer in our defense.

B. In closing there are several verses that assure us of victory in spiritual battle.

1. Various tests should cause us to rejoice because the trying faith works patience. (James 1:2-4)

B. Rejoice in suffering because we partake in Christ's sufferings. (1 Peter 4:12-13)

C. Glory in tribulations because tribulation works patience and patience works hope. (Romans 5:3-4)

D. We are strengthened with all might according to God's glorious power unto endurance, longsuffering, and patience. (Colossians 1:9-12)

a. Praise God in difficult times.

b. Sing to God in difficult times.

c. These activities show the power of God in our lives.

5. We know that all things work together for good to them that love God that are called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:28)

a. In the middle of a spiritual battle and when the devil looks formidable, remember that God knows what he is about.

b. We can trust him to the limit because he went to the limit for us.

c. The cross shows God's commitment to us.

d. We are on the winning team.