

Spiritual Victory - Part 7

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I. Two commands were given to Joshua before he was commissioned to take the land.

A. Joshua was commanded to meditate on the word. (Joshua 1:8)

1. In spite of his busy preparations God commanded him to meditate.
2. This is the first time God commanded man to get instructions from a book.
3. Thinking on God's book affects his thinking, granting him success.
 - a. Men who meditate on the word prosper. (Psalm 1:1-3; 1 Timothy 4:15)
 - b. The promises that go with God's commands are so staggering we can't believe them.
 - c. Yet God means what He says.
 - d. Success is mentioned only once in the Bible, in relation to meditation.
4. What does it mean to meditate on God's word?
 - a. A man took us on a tour of London, running us quickly through many sites.
 - b. He moved so quickly we missed London.
 - c. A second man took us on a slow tour of London and we really saw the city.
 - d. We cannot sprint through the Scriptures; we must read slowly.
 - e. The promises are given to those who will meditate.
 - 1) Choose a book of the Bible and take a note book and pen.
 - 2) Pray for God to teach you from His word. (Psalm 119:18)
 - 3) Then read slowly, thoughtfully, prayerfully.
 - 4) Jot down what God says to you.
 - 5) Pray and ask the Lord's help to apply what you have heard.
 - 6) This process is communion with God.

B. Joshua was commanded to remove his sandals for the Lord is holy. (Josh 5:13-14)

1. Jesus Christ is mentioned with reference to conflict. (Genesis 3:15; 1 John 3:8; Hebrews 2:10; Isaiah 55)
2. Paul also asked what the Lord wanted him to do. (Acts 9:6)
3. Joshua finally went into battle. (Josh 6:1-3)
 - a. In the first battle Joshua was told to stand and see the Lord fight for him.
 - b. In the second battle with Amalek he fought.
 - c. In this third battle God promised to give him the city of Jericho.
 - 1) The priests go ahead with the ark in the middle and the people after.
 - 2) The Lord must take the central position in all our work.
 - 3) If God is not central we are off balance.
 - 4) The devil wants us to be off balance.
 - d. The people shouted after they circled the city seven days and the walls fell down flat, giving Israel great victory. (Joshua 6:20)
 - e. But Achan sinned by taking of the accursed things. (Joshua 7:1)
 - 1) When Joshua went after Ai they were defeated.
 - 2) Achan coveted the gold and garments of the Babylonians.
 - a) He saw it.
 - b) He coveted it.
 - c) He took it.
 - d) He hid it.
 - e) This was in disobedience to God's command.
 - f. Joshua went to God where he learned he could not wage holy war with unholy people. (Joshua 7:6)
 - 1) The unholy cannot stand among the people of God. (Proverbs 28:13)
 - 2) The Navigators today are better trained today than before but we lack a hunger for holiness.
 - 3) Moses was to find men who hate covetousness to lead Israel. (Exodus 18:21)

- 4) Jesus taught that His kingdom is not of this world.
- 5) John taught us to not love the world.
- 6) Achan was trying to take the consecrated things for himself.
- 7) We have work budgets and personal needs budget, and to take out of the work budget for personal needs is similar to what Achan did.
- 8) Our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit and we should glorify God with them.

g. Joshua received new instructions from God to defeat Ai. (Joshua 8:4-7)

- 1) They were to ambush the enemy, there is no magic formula.
- 2) This time the spoil was for the people.
- 3) The Lord God delivered Ai into the hands of Israel.

h. Joshua renewed the covenant. (Joshua 8:30-35)

- 1) Joshua built an altar to God and wrote out the Law.
- 2) He did not pursue the enemy but honored God.
- 3) They honored God because Moses commanded them to do it after God had given them the land. (Deuteronomy 11:29-30; 27:2-3)
- 4) The new possession of wealth could cause them to forget God.

II. New Testament application of Joshua's victory concerns money.

A. The love of money brings temptation. (1 Timothy 6:9)

1. Demas had fallen in love with the world.
2. Those who are rich should not trust in riches. (1 Timothy 6:17)

B. Money is not the issue but the love of it.

1. Many Christians have wealth but wealth does not have them.
2. After Ai Israel suddenly became rich so they needed to refocus on the word of God.