

## **Spiritual Victory - Part 8**

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I. We learned that the devil is a dirty fighter.

II. Today we will learn more about the enemies of God's people

A. The enemies of God will unite to fight against God's people. (Joshua 9:1-3)

1. We also learn that the devil is wily. (Ephesians 6:11)

2. They tricked Joshua, who didn't ask God about the Gibeonites. (Joshua 9:14)

B. There are three weapons to fight the devil with.

1. The Word. (Matthew 4:4)

2. Faith. (1 John 5:4-5)

3. Dependence on God. (Proverbs 3:5-6)

C. The devil is sneaky.

1. The serpent was more crafty than all the beasts of the field. (Genesis 3:1)

2. He says there is no penalty for sin.

3. He says the Word of God cannot be trusted.

4. He says God does not really love you.

D. The devil makes three promises.

1. Wisdom.

2. Union with God.

3. The good life.

E. The devil is active today.

1. He is active through cults that offer more to God's people, more than what God promises.

2. Cults advertise secret knowledge or light.

3. Cults masquerade as angels of light. (Genesis 3)

F. In the battle, time was running out. (Joshua 10:5)

1. God told Joshua he would win the battle but it was getting dark.
2. Joshua must have begun to wonder how they would win this battle.
  - a. Do you suppose anyone would have thought of having the sun stand still?
  - b. Yet this is exactly what Joshua did.
  - c. When was the last time you got before God and asked for a miracle?
    - 1) God is a miracle making God.
    - 2) Joshua knew this of God.
  - d. God is interested in all aspects of our lives and work. (2 Kings 6:1-7)
    - 1) We just do not think in terms of miracles but of human experience.
    - 2) But in spiritual warfare we must think from God's standpoint.
  - e. Joshua commanded the sun to stand still and it did. (Joshua 10:14)

G. In another battle the enemies again united against God's people. (Joshua 11:1-5)

1. Mortal enemies unite as friends if it means fighting against God. (Luke 23:12)
2. God told Joshua to not fear the multitude arrayed against him.
3. The Lord delivered him from these enemies.
4. Courage is essential in fighting but it is courage in God who fights for. (Psalm 44:3)
5. David's mighty man Dodo the Ahohite smote many Philistines, as did Shammah the Hararite. (2 Samuel 23:10)

a. Two applications from this aspect of battle.

- 1) These men were associated with David the warrior. (1 Chronicles 20:4)
  - a) After David many giant killers arose in Israel.
  - b) They gained courage from David.
  - c) Only disciples make disciples. (Matthew 28:16)
- 2) Only God wins these spiritual battles that make men.

H. Last battles are the toughest to fight.

1. Joshua cut of the Anakim. (Joshua 11:21)

2. Anakim were strong inhabitants of Canaan. (Numbers 23:28)
3. These were the final enemies Israel needed to defeat.
4. Old age is a final battle that many of God's people fight.
5. God fights for his people no matter what the battle is. (Joshua 23:3; Exodus 15:3; Psalm 20:4; Revelation 19)
6. The Lord made the nations flee from Joshua. (Joshua 23:9)

III. In light of the fact that God wins all our battles we need to see something about our witness for Christ.

A. Keys for witnessing:

1. The key for witnessing for Christ is not getting my dialogue straight.
2. The key is to live under the blessing of God.

B. There are two basic principles to effective witnessing.

1. God does it, not man. (Acts 2:47)
2. God uses us. (Acts 10:1)
  - a. God does not use angels to proclaim the Gospel.
  - b. God uses people to proclaim the Gospel.
  - c. Draw a heart with a cross at the top. On the bottom write a "P" and a "D" somewhere else. Now write Romans 15:18.
  - d. The shortest distance between two points is a straight line.
  - f. But God does not make a straight line between him and the sinner; he goes through Paul, or some other saint.
  - g. I draw with the nearest pen to my hand, and God uses the nearest saint to him who is available and ready to share.
    - 1) Paul's main responsibility was vertical—his relationship with God.
      - a) People who are too busy for God are useless.
      - b) All horizontal activity ignores God, who saves.
      - c) Don't get so involved in working for God that you have no time for God.
      - d) God is the only one who wins victories.

2) Every witness for God needs to maintain his/her relationship with God.

C. We need to be courageous. (Joshua 23:6)

1. If we have God with us we can be courageous.

2. To have courage is the first command God gave to Joshua. (Joshua 1:7)

a. Joshua is a man on track with God.

b. Get on God's track and stay there.

1) Some get into disciple making for a while and than get off track.

2) We need to stay on track.

3) Once in the battle we should not turn back. (Hebrews 11:33)