

REQUISITES FOR SPIRITUAL SUCCESS

(Requisites For Victory)

Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God *is* with thee whithersoever thou goest. (Joshua 1:9)

One of our nation's most highly decorated officers in history, General Douglas MacArthur, once submitted a strategic plan to his peers for military excellence on the battlefield. He stated in his article a four-point plan that, if strictly followed, would "guarantee certain victory" and military success every single time. What a statement! He titled the plan; REQUISITES FOR MILITARY SUCCESS. In short, the article laid out four requisites that must be considered and implemented, and continually maintained during any battle. These four requisites are non-negotiable tactics:

1. There must be morale. A will to win. "Esprit de Corps"
2. There must be strength.
3. There must be adequate supplies. Lifelines must be kept open.
4. Superior knowledge of your enemy. You must know your enemy better than they know you. This will require attaching a name to your enemy.

The bulk of the article covered requisite four.

One would greatly benefit from a spiritual consideration of these four requisites regarding the overcoming and victorious life of the believer. The ongoing epic war in our unseen spiritual warfare with Satan mandates a successful spiritual strategy, reinforced by effective spiritual weaponry.

Thankfully, every child of God has access to these necessary weapons and is thoroughly furnished with the spiritual equipment needed to secure victory over the devil. Be sure, the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, and even more, assuring is the realization that our weapons are mighty through God.

Sufficient to the invisible battle are the spiritual weapons thereof. Weaponry allows believers to pull down the strongest of spiritual strongholds and remove the hiding places of the enemy, to shutdown the clever networks of hell. Through an aggressive assault at the enemy's headquarters, we can eliminate Satan's evil influences that can daily torment God's children. Because God is a God of victory, His children are positioned for daily victory.

The promise is still guaranteed; thus, the outcome in battle is still assured. Upon this rock, I will build my church, not for defensive purposes, but rather an offensive posture is under consideration, and the gates of hell shall not prevail. No weapon formed against us shall prosper. Calvary settled the prophetic outcome for the church collectively. It is incumbent, therefore, upon each enlisted spiritual soldier to equip themselves individually with the proper knowledge and specialized weaponry to secure personal victory for themselves. Ephesians 6 teaches us to "Put on the whole armour of God..." with both defensive armor and also equipped with offensive weapons for an assault against the gates of hell.

Requisite One: Esprit de Corps

The will to win. Not simply a will to fight, but a will to win. Fighting can be glamorous if one is winning. However, should the battlefield experience a change in complexions and the casualties began mounting up in favor of the enemy, fighting may no longer be as in vogue as it

initially appeared. There must be a will to win no matter what—strong morale. In spiritual warfare, winning is everything. How one fights is essential, but winning the war is the ultimate objective. The most important outcome must be the attitude of winning to defeat the enemy, whatever tactics are required. No matter the personal cost. Our motto should be, “whatever it takes.”

Losing is not an option. Winning is paramount. Losing battles can be expected; losing the war is unacceptable. Win! Win! Win! Winning the war over hell is our primary requisite for spiritual success and, ultimately, the anticipated victory. To maintain a “winning no matter what” attitude, one must learn to encourage himself in the Lord.

The battlefield can get lonely real quick when one is presumably losing in a battle. Paul, writing in 2 Timothy 4:10-17, shared a glimpse of his battlefield at the closing moments of his ministry and his life. “For Demas has forsaken me (10)... Only Luke is with me...” (11) “At my first answer no man stood with me, but all *men* forsook me...” (16).

In 1 Samuel 30:3, David returning from battle found Ziklag burned to the ground and all was lost—wives and children missing. Livestock and homes were destroyed. We must learn to encourage ourselves in battle during setbacks as we cultivate a will to win. Stumbling blocks must become stepping stones. Build up your morale and the morale of those around you by skillfully and openly encouraging yourself in the Lord.

In the darkest of personal battles, when all men had forsaken him, Paul reminded Timothy in verse 17, “Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me...” As David’s men gathered stones to kill him, he encouraged himself in the Lord. Winning was his only option. “I’m in it to win it.” By encouraging ourselves, we develop a winning attitude to those in battle with us. Jesus Himself taught to “be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” “Let not your hearts be troubled...”

The panoramic picture of redemption assures us that it is a win-win proposition for the church. We shall hear Him say “well done” if we remain faithful in battle.

Requisite Two: There Must Be Strength

Simple and practical enough, but often lacking is strength. Be strong in the Lord is not a suggestion, but rather a life-saving command. Strong prayer rooms. Strong worship. Strong preaching. To become strong in zeal, passion, and boldness. Spiritually strong. The zeal of the things of God, including the house of God, caused Christ, with a whip in hand, to drive out carnality and sin from the temple. Jesus Christ proved to be the stronger man among men. He was able to bind the strong man to secure a clean church and spiritual victory over unclean spirits. Thieves that came to steal, kill, and destroy a clean church and a move of God’s church. You know you’re a strong force in the spirit world whenever demons bow to you in submission to your imparted authority. Demons bowed to Christ and worshipped Him. Christ secured victory and peace through strength. He was not a weak, passive, indecisive, nor insecure man. Greater is He that is within us than he that is in the world.

With the Philistines holding the ark of God hostage while mocking and intimidating the men of Israel, the command to the Israelites was “quit yourselves like men... and fight.” We need passionately strong churches that earnestly contend for the faith. Today that requires a “special ops” type ministry that is exceptionally strong in word and spirit—armed and dangerous against the demonic forces that war against us. The kingdom of God allows for violence, and only the spiritually violent and radically aggressive men are successful in battle. David surrounded himself with mighty men—strong men,

exceptionally skilled and resiliently strong fighting men. Be strong in spirit. Be strong in power.

Requisite Three: Adequate Supplies

Keeping supply lines open and accessible is vital. In wars, a siege is the most concerning of strategies to navigate through. The slow and methodical tactic of isolation. The chocking off. The blockade. The boycott. For victory to be insured, all efforts must be focused on distributing supplies from the back lines to the frontlines of battle. No group can be cut off or isolated. This means keeping a clear channel of communication continually. If one man or one group is cutoff or stranded, victory will undoubtedly hang in the balance. The outcome will always be ominously uncertain.

Prayer is our communication tool. The enemy will always seek to, first and foremost, eliminate our communication abilities, taking out the towers of communication between God and us by crippling our prayer rooms and binding our pulpits, handicapping our altars, and hindering the relationships between the pew and the pulpit. Resisting the devil's tactic of isolation requires submission to God through much prayer. Submit yourselves therefore unto God, resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Isolation is the most dangerous of all positions on the battlefield. A threefold cord is not easily broken.

It was a time when kings went forth to battle that David lingered in Jerusalem alone, left behind and isolated from his officers and fighting men. The results were devastating on so many levels. The chain of command was interrupted. The countless scores of men no doubt lost their lives because one man isolated himself. The tempter came unto David during the season of isolation. He also came in the wilderness to Jesus Christ whenever Christ was alone. The Bible is replete with

tragedies, more so than victories, whenever prolonged times of isolation exist.

God is faithful during our seasons of walking alone. Walking WITH Christ gives us confidence that we truly are never left alone. But isolation that cuts off our lifelines to heaven, stranding us alone WITHOUT spiritual reinforcements, is rooted in demonic activity and must be intensely and immediately remedied. Shut in with God in a secret place is remotely opposite from shutting out of God's presence and anointing completely. A self-willed Cain departed from the presence of God. He never returned. Judas left a lonely and isolated man and never returned.

Prayer and submission to His will shall never isolate a man. In the garden, alone, with Calvary and the cross-bearing down upon Christ, He found strength and fortitude to press on through to victory. How? Nevertheless, not my will, but thy will be done. Redemption was secured at that very moment. During His loneliness and arguably His darkest trial, He was not isolated. Adam lost the battle in a garden through disobedience whenever the serpent was successful at isolating man.

However, Jesus won the battle in a garden by turning the tables on the devil through submission and obedience. Christ refused to become an island unto himself. His refuge was found in submission to the eternal plan. The desire to execute God's will has never isolated a man. Walk in the light as He is in the light, and you will never be isolated. Lo I am with you always even unto the end. What was once a garden of defeat was transformed into a garden of victory. The empty grave on the third day just made the victory official.

Requisite Four: Superior Knowledge of Your Enemy

This requires putting a name to your enemy. In our nation today, one of our struggles has been putting a name to our enemy. A generalized term such as “War on Terror” does not adequately describe our enemy. Islamic terrorism does not pinpoint any specific boundaries of our enemy. How much the more, in a spiritual battle, have we suffered defeat at the hands of a weaker enemy in large part because we failed to reveal who we were fighting. We never managed to put a face or name to the enemy. By refusal to name the enemy, we are insisting we do not know our enemy as well as we should. This has obvious devastating consequences. We can be assured that the enemy knows us well. How well?

The Bible defines those spirits that know us the best. Familiar spirits. They are very acquainted with us on a very personal level. So we must pray specific prayers. Laser accurate prayers that hit the target. Generalized prayers render generalized results. Specifically named prayers render the likewise results. Call out the sickness and spirit of infirmity by name. Address the spirit by its revealed name. Authority and power are released by calling out a name. Jesus speaking to the spirit of death, boldly commanded, “...Lazarus, come forth.” The spirit world of the dead submitted and released the man. Name the spirit that torments you. One of the hindrances today is the inability to put a name on the spirit itself. The results have not been good.

Daniel saw four beasts in his vision in Daniel chapter 7 regarding the unfolding of events leading up to the last days. Three of the four he was able to name. The fourth one, however, he could only describe but never managed to put a name to it. The spirit of that fourth and final “end-time” beast is operating today. This present-day battle is wrestling with spirits that previously have been incognito to many, to the point that their influences have not been felt in the past as they are

being felt on this level today. Many feel this is the effect of this last day spirit as it is difficult to put a name on our enemy. We have a generalized understanding, be sure, but the exact nature, and specific operations, are an increasingly and an unveiling challenge to name for many.

What is this demon? What is its specific name? Better yet, WHO is this spirit? Paul asked the question, “who” not “what,” but who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Name that spirit. Put a face with it. We know the devil and the many different titles he goes by, but what was it Daniel saw that he could not name? Peter assumed that Christ walking on water towards them in a storm was some spirit. “It is a spirit... they cried...” Demons respect the authority that comes with names. They mock those that underestimate them. In Acts 19, one family found out how little they knew of spiritual authority and how much knowledge and power the enemy had over them as a result. “Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye?” At the end of the day, the men were shamed as they were last seen running through the streets wounded and naked. We must have superior knowledge of our enemy. His name, tactics, nature, and direction if victory is to be secured.

REQUISITES FOR SPIRITUAL SUCCESS

Bill Pitman