

SLAYING THE GIANTS

ENLARGEMENT & EXPANSION SERIES



“There’s an amazing door of opportunity standing wide open for me to minister here, even though there are many who oppose and stand against me.” 1 Corinthians 16:9 TPT

“I have promised to rescue you from your oppression in Egypt. I will lead you to a land flowing with milk and honey—the land where the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites now live.” Exodus 3:17

The land the Lord promised to the Israelites was already actively occupied by several nations, yet God said He had already given them this land. The year ahead represents an amazing door of opportunity that the Lord has opened wide open for us, but let’s not be naive - there are many that will try and oppose us, many of whom may appear to be mightier than we are. This is because just as in the time of Moses, there’s no uncontested territory in life: expansion in territory for one may mean a corresponding reduction in territory for another. The more territory we take, the more that will be dispossessed. Thus, contention is inevitable. However, there’s a posture we must maintain in addressing this opposition from the vantage point of people who have already won the battle.

This series we’re exploring the 7 types of postures a warrior can take when contending for territory against “giants”. We trust the Holy Spirit to bring illumination and counsel regarding our specific circumstances and opportunities as we go through this series.

Day 1

Disqualified Warriors

“He will protect his faithful ones, but the wicked will disappear in darkness. No one will succeed by strength alone.” 1 Samuel 2:9

The most dangerous posture in warfare is that of an unqualified warrior. An unqualified warrior is a person who is trying to take on spiritual matters using natural methods. Here dependence is completely on the physical world: intellect, strength, connections, etc. While these abilities may give some level of mileage in life, a person who is not born again (has not accepted the gift of salvation) does not have power over Satan and is subject to his control. This means the enemy is at liberty to do whatever he wants in such a person’s life.

“But you belong to God, my dear children. You have already won a victory over those people, because the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world.” 1 John 4:4

“No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.” Romans 8:37

Real power isn’t in the flesh but in Jesus through the price He paid for us and the victory He won on our behalf. Outside of Jesus, the enemy will always have the upper hand by default.

“Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don’t believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don’t understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God.” 2 Corinthians 4:4

“The message of the cross is foolish to those who are headed for destruction! But we who are being saved know it is the very power of God.” 1 Corinthians 1:18
Someone who hasn’t accepted Christ as savior will not be able to understand why dependence on Jesus is important and will always strive to do everything through natural strength. Unfortunately this strategy is already designed to fail when it comes to winning in all the battles of life.

Prayer: Lord Jesus thank You for the price you paid for me in the cross which qualifies me for victory over the enemy

Day 2

Revelation Enforcement

“A group of Jews was traveling from town to town casting out evil spirits. They tried to use the name of the Lord Jesus in their incantation, saying, “I command you in the name of Jesus, whom Paul preaches, to come out!... But one time when they tried it, the evil spirit replied, “I know Jesus, and I know Paul, but who are you?” Then the man with the evil spirit leaped on them, overpowered them, and attacked them with such violence that they fled from the house, naked and battered.” Acts 19:13,15-16

There were 7 sons of a priest called Sceva who went around casting out evil spirits. Everything seemed to go well until they encountered someone carrying a spirit that didn't acknowledge them and asked a simple question: “who are you?”. Evidently, they didn't have a response to this question as the man violently overpowered them all. These men were known by people but hadn't registered a presence in the spirit realm as authorities to be responded to. Like these sons of Sceva many situations that confront us are asking the same question, “who are you?”

“Look, I have given you authority over all the power of the enemy, and you can walk among snakes and scorpions and crush them. Nothing will injure you.” Luke 10:19

As believers we have been given authority over all power of the enemy. This means when it's time to take on territory and giants in alignment with God's agenda, we are to move in the boldness of the authority we have been given. The sons of Sceva functioned in the name of Jesus that Paul preached, meaning they didn't have a personal knowledge of Jesus or understanding of the authority Paul knew he had through Jesus. “Borrowed” understanding may work for some time as it did for the sons of Sceva, but a situation will arise that will confront our revelation of Jesus and understanding of what we carry. The level of our revelation will determine how far we go and the territory we're able to conquer.

Prayer: Lord give me a spirit of wisdom and of revelation that gives me a deep, personal and intimate insight into the true knowledge of You. Let the eyes of my heart be flooded with light by the Holy Spirit so that I know who I am in You

Day 3

Breaking Chains of Offence

“And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses.” Mark 11:25-26

An often overlooked, but critical barrier to taking on territory is offence. Remember the enemy knows what the Bible says and the power of something as seemingly trivial as offence to keep us in chains. If we look at prayer as a channel of communication between us and God, offence acts as a blocker to the free flow of that channel. And anything that blocks our connection to God hinders us.

“Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side?...” Job 1:10

“When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear... hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division,” Galatians 5:19-20

“that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ,” Philippians 1:10

The key danger of offence is that it because it's a reaction of the flesh, it breaks the hedge of protection around us, giving the enemy an opening to attack. Even if we don't communicate our offence to anyone, God sees our heart and knows that it's there.

“Love prospers when a fault is forgiven, but dwelling on it separates close friends.” Proverbs 17:9

“Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace.” Ephesians 4:2-3

Offence is a tool the enemy uses to hinder our growth because it's easy for us to justify our response. People will say and do things to hurt us - intentionally or otherwise. While we can't control what others do, we can control how we choose to respond. Choosing not be offended isn't something that comes naturally, it requires dependence on the Holy Spirit and a willingness to submit to His will. It doesn't mean we become doormats, rather we intentionally allow any response we give to be modulated by the Holy Spirit. It's a journey of dying to self, so we can be alive and victorious in the spirit.

Prayer: Holy Spirit help me to recognise where I have offence in me and please help me to let go regardless of how the other person(s) respond



Day 4

Presence Precedes Performance

“The Lord answered her, “Martha, my beloved Martha. Why are you upset and troubled, pulled away by all these many distractions? Mary has discovered the one thing most important by choosing to sit at my feet. She is undistracted, and I won’t take this privilege from her.”” Luke 10:41-42 TPT

Martha and Mary were scheduled to host Jesus and the disciples and understandably there was a lot to do in terms of preparation, so we can see why Martha was upset with her sister and wanted Jesus to call her to order. We can imagine how surprised Martha would have been by His response which suggested that she was the one with the wrong priorities. Jesus was showing us through this interaction that a key principle for winning is staying in His presence.

“Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.” Matthew 6:33

In our ever busy and natural focused world, it’s easy like Martha to default to activity first. But in His kingdom, God expects us to focus on Him first, as He guides us on the steps to take. When we’re working on a project for instance, we can get so consumed in worrying and focusing on execution that we shift our focus from God to the project. Meanwhile, putting God first as a winning strategy makes us more efficient as He has the capacity to create opportunities and resolve issues better than we ever could.

“I will go before you and make the crooked places straight; I will break in pieces the gates of bronze and cut the bars of iron.” Isaiah 45:2

“The Lord says, “I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you.” Psalms 32:8

It’s in the place of prayer that we receive the strategies for the best solution for every situation. It’s also in prayer that angelic forces are mobilised to remove obstacles and align situations to God’s agenda. At times we feel we’re so busy there’s just no time to pray but as someone once said, because we’re so busy, we can’t afford not to pray.

Prayer: Lord please help me to always prioritise Your presence before jumping into activities. Help me daily to stay undistracted and focused on what really matters so I don’t lose any battles.



Day 5

Winning by the Word

“But the Lord God warned him, “You may freely eat the fruit of every tree in the garden— except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat its fruit, you are sure to die.” Genesis 2:16-17

“The serpent was the shrewdest of all the wild animals the Lord God had made. One day he asked the woman, “Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?”... It’s only the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden that we are not allowed to eat. God said, ‘You must not eat it or even touch it; if you do, you will die.’” Genesis 3:1,3

Our ability to accurately interpret and explain God’s word is the bedrock of consistent victory in taking territory. Knowing what God really said makes the difference in winning or losing. When Satan tested Eve, he started off with questioning her understanding of what God said. When he saw she didn’t accurately interpret God’s instruction, he saw a loophole to take advantage of. God didn’t say they couldn’t touch the tree, but that they shouldn’t eat its fruit. It may seem like a little thing, but from Satan’s perspective he knew he just needed to get Eve to touch the tree first and once she saw there was no immediate consequence, he could get her to eat the fruit. That’s how the enemy often works - starting off with something seemingly small but knowing full well what his end plan and result is.

“Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, to the highest point of the Temple, and said, “If you are the Son of God, jump off! For the Scriptures say, ‘He will order his angels to protect and guard you. And they will hold you up with their hands so you won’t even hurt your foot on a stone.’” Jesus responded, “The Scriptures also say, ‘You must not test the Lord your God.’”” Luke 4:9-12

When Satan tempted Jesus in the wilderness, (Luke 4:1-13) he used the same strategy, but this time Jesus demonstrated understanding of God’s word. Isn’t it interesting that when Satan saw Jesus was responding with scripture, he also tried to use scripture to trip Jesus up. However Jesus knew enough of the word not to fall into the trap. The enemy rarely uses something that totally contradicts God’s word, rather he twists it to suit what he’s trying to achieve.

“When the devil had finished tempting Jesus, he left him until the next opportunity came.” Luke 4:13

“Work hard so you can present yourself to God and receive his approval. Be a good worker, one who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly explains the word of truth.” 2 Timothy 2:15

We’re spending time on this today because many situations that will confront us as we move forward will challenge what we know of God’s word for ourselves. What did God really say about our lives, families, careers, businesses, finances, etc? The devil is always looking for an opportunity to pervert what God said and when he can’t do that he will try and pervert our understanding because he knows how powerfully a believer who is spiritually accurate in God’s word can advance.

Prayer: Lord help me be a diligent student of Your word, give me understanding so I walk in accuracy with Your word.



Day 6

The Absentee Warrior

“For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.” Ephesians 6:12

Every believer is in a non-stop battle against forces that can't be seen with natural eyes. Unfortunately, because they can't be seen it's easy to fall into the trap of becoming an absentee warrior. Meaning there's no consciousness of the battlefield so the opposing side automatically wins.

“Then the Lord showed me four craftsmen. And I said, “What are these coming to do?” So he said, “These are the horns that scattered Judah, so that no one could lift up his head; but the craftsmen are coming to terrify them, to cast out the horns of the nations that lifted up their horn against the land of Judah to scatter it.”” Zechariah 1:20-21

One of the enemy's greatest advantages is the ability to operate without being noticed. For instance, the world has and will continue to get increasingly darker so many things that happen will be perceived as “one of those things”, meanwhile it's a direct, intentional attack by the enemy. There may be some circumstances that have hindered us on life that we've even accepted and justified to ourselves and by doing that, we take ourselves off the battlefield.

“Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.” 1 Peter 5:8

Not every hindrance is spiritual, but we must constantly be on the alert so we don't concede ground to anything that doesn't align with God's agenda for our lives. For the enemy to look for who to devour means not everyone can be devoured and armed with the knowledge we now have, we will not be amongst those who are easy prey.

Prayer: Lord thank You for reminding me that there's an unseen battle going on around me. Help me to stay alert spiritually so I take advantage of all You've made available to me

Day 7

Living Victorious

“... In fact, the Lord made David victorious wherever he went.” 2 Samuel 8:14

It's possible to live a life of constant victory and we have clear examples in the Bible of this. As we round up this series we will look at the lives of David and Paul. In David we see a man who was anointed from his youth to be a king. As a soldier in Saul's army, an outlaw, king of Judah and eventually king of all Israel, David fought and won many military battles to gain and retain territory. Paul was a man who started off persecuting the church but was transformed into one of the most forceful agents of expansion of the kingdom and the author of majority of the New Testament. Different as these men were, there are key things we can pick from their lives to understand how to walk in constant victory.

“So David inquired of the Lord...” 1 Samuel 30:8

“So we have not stopped praying for you since we first heard about you. We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding.” Colossians 1:9

There's a direct correlation between constant victory and consistent fellowship with the Holy Spirit. During his reign as king David didn't lose any military battle because even though he was a seasoned warrior, he always made sure got his battle strategies from the Lord first.

“I thank God that I speak in tongues more than any of you.” 1 Corinthians 14:18

“But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit”
Jude 1:20

David and Paul were men of prayer. A number of the prayers in Psalms were written by David and likewise we know that Paul devoted a significant amount of time to prayer. In prayer they were able to navigate the spiritual realm, fellowship with the Holy Spirit and receive the insight and transformation required for constant victory.

“My eyes are awake through the night watches, That I may meditate on Your word.”
Psalms 119:148

Both men depended on God's word for guidance, seeking to do His will at all times. Neither was perfect but they were quick to repent when they realised they'd done wrong against God. Their lives give us an indication of the key things to pay attention to so we always walk in victory

Prayer: Lord thank You for showing me the power of prayer, studying Your word, prioritising Your counsel and keeping my heart humble before You.



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