



Postured For Victory

Becky Combee

Jesus defeated the devil. The devil hopes you don't know that. According to the Scripture, he has been spoiled, robbed, and stripped of power. If we don't recognize this and fail to take our stand in Jesus' name, Satan will invade our lives, set up camp, and light a fire.

God stripped the spiritual rulers and powers of their authority. With the cross, *he won the victory* and showed the world that they were powerless. (Colossians 2:15 NCV)

The plot and plan of Satan that ignites our circumstances we must not tolerate. We do not have to yield to his pretense because he is a defeated foe. Yet he is crafty, subtle, and clever. He is the father of lies and must convince us that his word is truth. But only God's word is true. The Scripture is very clear. "God is not a man, that he should lie."¹ The apostle Paul writes in Titus 1:2 that God cannot lie.

The truth of God's Word guides our life. The Spirit of God who dwells in us is here to teach us, to lead us, and to anoint us with power. We are not alone. The Holy Spirit is on divine assignment, and as we yield to him, we are centered in God's will and postured for victory.

A Voice In Your Ear

Suzanne D. Williams

The israelites had been freed from Egypt. Free, free, free, free, as the commercial says. They went out after an amazing display of God's presence and took all the riches of Egypt with them. But God didn't take them north, the quick way to the Promised Land, but south where there was one impenetrable obstacle impeding the future. The Red Sea. And there they stood, staring at those unpassable waters.

Today, we focus on the miracle of the Red Sea, and it's awe-inspiring. But although the Israelites were set free by Pharaoh, although he told them to go and they'd traveled this far, the enemy (Pharaoh) had changed his mind and had followed at their heels. He'll bring up their past. He'll remind them of who they were. "You were mine." "You were slaves." Arrogant enough to think his troops, his chariots, could overcome some one million plus people, turn them around, and march them right back into bondage. Stupid enough to think his presence would undo the incredible miracles the only living God had done to free them.

Pharaoh was a reminder, a voice in their ear, the enemy trying to salvage what used to be. Nothing has changed. Pharaoh is still talking to us. We walk out of the situation and there, he is, speaking. "But you were ..." Weak. Sick. Broke. Alone. Etcetera. "But you are ..." Not strong enough. Not smart enough. **He wants you to**

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As a shepherd boy, David knew great victory when he faced Goliath. With great confidence, he declared "I come to thee in the name of the Lord of hosts...This day will the Lord deliver thee into mine hand." He was not intimidated by this giant of a man who spoke against God's people.²

Gideon defeated the Midianites with 300 men using trumpets and pitchers as weapons. At first, he was reluctant to obey God, but when he submitted to divine instruction, his men shouted, "The sword of the Lord and of Gideon," and the enemy fled.³ What a glorious victory!

The Spirit of God leads every Christian who will hear and obey into victory. Certainly not with military might or sword like David or Gideon, but from our knees in prayer. Daniel stood before the Lord for a disobedient nation. His confession was, "We have sinned." He further stated that they had

not obeyed the prophets but had rebelled against God. Then there is my favorite verse, "To the Lord our God belong mercies and forgivenesses."⁴ I love this verse because mercy and forgiveness is in the plural tense.

There are many examples of answered prayer in the Scripture. Peter was released from prison through the prayers of the saints.⁵ The apostle Paul expected deliverance and freedom because of the prayers of the church at Philippi.⁶ He commended the church at Corinth for helping him by praying.⁷ Prayer was the foundation of victory.

Today, let's pray! When we bow our hearts and lift our voices, we will know the power of God. Satan's defeat will be ratified, and our hearts will sing for joy. God will not neglect his people. "If we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: and if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him."⁸

¹Numbers 23:19 ²1Samuel 17:45-46 ³Judges 7:20-21 ⁴Daniel 9:5-6, 9 ⁵Acts 12:5 ⁶Philippians 1:19 ⁷2Corinthians 1:11 ⁸1John 5:14-15

One Nation Under God, Indivisible



With Liberty and Justice For All

(Continued from "A Voice In Your Ear")

forget that God is with you and He will never leave you or forsake you.

God was with the Israelites right then, as a cloud by day, as the fiery glory of the Lord by night. He surrounded them on all sides and, amazingly, had a plan for their crossing of the Red Sea. Not a boat. Not a bridge. Not a slog through knee-deep waters. But a walk across on dry land. D-r-y soil, with the waters in a heap on either side of them.

And He executed the plan, and the Israelites crossed the Sea. But the enemy didn't stop talking, didn't stop his pursuit. Yap. Yap. Yap. "Come back here." "You were building my kingdom." "You were under my thumb." "You're nothing but a bunch of stupid Jews." He followed them into the crossing, never stopping, never shutting up. And there they stood, watching him approach, when God did what God intended to do, only He'd waited until the enemy was in the middle of their escape. When Pharaoh stood between their trouble past and their promised future.

Not back in Egypt. Not on the way there. Not when it was convenient, and they'd think they had a part in it. No, God waited until there was only the Red Sea left. He waited until the last possible, most perfect moment. Then He shut the enemy's mouth forever.

"No matter how dark and hopeless a situation might seem, never stop praying."

Billy Graham