

The Promise Of Victory In Warfare

Gen 14:1-16

It is said that Chedorlaomer was the Attila, the Napoleon of his age. He was the persona of Satan himself. From this passage of Scripture we get a picture of the spiritual warfare that we are engaged in and the victory that is available to us if we will just take it.

1. It is natural for people to want to be free of their bondage (v. 4):

Why did you receive Jesus? Whether you came to Him because of personal need or because you were tired of the way you were living, it can be summed up in one sentence: You were tired of being under Satan's bondage.

Satan usurped authority from man and made him a slave of sin when you are a slave of sin you automatically become a slave to Satan. Slaves must pay tribute. Your wages for sin was death (Rom. 6:23). There are those who are in bondage and need to be free. We must proclaim the good news that their freedom has been purchased by the shed blood of God's only begotten Son.

Yet, even as a Christian, are you in bondage to some sin or habit? You desire to be free from this so that you may serve the Lord with gladness and without the feeling of condemnation? Read on oh beloved child of the Most High.

2. The enemy will surely attack (vv. 5-10):

An evangelist was approached by a man with a prayer request: "Please pray that I will have no more trouble with the devil," he said with tears. The evangelist asked him, "you want me to pray that you will die?" "Oh no!" was the man's reply. The evangelist went on to tell him that the only way this man will have no more trouble with the devil is to die and go to heaven.

When we are determined to be free from the attacks of the devil will we be the special subjects of his attack. Many new Christians wonder why things seem to get worse after the new birth. We are not promised a problem free Christian life. We are promised something better. We are promised the victory over every negative circumstance that ever comes our way. We are promised to overcome every obstacle as we pray, stand on the promises and rely upon the power of the Holy Spirit. Satan will not give up easy. He will try you. But you can make him regret that he did.

3. He will steal from you (v. 11; John 10:10):

He will steal your health, your finances, your peace, your faith, and anything else he can get his evil hands on. He is a thief. Yet you do not have to LET it happen. Stand your ground. When Satan attempts to steal your health, stand on the authority of God's promises concerning healing. Apply God's promises in every area where the thief will attempt to steal from you.

4. He will take captives (v. 12; 2 Tim. 2:26):

Satan is never satisfied with giving us temporary losses. He wants permanent destruction. If he cannot win by stealing he will destroy (John 10:10). He will do this by tempting us in the weakness of our flesh, knowing that if we fall into sin we will be taken captive. Lot was tempted with the temporary fleshly joys that Sodom had to offer. Little did he know that he was falling into the hands of his enemy. Let us learn a lesson from Lot. Do not get excited with what the world has to offer. As in the case of Abraham, God can offer you better and more. When we fall into the world, we are soon to be taken captive.

5. We must have a concern about our brother and deliver him (vv. 13-14):

When Abraham was given news concerning Lot he could have been like most Christians: "Well, it serves him right. He had no business going towards the evil plain of Sodom." We thank God that Abraham was not like most Christians. He presents a much better picture.

We must be concerned about our brother for we are our brothers keeper. When we hear of our brother or sister being taken captive through some sin, let us not pick up the phone and call the people on the church membership roster. Let us plan our attack upon the enemy to release our brother and get him set free. Pray for your those who are taken captive. Bind Satan in their lives. Give them God's word. Rebuke but also encourage. Do all but do not gossip, do not condemn, but neither condone nor make excuse for sin. God has not called us to lip the gossip but to preach the gospel.

6. We must go into the enemy's camp and attack (vv. 14-15):

Abraham did not wait for the enemy to come to him, he went to the enemy. Christians are too often on the defensive and seldom on the offensive. God has called us to do the attacking, not to wait for an attack (Matt. 16:18-19). We should go after Satan with the Word of God and prayer, knowing that the victory is our's. Let us begin to make bold attacks against our enemy. Instead of us wondering what Satan will try next, let us leave him to do some worrying about what damage the church will do to him next.

7. We must take back what the enemy has stolen (v. 16):

If the thief steals he must recompense seven times what he has stolen. Jerry Savelle said it well in the title of his most popular sermon, "If the devil can't steal your joy, he can't keep your goods." We are not to be satisfied with only a decisive victory. We must also take back what was stolen. If he has stolen health, take it back. If he has stolen money, take it back. If he has stolen a close brother, sister or loved one through sin, take them back. Jesus has made victory available. You must walk in it by faith. We are more than conquerors, but this is not a truth to be admired, it is a principle which must be lived out.