

Online Grace Bible School

With

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**Online Grace Bible School
Phase 6
Saints Punching Above Their Weight**

1) Victory At Golgotha

- ✓ The term ‘punching above your weight’ means competing against someone who you are no match for.
- ✓ Spiritual warfare is like that. Lk.14:28-33. In our own strength we are no match for Satan and his hosts.
- ✓ But our authority is in the finished work of Christ. In Him we are more than conquerors.
- ✓ Spiritual warfare is not an elective. Eph.6:12. Satan will ensnare us if we give place to him.

Examples of Christians being ensnared:

- ✓ Peter gave place to the devil through self-confidence Lk.22:24, 31-34. See also 1 Pet.5:6-9. Jas.4:7.
- ✓ Anger which leads to bitterness gives Satan a foothold (Eph.4:26-27). Jealousy and envy too (Jas.3:14-16).
- ✓ ‘Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit...?’ (same as in Eph.5:18) Acts 5:3.
- ✓ False teaching 1 Tim.4:1-3. We are to test the spirits (1 Jn.4:1-3).
- ✓ Unforgiveness allows Satan to take advantage of us... ‘...we are not ignorant of his devices’ (2 Cor.2:10-11).

David took these men who were in distress (outwardly harassed), in debt and discontented (inwardly embittered) and became their captain. He transformed them into mighty men of war, spoken of in 2 Sam.23.

1 Sam.17:4-7. Goliath is a picture of Satan. Note the three sixes:

- ✓ He was six cubits tall, a colossal giant (17:4)
- ✓ Six pieces of armour - helmet, coat of mail, bronze armour on his legs, javelin, spear, and shield (17:5-7).
- ✓ His spear’s head weighed six hundred shekels of iron (17:7).

Note also the repetitious description of Goliath in battle with David four times as being covered in ‘bronze’ from head to foot (17:5,6), which is the same word translated ‘serpent’.

- ✓ 17:8. Goliath taunted Israel twice a day for 40 days. No one stepped forward. All were terrified.
- ✓ 17:10,11. John wept much because no one was worthy to take the scroll and loosen the seals.
- ✓ 17:16. He came morning & evening for 40 days, coinciding with daily sacrifices and their reminder of sin.
- ✓ 17:24-28. The Israelites were petrified of Goliath because they saw him in relation to themselves. Goliath was big compared to David. But David compared him to God.
- ✓ His family rejected David’s claims to be able to save Israel. The brothers of Jesus opposed Him too. If he argued with Eliab he would have ended up fighting with him. Our battle is not with flesh and blood...
- ✓ 17:38-40. David also refused to wear the armour of man. The battle is a spiritual one. See Isa.59:16-17.

- ✓ 5 stones, 5 wounds – a picture of grace. The stone hit Goliath in the forehead, see Gen.3:15.
- ✓ 17:49-51. David used Goliath’s own weapon to cut off his head (Heb.2:14-15).
- ✓ 17:54. Why did David take Goliath’s head to Jerusalem when it wasn’t even a part of Israel at this time? When Jesus Christ was on the cross it was in Jerusalem. The place he was crucified was called a Golgotha meaning The Place of a Skull, (Matt 27:33) because the rock hill He was on looked like a skull.
- ✓ Christ on the cross with His feet over the skull symbolized His final victory over the seed of the serpent.
- ✓ When a king defeated another king he would put his foot on top of the king’s neck or head (Lk.11:21-22).

- ✓ See what was said before the battle:
 - 17:9. If Christ failed in His mission we would have permanently been in bondage to sin (Rom.6:17, 18).
 - 17:25-26. Great riches. His daughter for a bride. Exemption from taxes. Saul in his heavy taxation system represents the demands of the law, from which the victory of the cross made us free. We also stand without reproach before God (Col.1:21&22).
 - 17:43-47. The battle is the Lord’s; but the battle is not passive. David spoke more to Goliath than Goliath did to him. We enforce the victory through our confession. We are to speak *to* our mountain, not *about* them (Mk.11:23). We need to learn to stand in His victory.
- ✓ The Greek word for ‘captain’ is *archegos*, meaning a leader, pioneer, trailblazer who not only explores new territory, but also opens a trail, and leads others to it.’ Jesus is our Captain (Rom.16:20; Eph.3:10).

2) Adino - He Who Sat In the Seat

David overcame Goliath then took men in distress, in debt, and discontented and became their captain. He transformed them into mighty men of war. Their deeds reflect his glory. Similarly Jesus built His army from fishermen, tax collectors and sinners. Those wounded by Satan, marred by sin are now God's soldiers.

2 Sam.23:8. Josheb-Basshebeth, also called Adino the Ezrite. The Tachmonite – 'wise'. He is referred to as 'He who sat in the seat.' To sit in the seat is to occupy a position. Lesson: We have to be very clear about our position before we go into battle. This is wisdom. We are seated with Christ. The order is sit-walk-stand.

Sit (Eph.2:6)

- ✓ The term '*in Christ*' or its equivalent is found over 150 times in the NT. It was Jesus who first taught the new relationship which believers would have with Him, '*In that day you shall know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you*' (Jn.14:20).
- ✓ Every human being is either in Adam or in Christ. It is that which determines what is true about them. In Adam we were sinners. When we came to faith in Christ we died to our position in Adam, were buried, and raised with Christ to newness of life. We are now seated with Him in the heavenly places.
- ✓ Eph.1:20-23. We are the body of Christ. '*He who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him*' (1 Cor.6:17).
- ✓ We are inseparable from Christ. Our sufferings are His (Col.1:24; Phil.3:10; 2 Cor.4:10-11). His death to sin was our death. His resurrection ours. His ascension ours. His enthronement is ours. This is our position.

Walk (Eph.4:1)

- ✓ We need to think position, not condition. Every Christian is either an internalist or an externalist. Do we approach life from the outside (our condition) or the inside (our position)?
- ✓ This is important when it comes to our walk. We do not work on our salvation, we work it out. 1 Cor.1:30. I am righteous, holy, sanctified, strong, sufficient, etc. The Christian walk is rooted in our position.
- ✓ Spiritual transformation takes place when we know who we are in Christ and who Christ is in us.
- ✓ When we hear a false identity message based on past experiences, achievements, appearance, approval, and act upon it, we are externalists. When we live this way we close the door to the flow of Christ's life.
- ✓ Satan's strategy is to get you to think condition. He will use other people to achieve this.
- ✓ The epistles are directed at getting us to believe God's report about our identity in Christ.

Stand (Eph.6:10-14)

- ✓ One of the important things about our position is that it is a change of position (Col.1:13; Acts 26:18).
- ✓ Christ was manifested to destroy the works of the devil (*luo* = dissolve, break, sever; not *katargeo* = render inactive). He has nothing on us. This is true of us, but not of the world (1 Jn.5:19).
- ✓ '*Be strong in the Lord*'. If I try to be strong *for* the Lord I will be punching above my weight. But if I am strong *in* the Lord I am not punching above my weight! Can I defeat the enemy? No. Did Christ overcome him? Yes. Does Christ live in me? Yes! So we do not fight for Him; we stand in Him and He manifests His victory through us.
- ✓ '*Put on the whole armour of God*.' There are 6 pieces of armour found in Eph.6:14-17. Note the following:
 - It is the armour of - not our resources, but that which God gives us.
 - It is the *whole* armour of God that must be put on. Every piece of it is vital to us.
 - We have to put on the whole armour of God. This is what appropriating the victory means.

Be strong 'in the Lord' and in the power of His might. Every time we operate from position we are not punching above our weight; Satan is under our feet in Christ, (e.g. Eph.1:19-23).

The key to victory over Satan is to remember these two facts:

- ✓ I cannot resist Satan by trusting in anything of myself. Only through Christ can I triumph over him.
- ✓ Jesus has done all He can and will do. He has overcome him. He will do no more. He will not do my part for me. We triumph through *faith* 1 Jn.5:4-5. The fight is the good fight of *faith*, 1 Tim.6:12.

3) Being Defensive & Offensive

2 Sam.23:9-12.

- ✓ *'Eleazer...arose and attacked...Shammah...stationed himself in the middle of the field, defended it.*
- ✓ The double-edged sword of spiritual warfare – it is both defensive and offensive.
- ✓ Eph.4:12 *'...for the equipping of the saints' katartizo = to repair and to prepare.*

Defensive

The Philistines came up at harvest time to carry away a crop of lentils. *'But he (Shammah) stationed himself in the middle of the field, defended it, and killed the Philistines. And the LORD brought about a great victory.'* What does it mean to stand and defend?

1) To stand and defend at a personal level

- ✓ *'Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour, resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world'* (1 Pet.5:8-9). Devour = to drink down, gulp entirely and swallow up.
- ✓ Like Shammah we must learn to 'stand' and 'resist'. *'Submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you'* (Jas.4:7). Paul spoke about those who had been taken captive by Satan to do his will (2 Tim.2:26).
- ✓ Resist = to stand against, offer resistance, withstand. There is nothing passive about this.
- ✓ Paul had to fight his own fight at a personal level (1 Cor.9:26-27).

2) To stand on behalf of others

- ✓ Shammah defended the field of lentils. What is your field? Family? Ministry?
- ✓ It may be to rescue someone. See Gal.6:1. *'On some have compassion, making a distinction; but others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh'* (Jude 22-23).

3) To stand for the truth

- ✓ *'Contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints'* (Jude 3).
- ✓ E.g. Athanasius. Luther. Modern day apostasy.

Offensive

Eleazer initiated an assault upon the enemy's camp. He was valiant; fighting with all his might until his hand was weary and his hand stuck to his sword. *'The Lord brought about a great victory that day and the people returned after him only to plunder'*. When we look through the history of the Church we see many trailblazers, who went on the offensive for God and broke through. Because of their victory others were able to follow 'and take the plunder'. Examples:

- ✓ Pergamos. *'I know where you dwell, where Satan's throne is.'* Pergamos was the HQ of the Babylonian priesthood. When Babylon fell to the Medes their priests fled to Pergamos carrying their religion with them. It became the most demonized religious centre of the time. But someone broke through and pioneered a church there.
- ✓ John Wycliffe refuted the infallibility of the Church, teaching that the Bible not the pope, is the final authority for believers. He made the Bible available to the people in their own tongue (the first to do so). In 1382 the New Testament was translated into English. This was followed by the Old Testament in 1384. Many Bible translations followed and Bibles were printed and made available to the people.
- ✓ C T Studd. A famous cricketer, but after his brother was taken seriously ill Charles was confronted by the question, 'What is all the fame and flattery worth ... when a man comes to face eternity?' He dedicated his life to missions. He spent 15 years in China and 6 years in India as a missionary and then devoted the rest of his life to spreading the gospel in Africa, founding the Worldwide Evangelization Crusade. Many followed him into the mission field.
- ✓ Every ministry can usually be traced to someone advancing into enemy territory, preaching, witnessing, teaching the gospel until strongholds are pulled down, and others returning to plunder the spoils.

4) Loving Not Our Lives Unto Death

2 Sam.23:13-17. The Philistines were in the Valley of Rephaim and occupied Bethlehem. David and his men were at Adullam. It was harvest time and very hot. David, said he would love to drink water from the well of Bethlehem. Such was the devotion of these men they broke through the Philistine garrison and got some water to take back to David. But he wouldn't drink it. He poured it out as a drink offering to the Lord.

- ✓ The drink offering was poured out upon an existing offering representing the sacrificial death of Jesus.
- ✓ In this we see Christ's offering up of Himself. The NT uses the term twice: 1) '*If I am being poured out as a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all...*' (Phil.2:17); 2) '*I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand...*' (2 Tim.4:6).
- ✓ The drink offering depicts our response to Christ's sacrificial love to us, i.e. laying down our lives for Him. '*...present your bodies as a living sacrifice...*' This is our reasonable response.'
- ✓ In Gen.35:14, Jacob poured out a drink offering to signify giving his life back to God.
- ✓ These men were a drink offering. They laid down their lives; they were not even mentioned by name.
- ✓ This is the key to victory over the enemy. '*They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death*' (Rev.12:11).
- ✓ It is also the key to fruitful service: '*Unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life*' (Jn.12:24-25).
- ✓ Col.1:24. Our sufferings have nothing to do with providing salvation. Jesus did that perfectly. But they are strategic in reaching the world and building the kingdom. Christ's suffering is the propitiation for our sins; our sufferings are for the propagation of the gospel. God's way of breaking through enemy resistance is found in the laying down of our lives. This is to fill up what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ.
- ✓ Suffering is more than the result of effective service to Christ; it is the strategy for it. See Mt.10:16-18.
- ✓ Suffering is a necessary ingredient to releasing the resurrection life of Christ. We can't always see that at the time. It's like sowing seeds which are not brought to fruition until sometime later.

What does it mean to be a drink offering and pour out our lives for Christ?

1) For many it will be a literal thing. Some territory in need of the gospel is so hostile that Christians go there knowing they may lose their lives.

2) For the rest, it means to reckon our lives dead to self and alive to Him. There is much self-centredness, self-pampering, self-indulgence and self-promotion in the Church.

- ✓ 2 Cor.4:7-12. The life of Jesus is the only thing we possess that can minister effectively to others.
- ✓ Every Christian possesses the same life, Christ's life. Yet the degree to which His life flows forth from each individual believer varies immensely.
- ✓ Paul explains why this is so. In verse 7 he says that we have the treasure of Christ in earthen vessels. It is like the precious ointment Mary brought to Jesus to anoint Him. Its fragrance could only be known when the alabaster box that contained it was broken open.
- ✓ Paul experienced brokenness. In verses 8-10 he gives us an insight into something of what it meant for him to pour out his life. The flesh naturally shrinks from every form of suffering and hardship. Yet Paul understood the principle of the cross. See 4:10-12.
- ✓ There is only one life that can impact people. This is, of course, the life of Christ. We are channels of His life to others to the degree that we pour out our lives as a drink offering.
- ✓ When we realize this, all those things that make our lives unpleasant suddenly become sweeter. We are happy to be without prestige or reputation, to serve instead of being served, to deny self instead of gratifying self, to turn the other cheek when offended, etc. Because every occasion that comes our way to deny self is God's opportunity to manifest Christ through us.
- ✓ We choose which life will be manifested through us moment by moment and day by day: the resurrection life of Christ, or the resuscitated life of self. The two cannot be integrated.

5) Lifting Our Spear And Disarming The Enemy

2 Sam.23:18-23. Abishai lifted his spear against the Philistines and killed them. Benaiah plucked the spear out of the hand of the spectacular Egyptian, and killed the Egyptian with his own spear.

Abishai

- ✓ We have a spear, i.e. spiritual authority delegated by Jesus to the Church. Authority is delegated power.
- ✓ Power (*dunamis*) is inherent power. Authority (*exousia*) is power of influence bestowed by another.
- ✓ The spear is a symbol of exercising authority like a badge, a traffic sign, etc.
- ✓ We have been given authority over the powers of darkness. It is represented in many ways. Examples: finger (Lk.11:20), rod (Ex.14:16, arrow (2 Kings 13:18), sword (Eph.6:17), etc.
- ✓ There is a difference between the logos and rhema. The rhema is a specific word for our situation. E.g. Jesus said, *'It is written...'*
- ✓ We overcome Satan by, *'...the word of their testimony...'*, i.e. *homologia* = to say the same thing as.
- ✓ This is the difference between having a spear and lifting our spear (Mk.11:23).

- ✓ 2 Cor.1:17-20. When God says 'yes', it is an eternal yes. His 'yes' is never 'no'. All the promises God has given are made unconditional in Christ (2 Cor.1:20). God says 'yes'; and we say 'amen', 'so be it'.
- ✓ This is what it means to 'lift our spear'.
- ✓ All this results in God's glory. *'He who has received His testimony has certified that God is true'* (Jn.3:33).

The key is to discover what the Word says about your situation and agree with it. Lift up your spear. E.g.

- ✓ *'Let the weak say I am strong...'* (Joel 3:10).
- ✓ *'If God be for me, who can be against me?'*
- ✓ *'We are accepted in the beloved...'*
- ✓ *'There is no condemnation to those in Christ Jesus...'*
- ✓ *'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me...'*
- ✓ *'God has not given me a spirit of fear...'*

Benaiah

Benaiah confronted *'a huge Egyptian'* (NIV). The Egyptian had a spear and Benaiah had a staff, with which he wrenched the spear from the Egyptian and used it to kill him.

How can the spear represent the Word of God when it is in the hands of the enemy? Much of the damage Satan has caused to Christians and to the Church he has done with the Bible. It has been used to justify:

- ✓ Husbands who abuse their wives
- ✓ Extremists who bomb abortion clinics
- ✓ The practice of slavery
- ✓ Fleecing people of their money; threatening curses if people do not tithe
- ✓ Spiritual control in churches where leaders demand unquestioned obedience
- ✓ To condemn the sick because they don't have enough faith to be healed or have unconfessed sin
- ✓ Marginalize the divorced, etc.

How did Jesus disarm Satan's use of the Law as a weapon?

1) In His Life (i.e. His teaching).

- ✓ Jesus magnified the spirituality of the Law. He elevated it to its true level, showing that none can keep it.
- ✓ There is always one area that finds us out. E.g. with Paul it was covetousness.
- ✓ Jesus said, 'He that is without sin (not adultery) cast the first stone.' There will always be one thing.

2) In His Death

- ✓ Col.2:14-15. He nailed it to the Cross. That's where the Old Covenant is.

6) Giant-Slayers

- ✓ Contrast Deut.8:7-9 with Num.13:26-33. God told them about the milk & honey but not about the giants.
- ✓ He had to get them excited about the land and deal with the negatives after.
- ✓ The land God has for us has giants. The presence of giants indicates that we are in the right place.
- ✓ We will always be smaller than giants. But in Christ we are more than conquerors.
- ✓ The Children of Israel appeared like grasshoppers in their own sight and in their sight (Num.14:33).
- ✓ But we walk by faith, not by sight.

1) Ishbi-Benob (2 Sam.21:15-17)

- ✓ He sought to take out leadership. Leaders play a unique role in the Church.
- ✓ There is not a dearth of leaders, but of Christ-centred leaders.
- ✓ A church will seldom rise above the level of its leadership. Churches often die when leaders die.
- ✓ Satan has a master tactic: 'Smite the shepherd and the sheep are scattered.' Pray for church leaders.

What are some of the things leaders succumb to?

- ✓ Isolation. This breeds loneliness and lack of accountability. Working as a team provides checks and balances. In fact, of the 18 NT passages that speak of church leadership, 15 of them are in the plural.
- ✓ Personal spiritual neglect. 'They made me the keeper of the vineyards, but my own vineyard I have not kept.' Leaders need to be spiritually energized, not trained in the wisdom of this world.
- ✓ Temptation. The girls, the gold and the glory. *'Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you'* (1 Tim.4:16).

2) Saph (2 Sam.21:18)

- ✓ Also translated Sippai meaning threshold/doorway. The terminator at the threshold.
- ✓ At the threshold of new life there is the greatest danger.
- ✓ Just at the inception of a new move of God the enemy seeks to cut it off.
- ✓ Sibbechai counter attacked. *'But God...'*

3) Lahmi (2 Sam.21:19)

- ✓ Occupier of bread. Financial restriction.
- ✓ Often, to establish God's church and to spread the Gospel involves money.
- ✓ Examples of the way this finance is to be raised are given in Bible. E.g. Sometimes offerings were taken up. Also we see the principle of regular giving to support those set aside to teach and pastor, etc.
- ✓ Always, God's methods are His people – not fundraisers, worldly sponsors, government aid.
- ✓ All of this was done willingly, as an energy of grace. There was never a hint of coercion, scare tactics, fear manipulation, etc. God loves a cheerful giver, not a fearful giver!
- ✓ E.g. the tabernacle. See Exod.35:20-36:7. For the temple David gave 20 trillion dollars; the leaders 'offered willingly' (see 1 Chron.29).
- ✓ God pays for what He orders. If pastors have to beg, plead, manipulate and intimidate their people into giving, then this is not a result of the energy of grace. Elhanan means God is gracious.

4) Unnamed Giant (2 Sam.21:20&21)

Six is the number of man. A picture of God's house under fleshly control. When does that happen?

- ✓ First, the Word of God is not given its rightful place. Worldly methods of leadership and organization are substituted. The ark is carried on an ox cart.
- ✓ The worship of man replaces the worship of God. Worship that is in the Spirit and in truth has God at the centre. When the centre and purpose of life is the needs of man, this is idolatry.
- ✓ No dependency upon the Holy Spirit.
- ✓ Man-made religious structures eventually stifle the work of the Spirit. It has six all over it.
- ✓ It has to be taken to the sword. Jonathan, David's cousin, slew him.