

“The Victory is One”

(The Fall of Jericho)

Introduction

*“By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days”
(Heb.11:30).*

True eternal victory has been won because the Lord Jesus Christ has made us one with Himself through the finished work of His Cross. We were united to Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection. His death was our death, His burial was our burial and His triumph over sin and death became ours through union into Christ. This victory is “ONE” because it works only on the basis of union. When we abide in our union with Christ we walk in resurrection reality and find our being in Him rather than the strongholds that may yet appear to be standing. Yet if we think and walk as if we are still separate from Jesus then we will “observe these lying vanities” (Jonah 2:8) and reject the good report that the Land is ours. Defeat is not possible when we maintain our stand in resurrection reality in Christ. Embracing the victory is no longer an undecided battle but a walking in the triumph of the Cross that has made two one. The Lord won all battles when He put away the old creation and raised us up in Himself united into all the riches and abundance of His very being (Eph. 1:3). Our walk will not only be victoriously in Christ, but fragrantly full of His Life as we embrace our union with Christ even in the face of our strongholds.

When we encompass our strongholds with the reality that we are one with Jesus... then it will manifest that they have fallen! Walk in oneness with Jesus and watch Jericho crumble!

It’s Time To Enter In

In the Book of Joshua, chapter four, the people have passed over the Jordan river. The Cross is becoming the basis of reality for their lives now. They have eaten their victuals and filled up on the Word of that victory (Josh. 1:11). They have passed through the circumcision at Gilgal and are allowing the Word of the Cross to become effectual to the removing of the old in them (Josh. 5:3). They have waited eighty years to come to this time and place where they could finally dwell in the Land that flows with milk and honey. Joshua feels it in the air. It is time to move, and it is equally time to walk in this place as if they owned it. The ground of Canaan was set apart by God to be inhabited by His people. Once on this soil, it was time to possess the land and bring forth fruit.

Joshua is beginning to feel the weight of all of this and as a leader it is his responsibility to properly lead the people and find God’s way to approach the situation before them, which at this point was Jericho. Having been with Moses for so long Joshua knew the

futility of moving if God's presence was not with them (Ex. 33:15). Jericho was already shut up and afraid, yet the land was not possessed.

Rambo or Resurrection Man

“And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand: and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, Art thou for us, or for our adversaries? And he said, Nay; but as captain of the host of the Lord am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What saith my lord unto his servant? And the captain of the Lord's host said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy. And Joshua did so”(Josh. 5:13-15).

“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds; Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;”(2 Cor. 10: 3-5).

Turning his eyes from his situation, the children of Israel, and the walls of Jericho, Joshua lifts up his eyes and discovers the Captain of the host of the Lord is standing there with His sword drawn, ready to possess. Joshua immediately asks, “Whose side are you on?” It is the question of a man going into a battle not sure if he is going to win. It is not the question of a man who has already entered into rest. These are not the thoughts of someone who is abiding in the finished reality of a union that will permeate all regions of the dry earth he is standing on. Joshua falls down and worships but quickly gets up and asks the Lord another carnal question, “What would be a good battle plan for the conquest of Jericho, what advice can you give me?”

In the Lord's answer, rather than imparting a great military strategy, Joshua is instructed to take his shoes off! This is probably not the answer that he was expecting! Joshua was ready for battle but in effect God said, “Take your army boots off! Prepare yourself to walk not as a soldier but as a bride. This is not a battlefield, this is holy ground that has been set apart for Christ and the Church where Jesus and His Bride will dwell together in a oneness that will be established and fruitful. Our weapons are not carnal and we do not set one foot on enemy soil. Rather we have spiritual weapons that are mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds. I do not want you to be consumed with Jericho, but clothe yourself in Me. Your victory is the reality that you are already in Me and separated from the old. If you approach this situation as separate from Me hoping to win My love and acceptance by defeating Jericho, then you have already lost.”

So many Christians are dressed in combat gear ready to beat up the enemy rather than separating themselves to Christ and the finished work of His Cross that has already overcome all foes. In that viewpoint and heart condition we would be putting on our wedding garments rather than lacing up our army boots. We can make ourselves ready by becoming clothed with the reality that we are married to the Victor Himself and by

preparing ourselves to walk in that union. As we abide in Him, the evil One touches us not (I Jn. 5:18). As we abide in Him, He abides in us.

If our victory is to win a temporal battle that will make us feel better or cause our situation to look better, then we have already lost. As we comprehend that we ARE ONE with Jesus then we will know that we already HAVE WON! Therefore, we must allow His victory to renew our minds, fill our hearts, and form the way we walk in the Land. THEN the old must relinquish to the new IN us and Jesus Who is the true Joshua can finally possess His Bride that is already raised in Him as one.

Heavenly Strategy

“And the Lord said unto Joshua, See, I have given into thine hand Jericho, and the king thereof, and the mighty men of valour. And ye shall compass the city, all ye men of war, and go round about the city once. Thus shalt thou do six days. And seven priests shall bear before the ark seven trumpets of rams' horns: and the seventh day ye shall compass the city seven times, and the priests shall blow with the trumpets”

(Joshua 6:2-4).

At this point the Lord starts talking strategy, even wisdom that is from above. The Captain of the Lord's host first tells Joshua to see that all of Jericho, even its mighty men and king, are given into their hand. It is very important that before we start moving into action we first see the completed victory of the Cross (Eph. 1:19-23). Before we can walk properly we must first enter into His rest. Next Joshua is instructed to have the people encompass the city. It is important to notice what is happening here. There is to be no contact with Jericho, no hand to hand combat or even a touching of its walls. Rather they are instructed to envelop this stronghold much like light would envelop darkness. The power of influence would overcome what has already been defeated. They are bringing the influence of the Life of Jesus as they surround the fortified walls with the faith and spirit of those who are in union with the Living God. They are encompassing this city with God's city, the New Jerusalem from above that bears within her the glory of God (Rev. 21:2,10-11). The Lamb Himself is the light of this city and He shines out of it. As they walk in this way around the walls it is apparent that they are joined and filled to overflowing with the Life of Another. As they walk they are flowing over the land with the savor of the knowledge that they are in union with Christ. In this way they can permeate all regions of the land with the fragrant Life of Christ.

Let the priest's declare the reality that they are raised in Christ with the sound of the trumpet, that God has gone up with a shout and ascended as head of the resurrected new man. Let the very Ark of God Himself that is in them be carried and surround the old city that has no life. Have the men of war that are skillful with the sword bear the word of God that is spirit and life. These men can divide lies from truth, shadows from reality and the old from the new. They will speak forth the Word of confession in faith and life. The “battle plan” was for them to encompass this old fortress with living union until its old walls were saturated, permeated and over strained with the constant presentation and

influence of the resurrected new man.

As we look at this procession of Israelites surrounding Jericho in such a manner may we turn our eyes to now see the fulfillment that has come in the resurrected Body of Christ. In that viewpoint we do not see an external ark but the indwelling Christ in His people. Rather than trumpets and swords we now hear the voice of those who declare Christ and Him crucified sounding forth the good news that we have been raised in Christ as one new man. This new man walks as the vehicle that carries the Life of Jesus.

Holy Feet

“Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses” (Josh. 1:3).

“And command ye them, saying, Take you hence out of the midst of Jordan, out of the place where the priests' feet stood firm, twelve stones, and ye shall carry them over with you, and leave them in the lodging place, where ye shall lodge this night”.

And Joshua set up twelve stones in the midst of Jordan, in the place where the feet of the priests which bare the ark of the covenant stood: and they are there unto this day.”

“And it came to pass, when the priests that bare the ark of the covenant of the Lord were come up out of the midst of Jordan, and the soles of the priests' feet were lifted up unto the dry land, that the waters of Jordan returned unto their place, and flowed over all his banks, as they did before” (Josh. 4:3,9,18).

The same feet that held the Ark in the Jordan and saw it flood its own banks are the feet now walking the dirt around Jericho's walls carrying the same Ark. The same work of the Cross that caused the Jordan river to fall back will also cause these walls to fall down. It is the same feet that walked carrying the Presence of the Lord in the Ark with them that caused passage for the people through the Jordan. Remember that the Jordan would not roll back until the soles of the priest's feet were lifted up to the dry ground (Josh. 4:18). As long as their feet were standing on that ground, the Jordan could not return to its place. It is in this same spirit we hear the words of the Lord that tell us that everywhere we put our feet we possess. It becomes obvious that it is not just any feet that will do this, but feet that have separated unto the Lord in a manner and walk that brings the very Life and Presence of the Lord to where ever their feet touch. The Captain of the Lord's host said this is holy ground. The feet that walk this ground should be holy, which simply means separated unto the Lord. These priests carrying the Ark represent people who have separated themselves and their walk unto God in a way that will bring the influences of His Life everywhere their feet touch. They are not caught up in the old inhabitants of the Land, they are captivated by the heart of Jesus and caught up in His desire to inhabit us and therefore possess the Land through us by His Life.

The issue that is first in God's heart is not the enemy but the reality of having a Bride and Body that will bear His presence in the earth, and fill the earth with this glorious union. The heart of His Bride is not towards guidance through various battles in the earth, but to proceed from her position in Him, bearing the mind and nature of Christ that will bring light and Life into any situation or conflict. The richness of the resources of His Life in us

will fill the land. The falling down of strongholds that are already defeated is just an automatic effect of God's people beginning to walk in their union with Christ as His Body and Bride.

First Fruits of the Entire Land

Jericho is the first example of true possession in the land standing as the first fruits unto God of the spirit in which all the Land would be taken. In that sense it represents the entire harvest. Here in Jericho the Captain of the host shares the heart of what is required to truly possess every inch of Canaan... "WITHNESS". When the Lord said, "Be strong and courageous for the Lord thy God is WITH you", He was not referring to "with us" in the sense of two people walking together and helping each other out. This "WITH" is in the sense of John 1:1 where the Word was With God and Was God. They are "with" because they are one. It is God's definition of "WITH" that should become our definition. If God relates to us in His Son, then He will speak to us in that way. If we are dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, then never again should we resurrect the old in our minds that would say we have an identity that is separate from Jesus. Let it be settled in us that this fight is a good fight of faith (I Tim. 6 :12). The spirit of this faith is in those who have become persuaded and embraced resurrection reality enough to confess that they are one with Jesus and Jericho has ALREADY fallen (Heb. 11:13). It is now only a matter of manifesting what is ALREADY true. If we can walk into the land in that mind and heart condition, then truly the giants will be bread for us.

Quit Attacking the Walls!

Hand to hand combat with Jericho is insanity! Certainly the Lord Himself will become our victory as we acknowledge in faith what He has accomplished through the work of His Cross. Our new identity in Christ, when received and walked in, will cause all that is of the old to lose its foundations and strength in us. We are now becoming rooted and grounded into another reality: our place and identity in Christ and His place in us. These old strongholds will fall on their own because the real has now come IN THE PEOPLE. Because the old has no more place in the heart and mind of the believer it can no longer co-exist in the land of their heart. The Lord told them to simply WALK around the city in this spirit and full of this reality. He did not tell them to throw stones at the walls or to start hammering and blasting away at it in an effort to destroy it. GOD has already destroyed the old creation. He crucified it, He fought the battle, and He won the battle. God told us to use all of our strength to love Him, not to battle the enemy. As we love God by embracing our union with Christ in an active way, then strongholds will lose their hold in our hearts and minds as Christ fills all and in all.

Every time we grab the pick axe to try and put a dent into that old issue that we can't seem to overcome we are using a carnal weapon that cannot bring down strongholds. By fighting like that we are acknowledging that this giant is still very real and intimidating to us. We are acting like it is so much in our reality that we need to tear it down so it will go away. These are carnal, fleshly and earth minded weapons. We are fighting the enemy on its ground and the enemy has power to intimidate and paralyze us with fear when we

meet and acknowledge it THERE. We must not set one foot on enemy soil, but remain captivated and filled with resurrection reality, finding our only footing in Christ. On Christ the solid Rock we can stand, even having done all else.

This is more than just a way to walk, it is a relationship that defines our way of living. Consider someone who has so been with the Lord that their eyes see Jesus and their minds are full of the Word of God. Their heart is saturated with His Spirit so much so that their cup is overflowing with His Life. Everywhere they go the presence of God goes in and through them. Everything they touch drips with the essence that it is the touch of Jesus for this person is one with Him in a living, breathing, walking, and moving way. As this person approaches Jericho, instead of acknowledging it, touching it, and battling it they simply walk around it bringing the powerful influence of the reality that they are married, filled, free, and above its influence. They are only influenced by the One Who is their Life. They walk around the stronghold in this way over and over again for seven days signifying completion, (until it is complete). As they walk they are singing the songs of Zion, speaking the wonderful words of life that confess His work is true and believed. They carry the Ark of His presence in them bringing the present reality that God Himself is with them for He is alive within. As they walk they spread His fragrance, shine His light, emit His savor and reflect His glory! They release His Spirit and His living words for seven days, never really noticing Jericho or caught up in it at all. They are caught up in the Jerusalem that is from above, and are coming down bearing His fullness, bringing the influence of that place into Canaan where it can become established in the earth. Trust me, Jericho is about to fall, it cannot stand in the midst of this for very long. No one will have to even touch Jericho for it is utterly rejected and therefore evicted. It has no more place for Someone else has possessed the area where it once stood for so long. This is the victory of a marriage and the victory of newness of life. This is declaring the victory of being made one in the Son through His Cross.

“With The Sound of the Trumpet”

“And it shall come to pass, that when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when the people hear the sound of the trumpet, all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city shall fall down flat, and the people shall ascend up every man straight before him” (Josh. 6:5).

“God is gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of a rams horn” (Psa. 47:5).

“And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou art God.” “And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.” “And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul” (Acts 4:24, 31, 32).

If our method is not God's method then we are wasting our time and energy. It is not shouting louder or longer that makes walls fall down, but the manifestation of Christ in

His Body that pushes back the enemy. Spiritual darkness cannot withstand Christ as Life in His Body. It is one thing to talk about the Life of Jesus in His Body, but it is another thing for a people to walk filled with His Life as One New Man. This is not just another method to deal with things, but the very manifestation of what the resurrection of Jesus Christ has brought forth in His Body. In this sense, may our weapons be spiritual and mighty.

The Land's Purpose

This land was made to be inhabited, not just looked at, believed in, or even declared. It was set apart with the specific purpose of the union which is in Christ to fill and permeate every corner and inch of ground until it truly is inhabited by God Himself through His people. He is magnified as Life down here in and through us. This relationship of oneness is established and fruitful on this ground. The old Jericho falls as the New Jerusalem rises up (Josh. 6:5b).

The possession of the land is a byproduct of an ongoing relationship of oneness that has debilitating influence to all the old in the land. They are possessing Jericho by a walk in the Lord that has lifted their awareness out from the earth and themselves into the plenteousness of Christ. In this way they are crowding out the enemy. Not in great military triumphs where they gradually push back the enemy lines. They are suffocating the enemy with the deadly fumes of the sweet savor of Christ. They are blinding Jericho with the light of His life that is shining out from them. They are removing the city's mobility by not acknowledging them nor being intimidated or stirred up by its "presence". In them, there is no more Jericho. The constant awareness of that city down here is replaced with the glory of living as the New Jerusalem from above. Their constant awareness is now that they are one with the Lord and ever abiding as His city, His wife (Rev. 21:23).

My Need is For You, Not Deliverance

A heart that begins to see the real will cry out to see Jesus and not for deliverance from Jericho. Such a one might pray, "Lord, I don't need deliverance from Jericho, I NEED YOU. To walk with You, to talk and commune in You from the position and peace of being joined and one spirit. I need to proceed with You in Your spirit and mind. I need Your viewpoint to renew my mind and replace old concepts and identities. I need You in greater depth and fullness. I need You, Joshua, to possess my heart so I can properly possess this land. I seek not deliverance from Jericho. I seek to touch the hem of Your garment and not my issue of blood. I will cleave and hold fast to You until my change comes and it is no longer I but Christ living in me. Lord, wash me, clothe me, ignite me, and consume me until all that comes forth from me is your essence permeating every place that I put my foot. In this way I too will remove my shoes and acknowledge that this is holy ground. When I walk in this way, my weapons are spiritual and mighty to the flattening of the fortified walls of Jericho, and the earth will become a place where resurrection reality can manifest through the people of God. Lord, what I need is You."

It Requires Humility

You have to be humble enough to walk with the Lord instead of the issues surrounding Jericho. This requires our hearts to turn from the situations around us to the Lord Himself. Such a heart acknowledges that the real need is for more of Jesus and not just answers on how to deal with tough situations. Rather than asking the Lord for light on how to handle the issue at hand, we can embrace the Lord Himself as the Light that will fill us with His Life. Once our eyes see Jesus above all else, then we will truly understand how to proceed in all circumstances. When we have Christ as our Light then we will walk through these valleys filled with the savor of His Life.

As we “surround” all things through expressing God’s love, then hearts will melt, relationships will heal, and wounds can be mended. Casting stones of condemnation because someone is wrong or even working through issues to find out who and what is right is not as effective as allowing the love of Jesus to surround the situation with forgiveness and mercy. In these practical situations that happen to us all, we can choose a carnal method to deal with them, or we can allow Christ to order how we walk. Once again, for someone to walk as spiritual in these things they must love Jesus more than their personal issues within the situation. Many times there is strong temptation to start seeing these problems based on an earthly viewpoint rather than through the eyes of Jesus. Yet we have overcome this realm for we have been raised out of it and made partakers of the Divine Nature so that we can proceed with His Divine method!

Love Casts Out

Strength to overcome does not cast out fear and unbelief – love casts out fear. Jericho is a huge and fortified city ONLY if it is our reality. If we live in Christ then our focus is on our union into His Life and not on defeating our old life. We, therefore, abide in His Life rather than the issues that relate to our old life down on the earth and in Jericho. It is then that Jericho begins to weaken and ultimately fall. The knowledge of good and evil tries to draw our attention and identification to focus upon the issues in Jericho, but to abide there will only entangle us deeper into Jericho and strengthen its walls. We are not to “eat of that tree” and partake of the knowledge of good and evil. We are to know ourselves and one another in Christ. We are to have the mind of Christ that overcomes death with Life. Jericho has already “lost its sting”. We simply manifest that by walking in the spirit rather than walking in the flesh. We no longer are motivated by what we see in the earth as we seek after what is true in the spirit (Rom. 8:5-6). When we get caught up in resurrection reality then we will be able to walk around Jericho properly. We must accept that we are crucified with Christ and that now we can walk in newness of Life.

It is a faith that works by love. Christ loved us and gave Himself for us so that we could walk in newness of Life. Through His death He has overcome every obstacle that would seek to block or hinder His Life from possessing every inch of our hearts. Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ (Rom. 8:38-39)!

More Than Conquerors

“Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us” (Rom. 8:37).

God has made us more than conquerors; He has made us His Bride. Our focus, therefore, is not overcoming the enemy, but coming away to Christ as our Life and place of refuge. We rise above our battles as we choose to dwell in the realm of glorious union in Christ. Once that relationship and way of existing becomes established in us and fills us, then we bring that environment back down to our “Jericho’s” through a lifestyle and walk that speaks of someone who has become more than just a conqueror.

The victory that we believe in and walk in came through *“Him Who loved us and gave Himself for us” (Gal. 2:20)*. The essence of the Lord in His death is more akin to a husband towards His wife than a great war captain towards his men.

The Song of Songs is Being Sung

At times we might want to avoid the Book of Joshua because it brings up uncomfortable issues that deal with standing against the enemy causing us to turn to the Song of Solomon to feel close to the Lord and His love. But it is here around the walls of Jericho that you can also hear the Song of Solomon being sung: *“How much better is your love than wine, and the fragrance of your oils than all kinds of spices. Honey and milk are under your tongue, and the fragrance of your garments is like the fragrance of Lebanon” (Song of Songs 4:10-11)*. Here the Beloved is describing His victorious warrior, His Bride. She looks much like those marching around Jericho. They are more caught up in the Lord than the wine of overpowering Jericho in their own strength. They bear the presence and therefore fragrance of the Lord as they carry the ark. They use the sword skillfully and speak of the Land as a place that flows with union, milk and honey. They are clothed in Christ and walking in Him rather than in their old identity that is buried under the Jordan and removed at Gilgal. Who and what can stand in the presence of the living reality of the Bride and Body of Christ that is filled with His Life? It is the manifestation of the victory of the ages.

Another Giant Killer

Many years later we see that for the most part, Israel has lost the spirit that was found in Joshua and the people who walked around the walls of Jericho. The mighty men of Israel are intimidated and afraid of the giant Goliath. They did not know that God had given them the Land, that the victory was already theirs, and that this Philistine was uncircumcised and therefore unfit to set one unholy foot in this holy land. David did not put on Saul’s armor, neither did he conform to the general attitude of Israel. He walked up to the giant just like Caleb must have approached the sons of Anak years earlier and stated the obvious facts “Who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?”. He took what was literally part of the land, five smooth stones, even like the 12 that were still standing in Gilgal as a memorial. He held them and

then released them. The reality of God's victory and God's place of habitation would surely and immediately slay any giant when applied to the situation in a living faith. The giants are simply bread for those of the same spirit that Joshua, Caleb, and David had.

David was of the heart and mind of those who possessed the land. He had a real relationship with the Lord that "flowed with milk and honey" and could fill the land with the essence of one who walked in union with the Living God. We expect the land to magically possess itself rather than us walking on this ground in a state that is so filled with life that it can root and flourish wherever our foot is put. Until Christ is no longer a place outside of us, but a relationship with a Person that fills us and spills from us, the Land, though set apart for God, will be filled with wild beasts and uncircumcised heathen.

Not Religion but the Temple of God

We were created to be inhabited by the Living God, and to carry ourselves as the temple that bears the Presence of His Person. We weren't created to sing and dance while doing a ritual march as we carry around religious objects. When our mind is renewed to the truth as it is in Jesus, then everything we do, including our approach to the enemy, will proceed and be ordered from our place of union with Christ.

As the temple of the living God, these people are a manifestation of the altar and those who have embraced it and passed through it. For these people to walk fragrantly around Jericho and emit the savor of Christ they must have inwardly embraced the work of the Cross. A fragrant and constant release of Christ as Life cannot occur without the altar. Only those who will yield to the constant inward work of the Cross will be able to walk in such a way. To truly follow the Lamb we must pick up our Cross daily.

Conclusion

It is possible for us to come to the Lord with the problems and situations in our lives and ask for a plan that will give us the victory over these things. In essence, we are walking up to the throne room with carnal shoes on. We are speaking as if we are separate from Him and unaware of His resurrection victory. We act as if we are down on earth fighting for Him and His people while He is up there somewhere shouting down orders so that we can be cunning enough to win. But this is not the case. We are always on holy ground for we are always one with Jesus if we have been born again. Our approach both to God and the situations in our lives should be on the basis of oneness, the finished work of His Cross, and the power of His resurrection Life within.***