

# Victory is waiting for you

#### Victory is waiting for you - Dr. Mark Nagy

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We are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. (Romans 8: 37)

Jesus: You are my strength ... It is only in You that I find my victory.



In the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

One God.

Amen

The Lord is the God of victory. He alone is able to convert defeat into victory, weakness into strength, despair into hope and sadness into joy. This is what the saints of God have experienced through different ages. Hereinafter, we are going to contemplate some examples from the cloud of witnesses who experienced that life of victory from the Lord.

# **❖** David ❖

David had all the logical reasons which could prevent him from even thinking to fight Goliath.

#### A) Fear

As he saw all the men of war escaping from just seeing Goliath as the bible tell us that they "fled from him and were dreadfully afraid" (1 Samuel 17: 24). Surely these men of war were talking with each others about Goliath's extraordinary strength and his strong weapons as his "height was six cubits and a span. He had a bronze helmet on his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail, and the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of bronze. And he had bronze armor on his legs and a bronze javelin between his shoulders. Now the staff of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and his iron spearhead weighed six

#### hundred shekels" (1 Samuel 17: 4-7).

What is the reason that David was not affected by the spirit of fear which included king Saul and all Israel "who were dismayed and greatly afraid."? (1 Samuel 17: 11).

#### B) Had no military experience.

He had no knowledge about the art of war and fighting. We can see this clearly when Saul clothed David with his armor, and he put a bronze helmet on his head; he also clothed him with a coat of mail. David fastened his sword to his armor and tried to walk, for he had not tested them. And David said to Saul, "I cannot walk with these, for I have not tested them." So David took them off. (1 Samuel 17: 38,39). War was not his area of expertise, then how to start his first war with a giant enemy like Goliath?

C) His oldest brother's negative words to him.

One of the most difficult things that a man can bear is to hear negative words from the closest relatives, either within the family or from the loved ones. David experienced this challenge, as when Eliab his oldest brother heard when he spoke to the men; and Eliab's anger was aroused against David, and he said, "Why did you come down here? And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your pride and the insolence of your heart, for you have come down to see the battle." (1 Samuel 17: 28)

The words of his oldest brother were full of condemnation and mockery, but David did not allow this negative words to affect him, instead he raised up quickly and turned from him toward another looking for answers to prepare for his battle against Goliath (1)

(1) Then he turned from him toward another and said the same thing; and these people answered him as the first ones did. (1 Samuel 17: 30)

The secret behind the confidence of David in victory, despite of all the challenges, was due to two main reasons:

1) David completely understood that the battle is the Lord's.

Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.

(1 Samuel 17: 45)

Then all this assembly shall know that the Lord does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the Lord's, and He will give you into our hands."

(1 Samuel 17: 47)

David was completely aware that the victory in his battle with Goliath needed more than human fighting experience in wars, that is why he did not consider his weak capabilities, instead he fixed his eyes and trust towards the God of Israel who is able to do wonders. The strength of Goliath was not the center of David's concern, instead the strength of God was his center of interest and confidence.

What is our reaction towards the problems and challenges that face us in our daily life? Do we allow these challenges to be the center of our interest, so that we forget that our God is the creator of the universe "who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us" (Ephesians 3: 20)

2) David remembered the work of the Lord with him in the past.

But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep

his father's sheep, and when a lion or a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock, I went out after it and struck it, and delivered the lamb from its mouth; and when it arose against me, I caught it by its beard, and struck and killed it. Your servant has killed both lion and bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, seeing he has defied the armies of the living God." Moreover David said, "The Lord, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." (1 Samuel 17: 34-37)

David was remembering the work of the Lord with him throughout his life, having faith that God who gave him victory over his challenges in the past, is the same God who will be with him in facing his current challenge of the battle against Goliath.

Do we remember the work of God with us and with

His saints throughout different ages, when we are faced with our daily problems and challenges?

Goliath is a symbol of the devil who always falsely claims that he is invincible, but the children of God understand very well that they are already conquerors in the Lord (2). Put your full trust in the Lord and do your part of work knowing that God can use your little abilities and tools of stones and sling (3) to give you victory over your daily challenges and battles. (4)

<sup>(2)</sup> You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. (1 John 4: 4)

<sup>(3)</sup> Then David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone; and he slung it and struck the Philistine in his forehead, so that the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the earth. (1 Samuel 17: 49)

<sup>(4)</sup> The horse is prepared for the day of battle, But deliverance is of the Lord. (Proverbs 21: 31)

# **❖** Nehemiah ❖

Nehemiah answered God's call to him to rebuild the destroyed wall of Jerusalem and the gates burned with fire, despite all the challenges that he had to face.

The secret behind his success and victory was prayer and faith. Each time Nehemiah faced a challenge, the prayer full of faith was his first shelter. It was through the prayer that Nehemiah always got the strength to work and overcome the existing challenges to have his victory in the Lord.

Hereinafter, we shall quote some of the challenges that faced Nehemiah:

Firstly: How to reach Jerusalem?

Secondly: Enemies different fights: Mockery, threat, lies & deception, and fear.

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#### Firstly: How to reach Jerusalem?

## A) Challenge:

Nehemiah was considered the trusted king's cupbearer and the smallest mistake, even standing before the king with a sad face, might have subjected him to death. So what about Nehemiah's request to leave the King's service and return to Jerusalem? According to human logic, this is considered madness and suicide. But by faith it is different.

#### B) Nehemiah's reaction:

He prayed and fasted before God once he heard about Jerusalem's tribulation (Nehemiah 1: 4-11), and he prayed again when the King Artaxerxes asked him about his request (Nehemiah 2: 4)

#### C) Result:

The Lord gave Nehemiah the grace before the King who has sent him to Jerusalem with letters to the governors, and the King also granted him all the tools required for the rebuilding and for his stay in Jerusalem. (Nehemiah 2: 7-8)

### Secondly: Enemies different fights

The enemies tried to prevent Nehemiah from answering God's call to him, and they tried to defeat him in many ways, but Nehemiah used to turn to prayer asking for God's help and victory.

### 1. Mockery

# A) Enemies' plan:

When Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, that he was furious and very indignant, and mocked the Jews. And he spoke before his brethren and the army of Samaria, and said, "What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they fortify themselves? Will they offer sacrifices? Will they complete it in a day? Will they revive the stones from the heaps of rubbish—stones that are burned?" Now Tobiah the Ammonite was beside him, and he said, "Whatever they build, if

even a fox goes up on it, he will break down their stone wall." (Nehemiah 4: 1-3)

#### B) Nehemiah's reaction:

He prayed: "Hear, O our God, for we are despised; turn their reproach on their own heads, and give them as plunder to a land of captivity!" (Nehemiah 4: 4)

### C) Result:

So we built the wall, and the entire wall was joined together up to half its height, for the people had a mind to work. (Nehemiah 4: 6)

#### 2. Threat

### A) Enemies' plan:

When Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites heard that the walls of Jerusalem were being restored and the gaps were beginning to be closed, that they became very angry, and all of them conspired together to come and attack Jerusalem and create confusion. (Nehemiah 4: 7,8)

And our adversaries said, "They will neither know nor see anything, till we come into their midst and kill them and cause the work to cease." (Nehemiah 4: 11)

# B) Nehemiah's reaction:

I. Prayer & work: Nevertheless we made our prayer to our God, and because of them we set a watch against them day and night. (Nehemiah 4: 9)

II. Encouraging the people who were afraid:

"Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, great and awesome, and fight for your brethren, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your houses." (Nehemiah 4: 14)

### C) Result:

Defeat of the enemies' plot: And it happened, when our enemies heard that it was known to us, and that God had brought their plot to nothing, that all of us returned to the wall, everyone to his work.

(Nehemiah 4: 15)

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#### 3. Lies & deception

### A) Enemies' plan:

Now it happened when Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshem the Arab, and the rest of our enemies heard that I had rebuilt the wall, and that there were no breaks left in it (though at that time I had not hung the doors in the gates), that Sanballat and Geshem sent to me, saying, "Come, let us meet together among the villages in the plain of Ono." But they thought to do me harm.

So I sent messengers to them, saying, "I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down. Why should the work cease while I leave it and go down to you?"

But they sent me this message four times, and I answered them in the same manner.

Then Sanballat sent his servant to me as before,

the fifth time, with an open letter in his hand. In it was written: It is reported among the nations, and Geshem says, that you and the Jews plan to rebel; therefore, according to these rumors, you are rebuilding the wall, that you may be their king. And you have also appointed prophets to proclaim concerning you at Jerusalem, saying, "There is a king in Judah!" Now these matters will be reported to the king. So come, therefore, and let us consult together. (Nehemiah 6: 1-7)

### B) Nehemiah's reaction:

Prayer: **Now therefore, O God, strengthen my hands.** (Nehemiah 6: 9)

#### C) Result:

Failure of enemies' lies to make Nehemiah leave the work. (Nehemiah 6: 12)

#### 4. Fear

### A) Enemies' plan:

For they all were trying to make us afraid, saying, "Their hands will be weakened in the work, and it will not be done." Now therefore, O God, strengthen my hands.

Afterward I came to the house of Shemaiah the son of Delaiah, the son of Mehetabel, who was a secret informer; and he said, "Let us meet together in the house of God, within the temple, and let us close the doors of the temple, for they are coming to kill you; indeed, at night they will come to kill you."And I said, "Should such a man as I flee? And who is there such as I who would go into the temple to save his life? I will not go in!" Then I perceived that God had not sent him at all, but that he pronounced this prophecy against me because Tobiah and Sanballat

had hired him. For this reason he was hired, that I should be afraid and act that way and sin, so that they might have cause for an evil report, that they might reproach me. (Nehemiah 6: 9-13)

### B) Nehemiah's reaction:

Prayer: My God, remember Tobiah and Sanballat, according to these their works, and the prophetess Noadiah and the rest of the prophets who would have made me afraid. (Nehemiah 6: 14)

### C) Result:

So the wall was finished on the twenty-fifth day of Elul, in fifty-two days. And it happened, when all our enemies heard of it, and all the nations around us saw these things, that they were very disheartened in their own eyes; for they perceived that this work was done by our God. (Nehemiah 6: 15,16)

The technique of the devil in fighting the children of God has not changed since the days of Nehemiah. At times, he uses the human logic trying to convince us that it is impossible to answer God's call to us, and to enjoy the life of victory in the Lord. Sometimes, he fights us using mockery and smallness of soul so that he can make us fail even before we start, and other times he uses the technique of threat in case we decided not to obey or follow him. In many times he uses lies, deception and falsification of facts to make us retreat. Also, he usually uses the weapon of fear to paralyze our movement, trying to absorb our attention afar from the basic war.

Satan can fight us directly or through his human followers. We have to recognize that "we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places." (Ephesians 6: 12). Our fight is

not against Satan's human slaves who have lost their freedom and became tools in his hands with whom he can fight the children of God. Christ message to us today is to "love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you" (Matthew 5: 44)

Whatever the challenges that are facing you today, lift up your heart now with prayer and ask God to grant you wisdom and victory, as He did with Nehemiah and His people in the past. "Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed" (Joshua 1: 9)

# ❖ Mordecai ❖

The devil wanted to fight the people of God through Haman whom the King Ahasuerus promoted and "advanced him and set his seat above all the princes who were with him." (Esther 3: 1). Haman had become the second man in power in one of the most powerful kingdoms at that time, enjoying almost complete authority and power as the King Ahasuerus had a complete trust in him. "And all the king's servants who were within the king's gate bowed and paid homage to Haman, for so the king had commanded concerning him. But Mordecai would not bow or pay homage." (Esther 3: 2).

Mordecai refused to bow to Haman the Agagite<sup>(5)</sup> as bowing to him was not considered respect but worship according to what was prevalent at that time in Persia and Media, and this was against God's commandments

<sup>(5)</sup> Descendent of Amalekite-Enemies of God's people. (Exodus 17:8-16)

to His people. Today we face the same challenge on daily basis, as we have to choose between bowing to the love of the world and sin from one side and between the obedience to God from the other side. Inspite of Mordecai's complete faithfulness to King Ahasuerus as he saved the king's life from an assassination conspiracy (Esther 2: 21-23), he refused to obey his command as it was against God's commandments. Mordecai's decision was just the same as Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego from Nebuchadnezzar commandments (Daniel 3) and that of Daniel from Darius law (Daniel 6).

"When Haman saw that Mordecai did not bow or pay him homage, Haman was filled with wrath. But he disdained to lay hands on Mordecai alone, for they had told him of the people of Mordecai. Instead, Haman sought to destroy all the Jews who were throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus—the people of Mordecai." (Esther 3: 5,6).

Indeed, Haman managed to convince the king to kill the Jews in all his kingdom and he got all necessary support to accomplish his plan (Esther 3: 7-14). It seemed like Haman has won, as no body, including the King Ahasuerus himself, had the authority to cancel the decree of killing the people of God as "whatever is written in the king's name and sealed with the king's signet ring no one can revoke." (Esther 8: 8)

"When Mordecai learned all that had happened, he tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes" (Esther 4: 1). He prayed and fasted with the people of God asking for salvation from this temptation.

When queen Esther<sup>(6)</sup> knew about Mordecai's condition, she sent to him "to clothe Mordecai and

(6) His uncle's daughter, for she had neither father nor mother. The young woman was lovely and beautiful. When her father and mother died, Mordecai took her as his own daughter (Esther 2: 7) until she became King Ahasuerus' wife.

take his sackcloth away from him, but he would not accept" (Esther 4: 4). He told her about Haman's conspiracy, and asked her "to go in to the king to make supplication to him and plead before him for her people." (Esther 4: 8). Esther sent to him in return clarifying that going into the inner court to the king, without a previous call from him, may lead to her death (Esther 4: 11).

And Mordecai told them to answer Esther: "Do not think in your heart that you will escape in the king's palace any more than all the other Jews. For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" (Esther 4: 13-14).

Mordecai's answer was an indication of his:

- 1. Faith and trust in God's power to save His people. God who saved His people in the past from the hand of Pharaoh at the Red Sea, and who saved the three young men from the burning fiery furnace, and who saved Daniel from the lions' den, is able to make a miracle to save His people. Do we trust today in the power of God to save us from the evil plots?
- 2. Faithfulness towards the people of the Lord, as he was not seeking his personal survival or salvation from death, nor even the salvation of Esther, instead he looked for the salvation of God's people, even if this subjected his life as well as Esther's life to danger. Are we eager today to serve the Lord through servicing His people, even if this means sacrificing our own rest?
- 3. Deep contemplation in God's work and planning. He felt that the arrival of Esther to the reign was not just a coincidence or luck. Do we contemplate today in the work of the Lord in our lives over the years to recognize the Lord's call to us?

Then Esther told them to reply to Mordecai: "Go, gather all the Jews who are present in Shushan, and fast for me; neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. My maids and I will fast likewise. And so I will go to the king, which is against the law; and if I perish, I perish!" (Esther 4: 15,16). Esther asked the people of God to be united in praying for salvation. Indeed, not only she found favor in the King's sight as he held out to her the golden scepter that was in his hand, but he also accepted the banquet that she have prepared for him in order to ask him to save the Jews.

While Haman was planning to get rid of Mordecai in the morning by hanging him on a gallows of fifty cubits high, God arranged "that night the king could not sleep. So one was commanded to bring the book of the records of the chronicles; and they were read before the king. And it was found written that Mordecai had told of Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's eunuchs, the doorkeepers who had sought

to lay hands on King Ahasuerus. Then the king said, "What honor or dignity has been bestowed on Mordecai for this?" And the king's servants who attended him said, "Nothing has been done for him.".

So the king said, "Who is in the court?" Now Haman had just entered the outer court of the king's palace to suggest that the king hang Mordecai on the gallows that he had prepared for him. The king's servants said to him, "Haman is there, standing in the court." And the king said, "Let him come in."

So Haman came in, and the king asked him, "What shall be done for the man whom the king delights to honor?" Now Haman thought in his heart, "Whom would the king delight to honor more than me?" And Haman answered the king, "For the man whom the king delights to honor, let a royal robe be brought which the king has worn, and a horse on which the king has ridden, which has a royal crest placed on its

head. Then let this robe and horse be delivered to the hand of one of the king's most noble princes, that he may array the man whom the king delights to honor. Then parade him on horseback through the city square, and proclaim before him: 'Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delights to honor!'"

Then the king said to Haman, "Hurry, take the robe and the horse, as you have suggested, and do so for Mordecai the Jew who sits within the king's gate! Leave nothing undone of all that you have spoken." (Esther 6: 1-10)

The moment that the enemy was planning to eliminate Mordecai, was also the same moment in which the Lord lifted him in front of the eyes of all the kingdom. And because Mordecai was not looking for his own survival, but looked for the salvation of the people of God, the Lord worked His plan so that Mordecai would be the first one to be safe from the plot of Haman.

And the end of Haman was when he attended Esther's second banquet, and was hanged "on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai." (Esther 7:10). Ultimately, the Lord raised Mordecai so much and saved His people from death and even transferred the plot of Haman for raising them.

Are you facing Haman's conspiracies on your life today? Whatever the strength of the enemy who is fighting you, remember that God who saved Mordecai in the past is able to use the enemies' battles against you for rasing you. God who gave the victory to His saints across the different ages, will give you victory over your enemy today if you trust Him and obey His word.



- ❖ God who saved Noah and his family from the flood is able to save you from the world's flood of trials. (Genesis 7)
- ❖ God who transformed the distress and injustice that Joseph has faced in his life to his raising (Genesis 37-41), is able to give you victory in your life so that you can shout with Joseph announcing the forgiveness to those who have abused you, saying: "you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good" (Genesis 50: 20)
- ❖ God who gave victory to Moses and his people, and crossed them through the midst of the sea, while Pharaoh and all his army have drawn (Exodus 14), is able to cross you through this world's sea of trials. Without the Lord's work in your life, you would not be able to fight Satan's armies, while with the presence of the Lord on your side, confirmed victory is yours.
- . God who granted victory to Joshua and his people

so that Jericho's wall fell down flat in front of them (Joshua 6), is able to drop all the walls of weakness in your life to declare victory in the Lord.

- ❖ God who gave victory to Gideon and his people by only three hundred men in face of the great armies of the Midianites who were exceeding them greatly in number and gear (Judges 7), is able to give you victory over your enemies who excel you in terms of capabilities. Just trust in the Lord's call to you today: "The Lord is with you, you mighty man of valor!" (Judges 6:12)
- ❖ God, who gave victory to Hezekiah and his people in the face of the great army of Sennacherib (2 Kings 19), is able to destroy all the plots and reproaches of the enemy in your life. Just trust in the Lord and rebuke every spirit of weakness and failure. The Lord can destroy the greatest armies with only one stroke as he did with the army of Assyria (2 Kings 19:35).

- ❖ God who transformed the Samaritan woman from a sinful woman to a missionary (John 4), is able to grant you victory over your sins, to work in his vineyard. He alone is able to catch you from the depths of weakness and sin, granting you the grace of the work of the Holy Spirit through the living faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- ❖ God who liberated the man oppressed by the devil for a long time in the land of Gadarenes (Luke 8: 26-39), is able to free you from the bondage of sin. Only Jesus can break the yoke of bondage giving you the freedom<sup>(7)</sup> and victory. "Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed." (John 8:36)
- ❖ God who transformed the defeat in Saint Peter's life, who denied him in fear and faith weakness into victory in Christ, wants to give you the victory in your life too. Peter who feared and denied before a servant girl is the

<sup>(7)</sup> Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage. (Galatians 5:1)

same one who stood up with the eleven disciples and preached the crowd in the day of Pentecost until "those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them." (Acts 2:41). Regardless how much your past was full of weakness and failure, only the Lord is able to give you His grace and victory so that you can win souls to Him.

\* Christ died on the cross for our sins and rose from the dead to give us full Victory "having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it." (Colossians 2:15), liberating us from the bondage of the devil. All we have now to do is to come to Him and enthrone Him on our hearts in order to enjoy the life of victory in Him. God's heart desire is to see His children enjoying victory, defeating all the forces of evil through the work of the Holy Spirit who "makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered" (Romans 8:26)

- ❖ The Lord has told us that in the world we will have tribulation, but He asked us to trust in the victory in Him, as He has already overcome the world <sup>(8)</sup> and has granted us this victory "For whatever is born of God overcomes the world—our faith." (1 John 5: 4). "Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place." (2 Corinthians 2:14)
- ❖ My dear reader, the invitation is addressed to you to experience today the life of victory from the Lord. God's heart desire who has worked in the life of this cloud of witnesses <sup>(9)</sup> giving them the victory, is that you also

<sup>(8)</sup> In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world. (John 16: 33)

<sup>(9)</sup> Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us (Hebrews 12: 1)

enjoy victory in your life.

❖ Trust that God who "is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us" (Ephesians 3:20), can transform your defeat into victory, as "to God the Lord belong escapes from death" (Psalm 68: 20).



#### Other Translated Books for the author

- Prayer for Christian unity.
- ❖ Ambassador of Heaven
- Lord Jesus' visit to the child Maria.
- \* Wait for the Lord.

#### Other Books for the author in Arabic

- \* الصلاة من أجل الوحدة
- \* زيارة الرب يسوع للطفلة ماريا.
  - 💠 قدسني يا الله .
  - \* هلم إلى حضن يسوع.
    - انتظر الرب.
  - \* ثق! قم! هوذا يناديك.
    - 💠 سفيرة السماء.
    - \* النُصرة في انتظارك.
  - أبانا الذي في السموات.
- **پ** سر الزيجة. طلب وجه الرب، أم رضى العالم ؟!

The Lord is the God of victory.

He alone is able to convert:

Defeat into victory,

weakness into strength,

despair into hope

and sadness into joy.

This is what the saints of God have experienced through different ages.

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