

# Finishing Well

Lesson #13

Dressed For Battle

April 13,2022

## The Fall Of Man: Resulted In The Loss Of The Following

### 1) Property God Gave The Earth and Its Dominion To Man:

Psalm 115:16 The heaven, even the heavens, are the LORD's: but the earth hath He given to the children of men.

Man's Intended & Original Royal Position: When God created man, He gave him dominion not only over the earth, but also over all the animal creation. [Gen. 1:26-28]

Due to the fall [sin] man lost the dominion which God had entrusted to him.

Satan 'stole' man's property and became "the prince of this world." [Eph. 2:2]

Result of Original Sin: Adam Sold Our Birthright

### 2) Liberty Man Lost His Freedom Or Liberty At The Fall.

John 8:34 Jesus said: "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin."

Adam sold himself into slavery to sin and Satan. As children of a slave, we are born into slavery.

### 3) Life In the Garden of Eden God had warned Adam of the consequences of disobedience:

Gen. 2:17 "... but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."

It's clear: Death Is The Consequence Of Sin: Man lost his life. He died spiritually the very moment he disobeyed God. He ultimately died physically because God expelled him from the Garden of Eden thus denying him access to the Tree Of Life. [Gen 3:24]

### 4) Legacy - Ability To Produce Godly Offspring

Gen. 1:27 "So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them."

Given a commission to multiply and to fill the earth, man fell into sin before he could do so.

Man lost his ability to reproduce seed in God's likeness.

Gen. 5:3 "And Adam ... begot a son in his own likeness, after his own image..."

Eph. 2:2 We are brought forth into this world as "children of disobedience."

John 10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy:

I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

Consider: Could the Valley of Elah and the epic battle between David and Goliath be a picture of the struggle in my life to live in victory in my inheritance, my abundant life?

I Sam. 17:4 And there went out a champion out of the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, of Gath... He is a type of the seed of the serpent who symbolizes Satan our mighty adversary who appears as a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

The name Philistine means Grievers, Burrowers, Weakeners. It comes from the verb (*palash*), which originally described the digging of burrows in riverbanks by rodents such as rats. By doing so, these creatures weaken the shore and may ultimately cause it to collapse. In Hebrew, it came to denote the verbal expression of intense grief brought about by a sudden destruction:

- Goliath challenges and terrorizes God's people in their inheritance that God had given to them. A battle for control
  - the Uncoverer or Exposer; to expose the weakness of Israel and God's people
- What is at stake? My living in victory - the abundant life now; My future inheritance

### God Had One Individual Who Would Prevail.

Samuel announced the consequence of King Saul's first great sin.

I Sam. 13:14 But now thy [Saul's] kingdom shall not continue: the LORD has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and the LORD has commanded him to be captain over His people, because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you.

The apostle Paul in his address in the synagogue at Antioch:

Acts 13:22-23 He raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also He gave testimony, and said, "I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after Mine own heart, which shall fulfill all My will. Of this man's seed hath God according to His promise raised unto Israel a Savior, Jesus:"

I Samuel 16:12b-13 And the LORD said, Arise, anoint him: for this is he.

<sup>13</sup> Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren:

and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. [spiritually equipped]

- David was anointed as king long before he was recognized as king. He was sought and hunted by Saul, who desired his death even though he had done nothing to deserve it.

David, a young shepherd from Bethlehem, a lion from the tribe of Judah, was raised up by God to defy and kill Goliath who is a type of Satan. [God exalts at the proper time.]

I Sam. 17:16 And the Philistine drew near & presented himself 40 days, morning & evening.

Over a period of 40 days, the Israelites seem to become increasingly fearful and reluctant to oblige Goliath who seems to become bolder.

I Sam. 17:17 And Jesse said unto David his son, TAKE NOW for thy brethren an ephah of this parched corn, & these 10 loaves, & run to the camp of thy brethren;

Man's extreme situation is God's opportunity. But He does not always, nor generally, act immediately, when we are brought low. No, He "waits to be gracious" (Isa. 30:18), that our helplessness may be the more fully realized, that His delivering hand may be seen the more clearly, and that His merciful interposition may be the more appreciated. But even at this time, when all seemed lost to Israel, when there was none in her army that dared to pick up the gauntlet which Goliath had thrown down, God had His man in reserve, and in due time he appeared on the scene and vindicated the glorious name of Jehovah.

The instrument chosen seemed, to natural wisdom and military prudence, a weak and foolish one, utterly unfitted for the work before him.

J. Hudson Taylor: All God's giants have been weak men, who did great things for God because they reckoned on His being with them.

I Cor. 1:27-29, 31 But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; <sup>28</sup> And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nothing things that are: That no flesh should glory in His presence. <sup>31</sup>that, as it is written, "He who glories, let him glory in the LORD."

Sin had immobilized man when the Son of God came.

Men were shuddering, shivering slaves because of the fall in the Garden of Eden and the consequent corruption of sin.

Gal. 4:4-5 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, <sup>5</sup> To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

I John 3:8 Jesus was raised up to destroy the works of the devil.

The crucifixion, death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ has redeemed everything man lost in the Garden of Eden.

Rev. 5:1-5, 9-10 And I saw in the right hand of Him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals. <sup>2</sup> And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?

<sup>3</sup> And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon. <sup>4</sup> And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon.

<sup>5</sup> And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.

<sup>9</sup> And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

<sup>10</sup> And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

Key Point: The Lamb that was slain made the inheritance possible. He purchased us to be kings and priests in His kingdom to serve God and reign with Him on earth.

David was sent by his father—sent from isolation and keeping sheep, into public conflict.

I Sam. 17:34-35, 37 And David said unto Saul, Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock: <sup>35</sup> And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him. <sup>37</sup>The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, He will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine.

- David won private battles BEFORE the father sent him into the public arena.
- David's first public act was the meeting of Goliath, a type of the seed of Satan.

Matt. 3:16-17 And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: <sup>17</sup> And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

Matt. 4:1-3a Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.  
<sup>2</sup> And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He was hungry afterward.

<sup>3</sup> And when the tempter came to Him,...

The Lord Jesus had a private conflict face-to-face with the Devil in the wilderness.

He defeated him before He ever went into the public "arena" of Calvary.

The Lord Jesus, strengthened by His experience in the wilderness, defeated Satan time and time again by "It is written, it is written, it is written."

David was anointed by the Spirit and sent by his father at the proper time. The only thing that will give courage in the face of the enemy is the knowledge that God sent you there.

David was strengthened by his previous experiences. He remembered God's deliverance from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear. They are dead!

Our confidence in our current circumstances is that behind us there has been a situation when we faced an impossible situation and the Lord stepped in and gave the victory.

Strengthened by experience and sustained by the Word of God, we triumph!

I Sam. 17:39 And Saul armed David with his armor, and he put an helmet of brass upon his head; also he armed him with a coat of mail. And David said unto Saul, I cannot go with these; for I have not proved them. And David put them off him.

#### When The Armor Of The Flesh Doesn't Fit

Have you been in a situation where your problems are HUGE and you feel so inadequate, insignificant, ill-equipped, and simply too small?

Goliath fought with brute strength and dominated his enemies with his enormous size.

God was preparing David to fight Goliath when he was alone [isolated], doing an insignificant job, watching sheep.

##### 1. Be Insignificant and Learn Humility

- Total dependence on God! David was alone out on the hillside.
- Humility. Shepherds were not respected! His brother's mocked him.
- Skillful with his slingshot! Sheep are dumb animals and need protection.
- Learned to have a relationship with God! He played his harp and wrote songs

David had learned these lessons from God when he was alone and totally relying on God's protection on the hills as a shepherd. He didn't need all the outward protection when God had provided him with the skill and ability to be victorious!

## 2. Your Own Strength is Too Heavy

Too often we try to walk in our own strength instead of walking with Jesus in faith.

- Saul had been living in his own strength and his reign as king was disastrous.
- David had walked by faith as a shepherd and it had proved to work.

Why would David use something that had failed?

When life's problems are enormous and your armor does not fit, consider whether you are relying on your own strength instead of fully trusting in Jesus.

David's life as a shepherd boy who was willing to fight the enormously huge Goliath illustrates how you can rely on God to fit you with His perfectly suited armor.

God is able to give you His strength to fight your battles.

When David was misunderstood and rebuked, publicly, by his own brother, probably amid the laughs of the other soldiers, he could have blown it. But he showed the strength of the armor of God in his life and replied rightly. He didn't care about his glory or success, but only for the glory and success of the Lord's cause. Goliath was a dead man right then! This is where the battle was won! If Eliab's hurtful words can get David in the flesh, and out of the flow of the Spirit of the Lord, then David's strength is gone. But when David ruled his spirit [Prov. 16:32; Prov. 25:28; I Co 9:24-27] and answered softly, he was more in step with the Spirit of the Lord than ever. You could start digging Goliath's grave right then!

David had armor superior to Goliath's, but it was invisible. He was spiritually equipped.

I Samuel 16:12b-13 And the LORD said, Arise, anoint him: for this is he.

<sup>13</sup> Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward.

- David did not need a helmet, coat of arms or even a shield.

David's faith lifted the war to a much higher plane.

1. Our battle is against the devil & his army. Human weapons are useless!

2. Faith in God makes us participants with the Lord in the battle for truth.

I John 5:4 For whatsoever is born of God overcomes the world: and this is the victory that overcomes the world, even our faith.

David held onto the truth that Goliath was not defying David or Israel, but the LORD.

He believed God's promise that He would deliver Israel from their enemies if Israel was trusting God.

Goliath nor Saul trusted God to deliver them. Both were killed in battle.

MacArthur: The believer and Satan are on an absolute and constant collision course in spiritual warfare. This battle is against a formidable enemy, Satan and all of his host of demons.

It is inevitable that your life will intersect with the forces of Hell as you live for God.

The adversary works hard, effectively and powerfully against the child of God.

Against the background of a strutting, arrogant, proud adversary, the Apostle Paul says, Eph. 6:12 We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world and against spiritual wickedness in high places. This kind of enemy surrounds us. We find ourselves without the power to deal with it.

### Proper Attire For Spiritual Warfare

Eph. 6:10-13 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might.

<sup>11</sup> Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Eph. 6:14a Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth,

Paul lists the belt of truth first: Satan's chief weapon is lies.

John 8:44 He [the devil] was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature: for he is a liar and the father of lies.

- Without truth, the schemes of the devil will surely overpower us.

### The Belt of Truth - The cingulum or balteus

A Roman soldier wore a tunic under his armor. The first piece of armor he put on was a large leather belt used to gather his garments as well as hold his sword.

- Crucial role in the effectiveness of the soldier's armor
- Belt held the scabbard - without it there would be no place for the sword
- It was a thick, heavy leather and metal band with a protective piece hanging down from the front of it.

Consider: Imagine an overzealous soldier, fired up and charging out into battle—but without his belt, and consequently without a weapon!

Similarly, truth is a crucial component for every believer in this spiritual battle—without it, believers are not prepared to stand and fight.

Matthew Henry: The belt girds or secures ALL the other pieces of our armor.

- Truth should cleave to us as a belt cleaves to our body.
- The belt of truth of the spiritual armor holds the sword of the Spirit, linking truth and the Word of God [John 17:17]. The Word of God is truth.
- The belt of truth is a crucial piece of defensive armor guarding our inmost being in the battle against the lies and deceptions of the enemy.
- Without an understanding of truth, we are left vulnerable to being "carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming." [Eph. 4:14].

James 1:2-8 Consider it all joy, my brothers *and sisters*, when you encounter various trials,  
<sup>3</sup> knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. <sup>4</sup> And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

<sup>5</sup> But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. <sup>6</sup> But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind.

<sup>7</sup> For that person ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord

<sup>8</sup> *being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.*

The Belt Of Truth Represents Total Commitment & Zeal For Christ.

The metaphor of buckling or girding is often used in Scripture to describe the preparatory action of gathering one's flowing garments in order to work, run a race, or fight a battle.

Tighten your belt so as not to hinder action.

John MacArthur: Being girded with truth primarily has to do with the self-discipline of total commitment which assumes being prepared. Winning in war and in sports is often said to be the direct results of desire that leads to careful preparation and maximum effort.

Luke 12:35 Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning.

I Pet. 1:13a "Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober,

II Tim. 2:4 No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please Him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.

To be content with mediocrity, lethargy, indifference and half-heartedness is to fail to be armored with the belt of God's truth. You leave yourself exposed to Satan's schemes.

Question: Am I focused on God's purpose for me? Or am I entangled in civilian pursuits?

I Pet. 1:13-16 "Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober,

and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, 'Be holy, for I am holy.'"

- Some people say it is not possible for humans to be holy.
- Would God command us to do or be something that is impossible?
  - ❖ God would not send us on "mission impossible."

Paul confirms in Ephesians 5 the truth that we are created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. How? To "put off your old self" and "put on the new self."

These are his instructions immediately before he says: "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might, by putting "on the full armor of God."

Therefore, it is clear: Setting your mind on what the Spirit desires is critical to putting on the full armor of God so that you have His protection from the devil.

I Pet. 5:6-10 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time [the proper time]: <sup>7</sup> Casting all your care upon Him; for He cares for you.

<sup>8</sup> Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: <sup>9</sup> Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.<sup>10</sup> But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you. [First the cross; Then the glory]

John 10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy:

I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

It is fitting that the belt of truth is the first piece of the whole armor of God.

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Without truth, the rest of the armor would be of no use to us because we would not have the Spirit of truth [John 15:26].

What is at stake? My living in victory - the abundant life now; My future inheritance