

# *Finishing Well*

Lesson #10

Blessings Of The Fountain Gate  
The Armory & House Of Heroes

March 8, 2023

Spiritually speaking, we have moved from:

Valley Gate            Trials & tribulations for refining; bring us to a posture of humility

Dung Gate             Absolute surrender; Cleansing; Confession; Clean Vessel

Obedience at the Dung Gate brings immediate help from the Holy Spirit  
Who empowers us to live the Spirit-filled life.

Fountain Gate        Rivers of living water; fullness of the Spirit; Power of Holy Spirit

The Fountain Gate, first power gate, marks a position of change. Up to now, the spiritual emphasis of the Gates has been both on God in the gates, and on mankind's response to Him.

- The section from the Dung Gate to the Fountain Gate is the work of God Himself, accomplished by Christ, the Solid Rock, and effective through the Holy Spirit. [Trinity]

Neh. 3:14-16 But the dung gate repaired Malchiah the son of Rechab, the ruler of part of Bethhaccerem; he built it, and set up the doors thereof, the locks thereof, and the bars thereof. But the gate of the fountain repaired Shallun the son of Colhozeh, the ruler of part of Mizpah;

Shallun                        retribution; man of prosperity

From the verb shalem      to be or make whole or complete

From the verb shala        to prosper

he built it, and covered it, and set up the doors thereof, the locks thereof, and the bars thereof, and the wall of the pool of Siloam by the king's garden, and unto the stairs that go down from the city of David.

## *7 Blessings At The Fountain Gate*

They represent 7 blessings of being baptized in the Spirit and subsequent fillings of the Holy Spirit, leading us to the place where we receive our marching orders as one of God's mighty men and women. This gate's spiritual counterpart is a target of concentrated Satanic attack.

- Some of these places are only accessed by this gate.



A. The King's Pool - Pool of Shiloah/Siloam = Sent      Isaiah 8:6; John 9:7  
The man born blind received healing and vision.

B. Steps to Zion      Neh.12:37; Psa. 87:2; Heb. 12:22  
These are the steps the pilgrims ascended, singing the Psalms of Ascent, as they came to sacrifice to the Lord, step by step reaching the heights of Zion.  
➤ It talks of step-by-step guidance of the Lord taking us from one level to another.

Neh. 3:16 After him repaired Nehemiah the son of Azbuk, the ruler of the half part of Bethzur, unto the place over against the sepulchres of David, and to the pool that was made, and unto the house of the mighty.

C. Tombs of David      II Chron.32:33; Acts 2:25-32  
King David's burial place. His life represents a life of released worship and rulership. The Filling of the Holy Spirit leads us into dynamic worship.

D. Man-made pool      Solomon's pool  
This was a camel drinking pool where travelers would stop to be refreshed. It speaks of the times of refreshing, that come with every fresh infilling of the Spirit.

Neh. 3:19 And next to him repaired Ezer the son of Jeshua, the ruler of Mizpah, another piece over against the going up to the armory at the turning of the wall.

E. The Armoury      Rom. 13:12; Eph.6:11-17  
All the armor and weapons were kept here. [2022 series; Lessons #13-23]  
Symbolizes our spiritual armor and weapons that are available to us.  
Speaks of entering the Spiritual Gifts God has given us. I Corinthians 12; Romans 12

Standing Firm Against The Enemy Is The Result Of Putting On God's Full Armor  
Eph. 6:11 Put on the WHOLE ARMOR of God that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

Wake up, look in your spiritual closet before you go about your day. Ah, I don't need it.

This is why we fall into temptation; sin defeats us, we fail to obey God's commands.

We rely on God's strength and use His armor, but we must take the initiative to put on the armor and stand firm in the battle because we love and are submitted to Jesus Christ.

It's not a matter of "letting go and letting God," where you are passive and God does it all. Nor is it a matter of gritting your teeth and doing it yourself, with occasional assistance from God. Rather, it is a blending of His power and our striving.

Col. 1:29 For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me.

To be a strong Christian, I need divine equipment and divine energy.

Divine commandment always brings Divine enablement.

F. House of Heroes II Sam.23:8-39; 22:32-51

David's mighty men resided here.

If we move in the power of the Spirit, we will become God's mighty ones. Daniel 11:32

King David depended upon God, but he also relied on at least 30 special soldiers, "Mighty Men" who God raised up in the life of King David. They were mighty in valor, in faith, and the power of God. They were not afraid to risk and to sacrifice.

They offered their lives on the altar of the king. Why? They loved the King.

II Samuel 23 records the last words of King David as he reflects over his life.

He recalls an incident from I Sam. 22 when he escaped from Saul's men and sought refuge in the cave at Adullam.

David has been chosen by God to be King. He has been anointed by Samuel to be the king.

BUT David will spend time being disciplined and trained by God before he takes the throne.

God is preparing David to be the man God wants him to be.

Note: You are in training to reign with Jesus Christ in His Kingdom.

David was soon joined by 400 men which would increase to 600.

I Samuel 22:1-2 David therefore departed thence and escaped to the cave Adullam:

and when his brethren and all his father's house heard it, they went down thither to him.

There were three classes of men who came to David in his rejection as King.

1. There were those who came in Distress - pain, grief, need - They were persecuted by Saul.

2. There were those who were in Debt and about to be sold into slavery.

3. There were those who were discontented and unhappy with what life had to offer.

Many were resentful, bitter and hostile because they had been wronged and mistreated by Saul.

David trained them and worked with them until they became the best army in the history of Israel.

Note: They did not begin with the characteristics of powerful, mighty men.

These Mighty Men illustrate what our proper relationship should be with the Lord as His followers and soldiers.

In those days Honor came in doing exploits for the King.

The three Mighty Men that formed David's inner circle were Adino, Eleazar, and Shammah.

1. Adino, chief of the captains in David's army, was famous for slaying 800 enemy soldiers "at one time." [II Sam. 23:8]

- a. Did not give up when he was outnumbered; Man of courage
- b. Courage and strength came from God.
- c. He did so much with so little.

## 2. Eleazar - A Man With A Sword

II Sam. 23:9-10 And after him was Eleazar the son of Dodo the Ahohite, one of the three mighty men with David, when they defied the Philistines that were there gathered together to battle, and the men of Israel were gone away: <sup>10</sup> He arose, and smote the Philistines until his hand was weary, and his hand clave unto the sword: and the LORD wrought a great victory that day; and the people returned after him only to spoil.

Eleazar, tribe of Benjamin, fought side by side with David against the Philistines.

While the rest of the Israelite army was retreating, he and David stood their ground.

The Lord honored the faith and courage of Eleazar and David by giving them a great victory.

It was two men against an entire battalion, yet they were triumphant.

Just as Eleazar's hand become one with his weapon, we need our hand frozen to the Word of God and become one with our weapon.

Eleazar wasn't selfish about sharing the spoils of battle because the victory had come from the Lord.

"Stand," a key word, is repeated in verses 11, 13, and 14.

Eph. 6:13 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.

Resist or withstand comes from a Greek compound word from the root, "to stand," meaning literally to stand against. It's a military term for holding on to a position that is under attack. It implies the courage to hold your ground because of your allegiance to King Jesus, even when others may be fleeing from the battle because the enemy seems so strong.

Letter from missionary in the jungles of New Guinea: Man, it is great to be in the thick of the fight, to draw the old devil's heaviest guns, to have him at you with depression and discouragement, slander, disease. He doesn't waste time on a lukewarm bunch.

He hits good and hard when a fellow is hitting him.

You can always measure the weight of your blow by the one you get back.

When you're on your back with fever and at your last ounce of strength, when some of your converts backslide, when you learn that your most promising inquirers are only fooling, when your mail gets held up, and some don't bother to answer your letters, is that the time to put on mourning? No sir. That's the time to pull out the stops and shout Hallelujah! The old fellow's getting it in the neck and hitting back. Heaven is leaning over the battlements and watching. "Will he stick with it?" As they see who is with us, as they see the unlimited reserves, the boundless resources, as they see the impossibility of failure, how disgusted and sad they must be when we run away. Glory to God! We're not going to run away. We're going to stand!

Shammah, one of David's mighty men, illustrates standing firm in the battle.

II Sam. 23:11-12 "And the Philistines were gathered into a troop where there was a plot of ground full of lentils, and the people fled from the Philistines. But he took his stand in the midst of the plot, defended it and slew the Philistines; and the Lord brought about a great victory." It must have been harvesting time when those soldiers showed up because the field was full of people, busy about getting their crops in. They were working and unprepared for a fight.

#### *Kolenda: Stand In Your Pea Patch*

Perhaps it was an ordinary day in Israel. The people were going about their daily business as usual. On the outskirts of the city, in a remote field, a group of laborers was harvesting a meager crop of peas. Suddenly a shadow fell on that pea patch from the hills as hundreds of Philistine soldiers appeared, armed in full battle gear. Fear struck the hearts of the people. These farmers were mere peasants, armed only with spades, hoes, and other agricultural tools. They knew they had no chance against a professional army. Remaining in that field would mean almost certain death. They looked down at their pea patch situated on an insignificant plot of land, and they realized that it was not worth risking life and limb to defend that ground. They dropped their farming tools and ran for their lives. The enemy found no opposition. Unfortunately for the Philistines there was one man in the field that day who was not just a peasant or a farmer—he was a warrior. He was one of David's "mighty men." Because of his allegiance to David, Shammah stood firm and he fought, but the Lord brought the victory.

- He risked his life to defend a "Pea Patch," field of lentils and barley.
- Everyone else fled but he stood his ground and fought.
- Not affected by what everybody else did. He was going to do what was right.
- Why did he fight? That patch of beans belonged to the King.
- This land belonged to the Lord and was given to Israel to use for His glory.
- The enemy of his King was coming to rob and to plunder.
- Shammah didn't want the Philistines to control what belonged to the Lord.
- His King's honor was at stake.

Shammah was used of the Lord to bring victory. His loyalty to God caused him to risk his life in defense of a barley field. Defend everything that rightfully belongs to the Father.

Key Point: Mind in the Beginning What Matters in the End

Shammah understood something about the tactics of warfare. Maybe this field was nothing but an ordinary pea patch, but this attack was not random—it was highly strategic.

Perhaps the Philistines had chosen this pea patch because they thought no one would bother to defend such a worthless field and they could take it without a battle.

But on this piece of land the Philistines would establish a stronghold and a base of operations from which they could launch future attacks on the nation of Israel.

Shammah knew that if he compromised this little pea patch, soon the enemy would kick down his front door. He was fiercely determined not to give up one inch to the Philistines.

When the enemy comes to assault your life, he is not going to start with the thing you are most diligent over. He is going to attack your pea patch: that thing he figures you will not bother to defend and where he thinks you will compromise.

And in that compromise, he will establish a stronghold to take over your life.

If we can defend even the smallest, most insignificant pea patches in our lives, the enemy will not be able to gain a foothold.

The more territory you give up now, the more you're going to have to take back later.

Somewhere along the way you've got to stop retreating.

Sooner or later, you've got to join the battle.

The Christian's enemy is not concerned about unproductive fields or the wastelands of sins.

Our enemy is focused on what is spiritually working and what is doctrinally sound. Our enemy is at war against fields that are producing for the Lord and have the potential for a rich harvest.

Defending the pea-patch might have seemed rather insignificant to onlookers or to others who didn't value the field - but to King David, he placed Shammah in his Top 3 Mighty Men.

What Shammah did required courage, faithfulness and initiative:

Courage: He took his stand in the middle of the field.

Faithfulness: He defended it.

Initiative: He struck the Philistines down.

Then comes the victory: "And the Lord brought about a great victory."

What made the difference? One man who refused to run away.

One man turned the tide of battle and through him, God brought about a great victory.

A Cup of Water for the King - II Sam. 23:13-17 Then three of the thirty chief men went down at harvest time [no rain -cisterns were empty] and came to David at the cave of Adullam. And the troop of Philistines encamped in the Valley of Rephaim. <sup>14</sup> David was then in the stronghold, and the garrison of the Philistines was then in Bethlehem. <sup>15</sup> And David said with longing, "Oh, that someone would give me a drink of the water from the well of Bethlehem, which is by the gate!" <sup>16</sup> So the three mighty men broke through the camp of the Philistines, drew water from the well of Bethlehem that was by the gate, and took it and brought it to David.

Nevertheless he would not drink it, but poured it out to the LORD.<sup>17</sup> And he said, "Far be it from me, O LORD, that I should do this! Is *this not* the blood of the men who went in jeopardy of their lives?" Therefore, he would not drink it. These things were done by the three mighty men.

Questions: Were they commanded by David to get the cup of water? NO

Were they compelled by duty to get the cup of water? NO

They loved their King more than their own lives. God has always had his few.

### Characteristics of A Mighty Man

#### 1. CLOSE to the King

They were close enough to hear David's whispered words: "Oh that someone would give me water to drink from the well of Bethlehem which is by the gate!"

Spiritual App: If I want to be a mighty one in the kingdom of God, I need to be close enough to my King to know His desires and hear His words. The most effective soldiers of Christ are the ones who form the closest personal relationships with their Lord.

Paul said in Phil. 3:8 that he gave up everything in life and considered it rubbish "in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord."

Spiritual App: I must "count all things as loss" as I make knowing God my first priority.

#### 2. COMMITTED: Take David's wish as their command: Not just lip service.

They were so committed and enthusiastic in their service to David that they jumped to their feet and marched off to battle.

3. COURAGEOUS: Obey at any cost! The Philistines had established a "permanent military installation" within the walled city of Bethlehem. But in spite of the danger or consequences, they traveled twelve miles, broke through enemy lines, and came back with the water.

David's men were prepared to risk life and limb to please their king.

I Chron. 28:20 "Be strong and courageous...do not fear nor be dismayed, for the Lord, my God, is with you. He will not fail you nor forsake you..."

These mighty men were a picture of the Spirit-filled believer.

The Times in which these men lived was:

A Time of Great Conflict

The enemy was out to destroy

A Time of Great Courage

The enemies' greatest weapon was fear.

A Time of Great Victory

God defeated the enemy through these men.

Close enough to hear the whispered words of their King,

Committed enough to take his word as their command,

Courageous enough to obey at any cost!

When David looked into the cup, he didn't see water; he saw the blood of the three men who had risked their lives to satisfy his desire. To drink that water would demean all his men and cheapen the brave deed of the three heroes. Instead, David turned the cave into a temple and poured the water out as a drink offering to the Lord.

It was an act of dedication that symbolized a person's life poured out in the service of the Lord. The three men had given themselves as a sacrifice to the Lord to serve David.

J.C. Ryle "It does cost something to be a real Christian, according to the standard of the Bible. There are enemies to be overcome, battles to be fought, sacrifices to be made, an Egypt to be forsaken, a wilderness to be passed through, a cross to be carried..."

Many Christians are defeated in their Christian lives because they are not *seriously* engaged in the warfare to which they are called. "The saddest symptom about many so-called Christians is the utter absence of anything like conflict and fight in their Christianity. They go through the motions of attending religious services each week, but of the great spiritual warfare-- its watchings and strugglings, its agonies and anxieties, its battles and contests,-- of all this they appear to know nothing at all. [Soldiers and Trumpeters," *Home Truths*]

When David Livingstone, the missionary pioneer, was working in Africa, some friends wrote: "We would like to send other men to you. Have you found a good road into your area yet?" Livingstone wrote back: "If you have men who will only come if they know there is a good road, I don't want them. I want men who will come if there is no road at all."

Consider: When God has done a significant work, He has done it through a band of committed people - His remnant. God doesn't work through the lukewarm, but through those who are fervent in their love for Christ and His kingdom.

Apostle Paul The Christian life is nothing less than warfare against the hideous enemy that Luther called "the prince of darkness grim."

I Cor. 16:9 For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries.

II Tim. 2:3 Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

Spurgeon: Paul does not exhort Timothy to be a common, or ordinary soldier, but to be a 'good soldier of Jesus Christ;' for all soldiers, and all true soldiers, may not be good soldiers.

There are men who are but just soldiers and nothing more; they only need sufficient temptation and they readily become cowardly, idle, useless and worthless; but he is the good soldier who is bravest of the brave, courageous at all times, who is zealous, does his duty with heart and earnestness.

The image of soldiering paints a passionate picture for each believer to pursue.

What does your Commander require? Instant obedience to His orders, deep loyalty, rigid self-discipline, bold in speaking out and valor in defense of the truth.

These qualities should characterize each one of Christ's servants and remind us that the path of devotion to Christ is not easy or instant; it is long and difficult.

Never Give Up: Shammah strategically positioned himself *in the middle of the field*.

Many people who were called to a particular field lost their focus.

They became distracted and wandered to the fringes of their field.

Sometimes they even drifted into other fields they were never called to serve.



If you are going to remain in the center of God's will for your life, you must resolve to stand in the middle of the field to which He has called you and remain focused without allowing the enemy to distract you from that call.

For Shammah there were two options: win or die! He stood his ground, he defended that pea patch, "*The Lord wrought a great victory.*"

Stand in your field and fight until God gives the victory.

This requires a quality that few seem to possess — perseverance.

### *The Secret Ingredient: Perseverance*

The word persevere is made of the prefix per, which means "through," and severe. Victory comes to those who press through severe battles to the other side without quitting.

You can be extraordinarily gifted, talented, anointed, and blessed, but without persistence you will have little impact because the great victories are always on the other side of great battles. Maturity and effective ministry require steadfast endurance and abiding faith.

To effectively flee sin and pursue Christlike character, to minister greatly, serve diligently, disciple aggressively, teach clearly-then you must have a soldier's mentality.

Calvin: "Have you thrown away your spear? Are you a believer who made a great show of valor, but now are more concerned about your comfort, convenience and safety? If you have thrown your spear away and are living for comfort, you have become effeminate in the faith."

A good soldier doesn't quit because he faces a difficult task or a dangerous situation.

He knows his life is expendable and he must be prepared to lay it down when required.

Marshall Foch, a French general in World War I, commanded an officer,

"You must not retire, you must hold at all costs."

"Then," said the officer, "that means we must die." Foch answered, "Precisely!"

When God has done a significant work, He has done it through a band of committed people - His remnant. God doesn't work through the lukewarm, but through those who are fervent in their love for Christ & His kingdom.

Perseverance is not an option; it is an imperative. If Eleazar or Shammah would have let go of their swords or stopped fighting, the enemy would have killed them.

If you let go of God's calling, you will never fulfill it.

My part is to obey and stand firm until God gives the victory. May we stand in our respective fields as David's mighty men did, prepared to fight to the death for God's kingdom. When the day comes for us to leave this world, I pray that the sword will have to be pried out of our lifeless fingers. At the end may we not be found sitting in front of a television, but may we be found with our boots strapped on in the field where God has assigned us. Never give up!

Never retreat! Never surrender to the enemy! Stand! Fight! Endure to the end.