



Articles and Sermons :: Defeating the Uncircumcised Philistines of the Heart

Defeating the Uncircumcised Philistines of the Heart - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2012/10/2 1:04

For those who continuously suffer under the weight of spiritual defeat, the gospel is "Good News" indeed. It is a message of both salvation from sin and the subsequent deliverance from Satan's power. Yet far too many believers seem to have only grasped the message of the former. As a result they go up and down in cycles of excitement and depression, happiness and anxiety, victory and defeat. They know they can experience God's forgiveness of sin through Christ, but on how to prevent the acts of sin they are completely powerless. They think memorizing scripture verses or fasting or prolonged prayer will somehow equip them with this power.

It is easy to get into this sort of rut. Especially when you allow yourself to be influenced by preachers and teachers who are themselves defeated inwardly and yet do not know any better. The principalities and powers which govern this world's system, if they cannot prevent the knowledge of forgiveness of sin through Jesus Christ, will do all they can to corrupt the message of deliverance from sin's power. The pervasive power of the flesh's nature makes it easy for us to believe in the hopelessness of deliverance. This coupled with the poison of sinless perfection makes for a very persuasive argument in avoiding the topic of deliverance altogether.

But, we must ask ourselves, what does the Bible teach? What has God promised in His Word? If deliverance from sin's power is there, then surely it must be a truth as universal as the forgiveness of sin, and one to be appropriated by faith as readily as any other promise in God's Word.

Dear reader, has this been your experience? Have you labored against impure lusts, against fear, discouragements, the love of money, anxiety, jealousy, pride, greed, hypocrisy, laziness, gluttony, anger, disbelief, self-acclaim, malice? Do you face these enemies with your shield raised, sword-in-fist and teeth clenched? Do the onslaughts of these uncircumcised Philistines wreak havoc in your devotion life, your family life, and contaminate all of your daily doings? Has it occurred to you that God's will for your life is to overcome them all and experience a systematic triumph each and every time? If you have resigned your soul to an endless cycle of defeat and forgiveness, then I believe you've missed the most wonderful aspect of your birthright in Christ. Like Esau, a deceiver has cheated you out of what is yours for a temporary fulfillment of carnal indulgence.

Do not let Satan rob you of God's deliverance another day. Jesus Christ is your Savior by faith; He is also your Deliverer by faith. As with your salvation, you can only be delivered from the power of sin by faith through grace. If you are yet expecting to be delivered through the efforts of self-determination and religious willpower, a thousand years will go by and you will still be defeated. You will go to your grave having never tasted of the glorious triumph over sin offered to you through Jesus Christ.

Many believers never enter into this experience simply out of ignorance of this one truth: The grace of God is the power which enables us to overcome sin, and this power is appropriated by faith, and not through any human effort. They who seek to slay Goliath using Saul's armor undertake a mission of suicidal lunacy! We can never in a million years win a battle predicated upon spiritual evil. Remember, we wrestle not against flesh and blood—we therefore cannot use flesh as a weapon against flesh. Our battles are altogether spiritual; they are the Lord's, and as such they are won only through His power of grace.

Call upon the power of the Lord's grace, then, the next time you are tempted. Learn to summon the power of God when you hear the Philistines' trumpets sounding in the distance. Ask for His grace when the war drums are beating, and run to the throne of His grace at the rumbling of their iron chariots. Be prepared to face the enemy in the resistance of the Lord. Deliverance will come right away if you make a habit to call on Jesus the moment you are tempted. The waters will open and swallow the foe and leave you rejoicing evermore upon the seashore. You can triumph each and every time if you will only humble yourself and admit the battle is the Lord's. Trust Him to conquer the uncircumcised hoards and have faith that He is able to keep you from falling and renew your spirit. In your time of need, cry to your Father in confessed weakness for His perfect strength and God will win the battle for you every time.

The true Christian life is one of victory through the Hero living within us. He is our Abiding Joshua who goes forth to meet the enemies of God in our stead: "...and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21).

Brother Paul

<http://understandingmortification.wordpress.com/2012/10/02/defeating-the-uncircumcised-philistines-of-the-heart/>

Re: Defeating the Uncircumcised Philistines of the Heart - posted by MPS, on: 2012/10/2 13:19

I really want to believe....Lord, help my unbelief.

Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2012/10/2 15:02

Quote:

-----I really want to believe....Lord, help my unbelief.

Jesus asked the blind men, "Do you believe I am able to do this?"

He asks the same to you right now. It is a simple, childlike question. All you need is to reply with a simple, childlike answer and trust with childlike faith that He can do it. And victory will be yours. As sure as Lazarus was raised from the dead and the blind men received their sight, victory will be yours.

Re: - posted by SonsofLevi (), on: 2012/10/2 15:11

Yes, He who spared not His own Son, how shall He not freely give us all things?

Re: - posted by MPS, on: 2012/10/2 15:39

I think if I really believed, then I wouldn't be struggling as much, my friend.
I just get really confused.

Re: - posted by SonsofLevi (), on: 2012/10/2 15:58

I think Brother Paul is probably more equipped for this, but I can share my own experience, strength and hope. I came to a point when I knew that I was powerless and my life had become unmanageable. My life was a testimony to my dilemma of "lack of power". I knew that the power of Jesus Christ was my only chance at being restored. I had exhausted all my options. I made a decision to turn my will and my life over to Him, even in my own powerlessness, then He revealed Himself in power and might, but I had to first make a decision and exercise my will toward Him. He will do the same for you. It's a simple decision to trade in yourself for Him.

Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2012/10/2 16:09

Quote:

-----I think if I really believed, then I wouldn't be struggling as much, my friend.

Dear brother, one of the things you must remember when battling spiritual wickedness and fleshly temptation is that God has promised to give us His power "in our moment of need" and not a second before or after. You must take this promise by faith and not feelings. We must learn to control our mind's patterns. The mind operates on a mixture of logic and the emotion of past experiences. These things must be brought into captivity if we are to make use of God's supernatural grace in overcoming sin. If they are not brought into captivity, they will seek to make overcoming more complicated and involved than it really is.

In the moment of need - that is, the moment the Holy Spirit shines His light on the enemy - you must be able to confess your weakness and utter inability to win and look at once to Jesus Christ for His conquering grace. In that very moment, by childlike faith, you will find the secret of victory. The fight will be over. The enemy will be defeated and retreat from Him which is in you for a season. It is never about you; it all about Christ. We are simply the vessels which carry Him into battle. You remember the Arc of the Covenant in the Old Testament. How the Israeli priests would bring it into battle and the

enemy would quake with fear. Jesus is like the Arc of the New Covenant which we, as royal priesthood, carry into battle within our vessels. If you have faith for this, you can defeat any enemy who comes at you by virtue of the power of His Life being magnified through you.

Re: - posted by lylewise, on: 2012/10/2 16:55

"Jesus is the Arc of the New Covenant". Now that's a radius I will follow. Thanks for your words of encouragement to the body.

Re: - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2012/10/2 18:15

MPS,

There is no shortcut to victory apart from a complete surrender to Jesus Christ. There are people out there that will promote all kinds of methods that promise victory. They work - for a time - but then you are back to square one. Defeat. Been there done that.

What are some of those methods? Scripture memorization, verse quoting, pleading the Blood of Jesus... These and others all focus on METHODS and not on a person, namely Jesus Christ. This thing of focusing on methods can be idolatrous.

How does one get victory? On your knees before God. You talk to Him from your heart and listen to what his Spirit will tell you. You draw near to God and He will draw near to you.

God bless.

Re: - posted by MPS, on: 2012/10/2 18:35

Thank you for the informed and helpful replies.

I can assure you I'm not looking for methodology or short cuts, but I think I have a severe case of unbelief, in some areas.

Agree with and am 100% willing to surrender absolutely, I'm just struggling to identify if I've really surrendered or not, if that makes any sense. Sort of like looking in a pot of water to see if it's boiling or not.

Sorry to monopolize the thread and thanks again for the comments and encouragement.

Re: Defeating the Uncircumcised Philistines of the Heart - posted by proudpapa, on: 2012/10/2 20:03

Brother Paul, Wonderful post!

Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2012/10/3 17:02

Quote:
-----What are some of those methods? Scripture memorization, verse quoting, pleading the Blood of Jesus

I actually had a woman stop showing up for a Bible study I was hosting because I told her that nowhere in all of scripture do we read of anyone ever "pleading the blood" over an object, be it animate, inanimate or otherwise.

But she had been taught to "plead the blood" over people to protect them; to "plead the blood" over things you wanted to acquire like a townhouse or S.U.V. It is amazing what people can bring themselves to believe - but even more amazing to me is that they can be Christians for decades and not study their Bibles to look into the veracity of these types of teachings. Like Roman Catholics, even many Protestant Evangelicals take for granted extrabiblical traditions and mythical lore as truth. And why? I believe it is because of a magic shortcut they so desperately seek to have power over Satan and satisfy their materialistic wants without ever abdicating the throne of self to God. Man will believe in talismans, charms, and anything at all but to preserve the autonomy of flesh.

I remember this woman getting so offended and angry that I would dare challenge this. An idol was touched.