

Your enemy can be beat

Courage to continue

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Bible Text: Joshua 12:7, 8

Preached on: Tuesday, June 17, 2014

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Let's run over to our book of the year it seems to be, the book of Joshua. We're still focused on Joshua. Remember, our whole theme this year is what? The curse, what? Continues. Amen. There are a lot of things the devil wants us to quit, throw our hands up and say, "I'm done. I'm finished. I'm not going another step further." The Bible tells us to be courageous, amen, and be of good courage.

Let's go to Joshua 12 and we're going to be in verse 7 and verse 8. Let's all stand and we'll read and pray and see what the Master has for supper tonight. Hallelujah. That is Joshua 12 and verse 7 and the Bible says this,

7 And these are the kings of the country which Joshua and the children of Israel smote on this side Jordan on the west, from Baalgad in the valley of Lebanon even unto the mount Halak, that goeth up to Seir; which Joshua gave unto the tribes of Israel for a possession according to their divisions;
8 In the mountains, and in the valleys, and in the plains, and in the springs, and in the wilderness, and in the south country; the Hittites, the Amorites, and the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites:

We're going to talk tonight on this little thought, "Your enemy can be beat." Hallelujah. Your enemy can be beat.

Father, I pray for the help of the Holy Ghost. I pray, God, that you take my mind and my thoughts. I pray, God, that you would give me liberty to preach your word to the precious souls that have gathered here tonight. I pray, God, that you would move among us. I pray, God, to tap on my heart. I pray, God, that you would nudge us. I pray, God, to give us liberty and freedom to hear but also to apply the word of God tonight. I pray, God, that you would help somebody tonight of their struggling and to help somebody who is discouraged and defeated in their mind and their spirit. I pray, God, that you would come by with some spiritual energy. I pray, God, that you would energize us and give us that umph to go on a little bit further. With that, God, we'll praise your sweet name. Bless all those who are watching this service and those who will watch later and for that, God, we'll thank you too, Father. We need your help tonight. If you don't show up, we might as well stay at the house but I believe, God, you're going to show up. Why? Because we

have asked you to and with that, God, we're going to shout hallelujah. Well, that's it for now, Father, and if I left anything out, yes Sir, meet that need as well for it is in your Son's name we pray. Not a weak Jesus but a mighty Jesus. Amen.

You may be seated.

Your enemy can be defeated. We have a real live enemy and sometimes that old devil tells us that we cannot beat our particular enemy and what I'm referring to is not so much the enemy on the outside but the enemy that's on the inside. So a lot of times we think, "Well, if it wasn't for those people then my life could be so great. It could be so wonderful if it wasn't for those individuals." But all the time, my friends, not so much the individuals but it's how you and I are dealing with what's happening around us through the power of the Spirit of God. In other words, we have died to ourselves and that's the Spirit of God rising up on the inside of us and gives us the strength to be able to combat that which is coming toward us to attack us and to defeat us.

Now remember, just a refresher, Canaan land is a type of the Christian life. It's not a type of heaven but a type of the Christian life. They have come from out of the wilderness, they have entered into Canaan and while they're in Canaan, they've got a lot of milk and honey and all other kinds of good stuff but they've got some battles to fight. When you and I got saved, we had some battles and we've got to fight them. It isn't like all of a sudden, my dear friends, you walk around with a...or at least some of us think that we are but we walk around with a halo over our head and we're glowing. Somewhere it's glowing but it's out of anger and not of our angelicness, if that's a word. Nonetheless, my dear friends, we still can beat our particular enemy that we face from day-to-day.

Now, we've already talked about it in the first part of this chapter how Moses had to help them to have victory before they came into Canaan. Before you get saved, before you move into Canaan, there are certain things you have to battle but then once you get into Canaan, there are some things that you have to battle and what we're doing right now in this verse is going over the many battles that the children of God or children of Israel have already won.

Now, the first thing we're going to look at, my dear friends, is how Joshua in verse 7, Joshua is a picture of Jesus Christ. Now, if Joshua is a picture of Jesus Christ, that means that the children of Israel are what? A picture of the Christian. Now, remember it's Joshua that led them to victory in Canaan so that means that it's Jesus that will lead us to victory in this Christian life. If we are going to win, if you and I are going to overcome and be made victorious, we've got to follow the Lord Jesus Christ. He is our leader and sometimes when our leader tells us certain things to do, sometimes the flesh doesn't want to go in that direction but then you recognize who the commandments or the directions are coming from and realize that this is somebody that knows exactly how to win. So if he knows exactly how to win, then it's okay. Simply follow the leader. Follow the Lord Jesus Christ and you're not going to have victory not sometimes but I'm glad to report to you tonight that we can have victory all the time.

Some of you say, "Have you got Bible for that?" Sure I do. Look at 2 Corinthians 2:14. You see, I wouldn't have told you all that if I didn't believe that. Listen to what the Bible says in 2 Corinthians 2:14. Look at what the Bible says here. Watch what the Bible says, the Bible says that Paul tells the church this: he says, "Now thanks be unto God," gratitude unto God, "which," here it is, "always," and that word "always" means "at all times." So we're giving thanks unto God which always or at all times, "causeth us to," what? "Triumph in Christ." We've read this verse before and those words "cause us to triumph" means "to conquer" and that is a present participle which means "to continuously conquer." So the Bible says that Paul says that we are giving thanks or gratitude unto God which always, at all times, he causes us to be able to triumph or to conquer by or through the Lord Jesus Christ. I don't know about you, but that's great news. That means, my dear friends, no matter what you and I face, we can win all the time. We don't have to lose.

Now, "Preacher, do we ever lose?" Yes, we do but when we do lose, it's not God's fault. If we do lose, my dear friends, it's not the Holy Ghost's fault. When we do lose, my friends, oftentimes it's because we have not followed the clear directions that God has given us and then we wonder, "Why am I losing? Why am I losing?" He said, the Bible says at all times he causes us to triumph through conquest, in other words, to win. But you've got to follow his directions. It's like going to the doctor. When Brother Russell, he's a nurse, when he is helping somebody that has certain health issues, he's already given directions. He's already gone to school, read all this different stuff of how this could be taken care of, how this could be cured or how this could be a cause to have healing take place. But now once he gives out the instructions to the patient, it's up to the patient to follow those instructions. They may have the medication but not take it consistently. Like I just said: consistently because sometimes, let's be honest, sometimes you'll say, "Did you take your medicine today?" "Oh, man, I didn't take it today." Hold on, for it to work consistently, we have to take it consistently. If not, for example, if I don't take my blood pressure medicine on a daily basis then my blood pressure is going to be jacked up. "What do you mean jacked up?" Just like I said, jacked up and jacked down. Why? Because I have not taken my medicine consistently but by taking my blood pressure medicine consistently, you can check my blood pressure and it will be the same thing every single time. The same thing every single time. But if not, "Woo, my head. Woo, this." It's the same thing when it comes to God. When God shows us what to do, if we do that on a daily basis just like God says, my dear friends, then you and I will have the strength, we will have the power and we will begin to have those victories that we long to have.

I've got to hurry up. Now, I want to get to the heart of this thing. Flip back over now to Joshua. I'm going to show you 2 things and a question and we're done. We can go and get some food. Now, watch this: the first thing we see is the places that they conquered. Remember, these are pictures for us as Christians. The first thing we see is the places they conquer. Look at verse 8. The Bible says this, "In the mountains, and in the valleys, and in the plains, and in the springs, and in the wilderness, and in the south country." All these places Israel experienced victory. What that tells me as a picture is that no matter what mountains I face, I can win. No matter what valleys I may go through, I can win. No

matter what wilderness or place where I may feel isolated or all by myself, I can win. And I'm going to win, my friends, as I follow the Lord Jesus Christ because he's going to lead me to that place of victory. So whatever place that you might be in tonight, God can give you victory. All you've got to do, my dear friends, is listen to his voice and follow his instructions.

But now, once you start winning the victories, don't stop doing what you were doing to get to where you got to. Sometimes we'll stop and then, "Now, how in the world did I get here?" Now, my friend here that delivered all this stuff to us, Brother Ferguson, part of his testimony that you will get out is the fact that when he got away from God, he said it didn't happen all at once and I'm going to tell you exactly what he told me, he said, "What I did, Preacher, was I missed a Wednesday night service." He said that's where it started. Now, some people might think that's no big thing. The problem is, a midweek service or a missed evening service or a missed... you see, it's one thing when you miss because of sickness but when you miss, let's just be straight up, can I be straight up with you tonight? When we miss because we're just lazy, if you think God is going to come by and start blessing on you, you're crazy. He'll come by and whoop somebody's behind and what are you going to do, my friends? Not to hurt you but to help you and what he told me is, "I missed one Wednesday service and when I missed that one Wednesday service, it led me to a place of being out of church altogether. The next thing you know, I'm addicted to pain medication." And then the next thing you know, my dear friends, he's up here at the ?? Program. But before he got there though, there was a lot of hurt before all that. A lot of folks got hurt before all that. "But where it started, Preacher, was missing one Wednesday service."

We say, "Well, it doesn't matter. Where in the Bible? The Bible doesn't say we've got to meet on Wednesday or Tuesday or whatever at midweek." I'm going to tell you what it does say, "Forsake not the assembling of yourselves together." When you are a part of a local assembly, when that local assembly is assembling, that means that you're supposed to be there. Amen? I like sports just as much as anybody else but if I'm at the house watching TV, my dear friends, when I'm supposed to be at the place of worship then guess what? I'm going to start missing, my friends, my spiritual food and I'm going to find myself, my friends, spiritually anemic and I'm going to wonder what in the world happened to me. He said it started with just that.

We've got folks here who used to come here every Tuesday night and can't find them. Can't find them with a search warrant. They are missing. I'm going to tell you what happened is that, sometimes people say...well, I can't read anybody's mind. But listen, one plus one is what? It's always going to be 2. I don't care how you're going to look at it. It's always going to be 2. So it's the same thing, my dear friends, when we start doing certain things, this is what is going to eventually start to take place. What happens is this, when you start missing then spiritually we're not where we used to be at. At one time, hungry for God. Hungry for him. But we start missing this, missing a little Bible study, missing a little prayer time, missing a little bit over here. Now, I didn't say we'd miss everything altogether but we're missing our meals. We're missing those things that we need to be doing and all of a sudden, my friends, we'll find ourselves in an area where

spiritually that we never thought we'd ever get to. Listen, if I start missing, you all come by and see me in a month if I miss church for a month. You'd be like, "I can't believe that's Richard. Why are you acting like that?" I'm telling you. Feel that right there. What is that? Feel that. What is that? Hair? It's hair, it's flesh, it's skin and what is that hard thing right there? Bone, just like you all. If I don't get my food, if I don't get my stuff, I'm going to be hurting spiritually.

But, my friends, the Bible tells us, he shows us that we can win in these areas all the time if we follow our Savior, Jesus Christ. So whether we're in the mountain, whether we're in the valley, whether we're in the wilderness, no matter where you are, my friends, you can win if you follow the Lord Jesus Christ. So we see first a place and then secondly, we see the people conquered in Canaan. Thirty-one kings were defeated here. Listen, from verses 9 through verse 23, all of these are names of the kings that they defeated in Canaan. In the Promised Land. Thirty-one kings they defeated.

But I want you to notice something, when it says in verse 8, the latter part, he tells you about these people, not so much individual kings but the people, "the Hittites, the Amorites, and the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites." That's just interesting. Guess what? All of these people represent something different. When you study about the Hittites, you'll find that the Hittites were aggressive people. They were known for their aggression. But do you know what? Even though they were known for their aggressiveness, guess what? They were able to conquer those Hittites. I thought to myself, "Some of us have areas in our life, you've got it, of aggressiveness." I'm not talking about anybody but us. I'm dealing with us right now. But guess what? Maybe you are aggressive. Just aggressive. Just aggressive. Too aggressive. Do you know what? God can help you and I overcome our aggressiveness. I actually joke around with Joline when she was washing the kid's faces when they were little. I was like, "Baby, you're going to kill the kids," because I mean, she would take a washcloth and she would like rip their face off. I'm thinking, "Man, if I were the kids, I would be running saying, 'No mama, no.'" She was just aggressive. Anyhow, but do you know what? The Lord can help you overcome that aggressiveness.

I looked next and I saw we had the Amorites. The Amorites were known for being tall ones or being fierce. As a matter of fact, one of their relatives was Hammurabi. Study him out. He defeated a lot of folks. He was a fierce guy. As a matter of fact, one of the early laws they found was written by him and it incorporates a lot of different things. I read about all that in school. But they were known for being tall and fierce. I thought to myself, "There are certain things in our Christian life that we've got to face that is tall. It's fierce." In other words, it's a huge problem. It's a big problem. But it doesn't matter how big that problem is, guess what? God can help you defeat that problem in your Christian life.

I began to look a little bit further and I saw about the Canaanites. They were all over the place. They worshiped various gods, all types of gods. A lot of their worship had to do with things that were lewd. It had to do with, they would have those prostitutes that would be in the temples and allow sexual things, all this kind of stuff. Now, think about

this: a person may have a sexual problem but we've got a God who knows how to help you with that sexual problem that you're facing. My dear friend, it doesn't matter what it is.

I began to look a little bit further and I saw they were talking about the Perizzites. Now, the Perizzites, we don't know much about them. They have an unknown origin. I thought to myself, "There are certain things in my Christian life that we'll face that have been unknown." We don't know much about it. We haven't faced it before. Some things you will face in your Christian life you never thought you would ever face but whatever that thing is, my dear friend, we've got a God that will help us to overcome that.

As I began to read a little bit further, it mentioned about the Hivites. The Hivites were known for their diplomacy but also for their impulsiveness and their over confidence. Now, we don't face that, do we? I thought about diplomacy. Diplomacy means we're going to talk and we're going to think about it. Haven't you ever just thought about seeing, why was that justified? I mean, it's not a big sin, this is a small compared to... It's like your kids. I don't know about some of you because yours are still growing but those of us who have older kids, a lot of times you'll be telling them to do something and getting on them about doing something and they say, "At least I'm not a gang banger." What does that have to do with cleaning up your room? "Well, these things, doing this or these things." Yeah, but you aren't doing this or you are doing this. But diplomacy, I mean, we justify. We have our own scale and it's like, "Well, that's really messed up. This is really messed up. What I'm doing is way down here." Diplomacy.

But it's also, remember I said they were also known for their impulsiveness. Do you have any impulsive areas in your life? Impulse? You see, Jolene doesn't have those impulsive things and we go shopping and I've learned that shopping for her is just shopping, "We're looking." I mean, she'll look at stuff for months before she even buys it and then she buys it and she still might take it back. Me, I go in and I'm like, "I like that. I'll take one of these right here." When we look around, I'm just in a buying mood. Now, sometimes it's a good thing and sometimes that's a bad thing. So we balance each other out. No, she balances me out. But nonetheless, an impulsiveness.

But then also they were not only impulsive but they were overconfident. You can have confidence but when you get overconfident, you may find yourself in a world of hurt. I don't know if we have any Heat fans in here but I mean you no harm but the Miami Heat, when they all got together, you know, they got there and they were all, "3, 4, 5. We're going to win all these rings." Then they lost 2. They were 2 and 2. I mean, this last one, man, I mean, they got demolished. They got whooped. They just got whooped. They admit they got whooped. When you lose by 15 or 20 points, you get whooped, man. You're just like a little puppy with his tail between his legs. But do you know what? Sometimes we become overconfident in certain things. "I've got this. I've got this. I don't have to practice this." In a teaching sense, "Well, I've got this. I know this lesson." Then you get there in class and somebody asks you a question and you're like, "I don't know. I don't know what's going on here." Well, God will help us overcome that overconfidence.

Then the last one I saw here was the Jebusites. The Jebusites were warlike people. They were known for their warlike character. When you think about warlike character, that's somebody who always wants to fight. Sometimes we joke around, "We're fighting Baptists," but sometimes we have that warlike character. We just want to fight. You know, somebody just looks at you, "What? What? What?" Calm down, man. I mean, why do you always want to fight? "I know what you meant by this. I know what you really mean." Woo. I mean what I just said. "No, what you really mean is this." Fight. War. War. War. I mean, listen, Lord help us, but for me, there are some homes that I would literally run away from if I lived there. I would and not because they haven't got any food but the fighting. I don't like all that. I don't like all the fussing and fighting and I don't like all that yelling and screaming and, "You this and you that. Well, you listen...." and all those words are flying out of your mouth and she's sitting in the corner and crying and stuff. I mean, I know I want peace, peace, wonderful peace. That's what I want. I don't want all that trouble. Good night, who wants to live like that? I've got friends that I grew up with and that's how they grew up. I remember my friend next door him and his Momma going at it every Saturday morning. She'd call his name out and she'd say, "Get down here. Blankety, blank. This is blankety, blank, blank. You blank, blank, blank, blank, blank. Beep. Beep. Blank. Blank. Beep. Beep. Blank." This is a buddy of mine and he'd come downstairs, "Well, blankety, blank, blank." I was like, whoa. Man, if I told my Mom one little word like that, oh no. My Momma would kill me. You'd never see me, never knew I existed. I wouldn't be here.

But sometimes we have that warlike character that's always wanting to fight. We've got a God who knows how to help us to overcome that. I've got many verses I could be giving you about anger and all that kind of stuff. I just want you to understand: you may have a warlike character but God can help you to overcome that and you can have a sweet place of peace in your soul and in your spirit.

Look what he goes on to say, he says, "In the mountains, and in the valleys, and in the plains, and in the springs, and in the wilderness, and in the south country; the Hittites, the Amorites, and the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites," and all the other "ites." They whooped them but it was all through the power of God Almighty so what that tells me is this: it doesn't matter what you and I face, God can give us the power to overcome that. You heard my testimony many times, the cocaine and all that kind of stuff but God brought deliverance. I mean, I just fought for a little while but it was God that brought deliverance. And the times I went back was because I was not listening to him. I was not following him. I was following myself and when you follow yourself, you'll get yourself into trouble.

It comes to a conclusion of chapter 12 and all these different kings, they defeated them. Verse 24 says this, "The king of Tirzah, one: all the kings thirty and one." They defeated 31 kings. That tells you something: even though you've gotten saved, you've got many kings that you've got to fight in this Christian life but no matter who the king is, no matter what his background is in your spiritual life, God can help you to overcome that particular king.

I want to end with this. We see the places conquered, the people conquered, then lastly, I have this, the probing question. Here's our probing question: 1. Are you overcoming in these places? The big mountains you face? The low places that you face? Are you overcoming in these places? The second question is this: Are you overcoming these people or areas in your character? In your character that when you say, "I was born this way," are you overcoming in those particular areas? The last one is simply a statement and the statement is this: Are you truly following your Joshua or Jesus? Are you truly following Jesus? If you follow Jesus, he's not going to lead you in a ditch. If you follow Jesus, he's not going to lead you into a place of defeat. If you follow Jesus, you'll find yourself in a place of victory. And all of us battle all types of things every single day, every day. I mean, there are times when I'm minding my own business and then the devil comes by and he starts saying stuff in my head and in my ear and I want to hear what he's go to say, you know, because sometimes that flesh just listens to what he has to say and I'm like, "Man, well." But thank God for the Holy Spirit. Know this: it's going to pass. It's going to pass. This is going to pass. It's not going to stay this way. I'll just fight through it, do what I have to do. I listen to Curtis H. or somebody else preaching or whatever the case might be and then I'll be okay. Or I'll run to the gym and I'll lift 500 pounds. No, not 500 pounds. But my point is this: God will help you get through it though but you and I have to follow his instructions.

Now, I don't know about you but I want to be winning in this thing. I don't want to be losing. I want to be winning. If we're going to win, then we've got to follow the Lord Jesus Christ because he will lead us to victory. "What are you talking about, Preacher?" Simply this: your enemy that you are facing can be beaten. If your aim is going to be beat, you've got to follow Jesus. You've got to.

Father, thank you for your many multiple blessings and I've done my best to study the truth on these verses tonight but I pray, God, if nothing else we would get this one thing clear: we can beat our enemy. We can win. We can have victory and the Bible teaches us that we can triumph at all times, at all times, for it is all by Christ. So Father, I pray that some folks will want to come and talk to you tonight and may say, "Lord, give me some extra strength or something, some extra courage, some extra power to face what I've got to face today. I'm facing some hard things." Folks have been mentioning in the prayer time wisdom and direction and knowledge in these areas and I pray and ask God that they come to you and say, "Lord, you show me what to do. You tell me exactly what to do, Father, and help me to follow you. I might not know the whole scope of the whole plan but at least give me that part, God, that you want me to do right now." With that, Father, we'll thank you. I pray, God, you'll give us strength, give us peace, give us victory. I pray, God, that you help each of us in that particular area of our life that we need to have your help and I pray that we would not be afraid to come and talk to you about these matters. I pray, God, that we come, Lord, and listen to what you've got to say. Perhaps some folks will come tonight and say, "Thank you Lord for helping me. Thank you, Lord, for showing me that I can have victory." Father, I pray that that they come. Then whoever else, who I didn't mention anything in my message but they will talk to you about something else that has nothing to do with the message, I pray, God, that they come.

That's it for now, Father. Help us, Father, as we come and pray for it is in Christ's name we ask, Jesus. Amen.

Let's all stand. ?? will come to talk to us for a few moments and as I come and talk to him, let's all stand and turn to page 200 in the white hymnal. I think this song is appropriate. The song says that without him I can do nothing but with him I shall be victorious. Page 200 in the white hymnal.

"Without him, I could do nothing.
Without him, I surely fail.
Without him, I will would be drifting.
Like a ship without a sail."