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Part 5 • VICTORY From the Inside Out

Matthew 6:13 *And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.*

1. God has given His people spiritual victory!

God promised Joshua and Israel all the land upon which they set their feet, but they still had to take possession of it. In the same way, believers have the authority to tread upon all the forces of darkness, but they still need to battle against the enemy. See Matthew 16:15-19; Luke 10:17-20; Ephesians 6:11, etc.

2. A sobering illustration from Joshua 6 and 7.

The Lord commanded Joshua and Israel to completely destroy the evil city of Jericho. It was the “firstfruit” of the Promised Land, and everything was dedicated to God. And they conquered Jericho in the power of God! Achan, however, took a garment, gold and silver, and hid it under his tent. When God instructed Joshua to attack Ai, a very small city, they were totally defeated! The reason? Achan’s “small” sin brought God’s mighty army to its knees. When the sin was dealt with Israel was again victorious!

- A. *And do not lead us into temptation...* means that we must confess hidden sin so that our enemy will not have authority over us.
- B. Psalm 19:12-13 *...Cleanse me from secret faults. Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous (deliberate, willful) sins; let them not have dominion (rule) over me. Then I shall be blameless, and I shall be innocent of great transgression.*

3. Closing the door to the enemy.

We use locks, alarm systems, cameras, etc. to make sure our

homes are safe and protected from predators. Shouldn't we do the same for our “spiritual home?” Our enemy enters our lives through the following ways...

- A. **The mind**, our thinking and view of the world and God’s Word. Because satan knows us, he bombards our minds with thoughts of lust, doubt, fear, anger, offenses, etc.
 - Because he is the father of all lies, the devil deceives us to believe his lie about God’s Word and His Character and makes sin look good. (Genesis 3:1-7, 4:3-8; 2 Corinthians 11:3; Romans 8:5-6)
 - Then the devil accuses us to God. He provides the opportunity, we take it, and then he accuses us to God, and God to us! (Zechariah 3:1-2; Revelation 12:10)
 - Romans 12:2 states that God’s Word is the transforming agent for our mind!
- B. **The flesh**, our old nature vying for control. Satan has *no* authority in areas of our lives that we have given over to the Lordship of Christ. Galatians 5:16-18 tells us how: *...Walk in (with) the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.*
- C. **The world**, conforming us to its pattern. (2 Timothy 4:10; Romans 12:2; 1 John 2:15-17) The world is only a channel the devil uses. If we are free from the hold of his temptations, then the world has no influence over us!

1 John 5:4-5

Everyone born of God is victorious and overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has conquered and overcome the world — our persistent faith in Jesus the Son of God. (Romans 8)

4. The victor’s mindset, battle dress, and responsibility.

- A. Our mindset. Romans 8:5-14 *...those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit...*
- B. Our battle dress in Ephesians 6:10-18 illustrates the character areas we put on as a defense against the enemy. Then we participate in spiritual warfare through prayer.
- C. Ephesians 6:18 and Nehemiah 4:13-15 tell us that we are to fight (in prayer) for our brothers and sisters in Christ.