

## **Spiritual Victory - Part 3**

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### I. Spiritual Blessing.

A. God promises to pour out blessings for those who honor him with their wealth. (Malachi 3:10)

1. There are windows in heaven and God loves opening them.
2. He opened them for Moses, and Joshua, and Gideon, etc.
3. He wants to open them for us and bless us but sometimes we deep the blessing for us.

B. The way we bet the windows of heaven open is by learning to give.

1. God takes pleasure in the prosperity of his servants. (Psalm 35:27)
2. The widows are not open by magic but by generosity.

### II. Spiritual Victory: Worship (Exodus chapters 25-40)

A. God gives details about constructing the tabernacle according to a specific pattern. (Exodus chapter 25)

B. God gives explicit instructions for a reason.

1. Creation was awesome but one verse summarizes it. (Genesis 1:1)
2. The tabernacle contains great detail, even of its lamp stand. (Exodus 35-36)
  - a. The detail is important because the presence of God dwells there.
  - b. Ken Smith has written on the importance of the tabernacle.

C. Worship is not an act but a way of life.

1. The summary of tabernacle worship includes the ordinary things of life. (Exodus 40)
2. Billy Graham had a plaque reminding that kitchen work was divine service. (1 Corinthians 10:41)
3. The lamp of God enlightens our path. (Psalm 119:105)
4. The Declaration of Independence had amendments at the end of it, but the Law of God has no amendments added to it.
  - a. The Law is perfect. (Psalm 19:7-11)
  - b. No one is to add anything to the word of God. (Revelation 22:11)

c. The word of God prepares men for service. (2 Timothy 3:16)

- 1) The word of God instructs.
- 2) The word of God rebukes.
- 3) The word of God prepares us for every good work.

d. The law of liberty is an unusual phrase because liberty is not usually associated with law. (James 1:25)

- 1) I bought a new car once and looked at the owner's manual. I could have ignored the manual or I could have paid attention to the instructions in it.
- 2) God gave us the Bible to help us enjoy life to the fullest.
- 3) We all need a standard to help us in life.
- 4) We need instructions to know whether to run a 40-yard dash or a 400-yard run.
- 5) Making up rules as we go would be futile.
- 6) Kids in school today are hearing relativistic ideology that says God's absolute truth is not for us anymore.

D. The altar of incense signifies the importance of prayer.

1. Prayer is not something we tack on at the end of our service; prayer is our act of service.
2. Paul was praying when the Lord blinded him. (Acts 9:10-11)
  - a. Do you pray or do just say prayers?
  - b. Fervent, earnest prayer is heard by God.
  - c. Prayer is serious business. (Psalm 119:153-54)

E. The altar of sacrifice gives offerings to God. (Exodus 40:6)

1. We are to offer our very lives to God in reasonable service. (Romans 12:1-2)
2. A girl named Ruth was praying this verse so she committed her body to God as a living sacrifice. A few years later she hit by a bus and she lost her legs. Later she said, "You can't lose what you've given away."
  - a. Am I holding on to my life?
  - b. Am I giving it away to God?

c. Jesus said we should give up our rights to God.

d. People pressed in to hear Jesus. (Luke 5:1-3)

1) A small church was dying and called a new pastor who had a reputation for teaching the Word, so people flocked to hear him.

2) Churches lose people by giving nothing to do.

3) Churches lose people by giving people nothing to do.

4) Jesus asked Peter if he could use his boat and preached the word.

5) After preaching he commanded Peter to put out into the deep and let down his nets for a catch.

6) Faith needs no precedent.

7) When Peter obeyed Jesus he caught a great quantity of fish, sinking two boats.

8) Peter asked Jesus to leave him alone for he is sinful, yet Jesus told him not to fear, but that he would now catch men.

9) At this point Peter and his friends forsook all to follow Jesus.

10) The principle here is not getting out of your present business, but surrendering everything to God.

a) This surrender begins with self. (Mark 10:17-21)

b) The rich young ruler could not do it.

e. God did wonders in Joshua's life but required Joshua to sanctify himself. (Joshua 3:5)

f. Those who trust in self will miss the blessing of God. (Jeremiah 17:5-6)

g. We need to awake to righteousness and sin not for some have not the righteousness of God. (1 Corinthians 15:34)

h. God will sanctify his great name, which was profaned among the heathen. (Ezekiel 36:23)