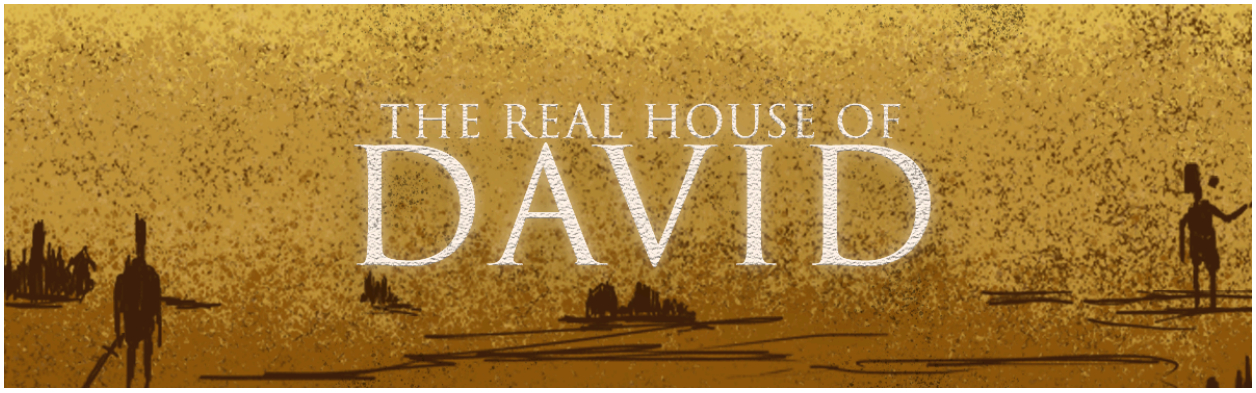


PURSUE VICTORY

2 Samuel 5:1-24

- ***What would I do or how would I behave if I became a King or Queen?***
- **Some "battles" have to be fought to lead one's "kingdom" to victory.**
- *"Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies and tricks of the Devil. For we are not fighting against people made of flesh and blood, but against the evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against those mighty powers of darkness who rule this world, and against wicked spirits in the heavenly realms."* (Ephesians 6:11-12)
- ***What does it take to pursue and experience victory in our lives?***

Pursuing Victory Requires:

MAKING <u>COMMITMENTS</u>

- *"So there at Hebron, David made a covenant with the leaders of Israel before the LORD. And they anointed him king of Israel."* (2 Samuel 5:3)
- **Significant changes in our lives are always preceded or accompanied by significant commitments.**
- **Experiencing Victory requires *Making Commitments to Our Lord*.**
    - **If we aren't committed to trusting and obeying God we can't expect to experience His power, provision and victory in our lives.**
- **Experiencing Victory requires *Making Commitments to Other Christians*.**
    - *"We are all parts of His (Christ's) one body, and each of us has different work to do. And since we are all one body in Christ, we belong to each other, and each of us needs all the others."* (Romans 12:4-5)
    - **We have to commit to being a part of a Church and a Small Group (i.e. *Life Group*) in order to grow spiritually and experience victory.**
    - *"They worshiped together at the Temple, met in homes . . ., and shared their meals with great joy and generosity."* (Acts 2:46)

- **We have to maintain, not just make, commitments if we are to experience growth and victory in our lives (Matthew 21:28-32).**

Pursuing Victory Requires:

OVERCOMING <u>STRONGHOLDS</u>

- *"David then led his troops to Jerusalem to fight against the Jebusites. 'You'll never get in here,' the Jebusites taunted. 'Even the blind and lame could keep you out!' For the Jebusites thought they were safe. But David captured the fortress of Zion, now called the City of David."* (2 Samuel 5:6-7)
- **Many Christians have spiritual "Jebusites" (strongholds) in their lives.**
- **A "stronghold" is a faulty thinking pattern based upon deception or hurt that we've experienced in times past.**
- *"We use God's mighty weapons, not mere worldly weapons, to knock down the Devil's strongholds."* (2 Corinthians 10:4)
- **Overcoming "strongholds" requires *Living by God's Truths.***
    - Jesus - *"You are truly my disciples if you keep obeying My teachings. And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."* (John 8:31-32)
- **Overcoming "strongholds" requires *Confessing our Struggles*.**
    - *"Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed."* (James 5:16)
- **Overcoming "strongholds" requires *Praying and Fasting.***
    - Jesus - *"This kind (of demonic stronghold) can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting."* (Mark 9:29)

Pursuing Victory Requires:

BUILDING A <u>SUPPORT</u> <u>NETWORK</u>

- *"David made the fortress his home, and he called it the City of David. He built additional fortifications around the city, starting at the Millo and working inward."* (2 Samuel 5:9)
- **The "Millo" was a key support structure that kept the city walls from falling.**
- Jesus - *"It is like a person who builds a house on a strong foundation laid upon the underlying rock. When the floodwaters rise and break against the house, it stands firm because it is well built."* (Luke 6:48)
- **In God's family, our "support structure" is other godly people (like those in *Life Groups)* rather than buildings and walls.**
- *"Then King Hiram of Tyre sent messengers to David, along with carpenters and stonemasons to build him a palace. Hiram also sent many cedar logs for lumber. And David realized that the LORD had made him king over Israel and had made his kingdom great for the sake of His people Israel."* (2 Samuel 5:11-12)

- **We all need friends who will stand with us and who will encourage and equip us to become stronger in our lives.**

Pursuing Victory Requires:

REPRODUCING OTHER <u>DISCIPLES</u>

- *"After moving from Hebron to Jerusalem, David married more wives . . ., and he had many sons and daughters."* (2 Samuel 5:13)
- **Our purpose as Christians is not just to strengthen ourselves, but to "raise up" others to be strong men and women of God.**
- *"Go and make disciples . . . baptizing them . . . and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."* (Matthew 28:19-20)
- **We can't claim to be Jesus' disciple, and we won't live victorious lives, if we're not reproducing the life and ministry of the Lord in others lives.**
- Jesus - *"My true disciples produce much fruit. This brings great glory to my Father."* (John 15:8)

Pursuing Victory Requires:

PREPARING FOR FUTURE <u>BATTLES</u>

- *"When the Philistines heard that David had been anointed king of Israel, they mobilized all their forces to capture him. But David was told they were coming and went into the stronghold."* (2 Samuel 5:17)
- **To live Victorious Lives we must constantly prepare our *Heads for Battle.***
    - *"We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ."* (2 Corinthians 10:5)
    - **We've got to believe and live by God's truths rather than Satan's lies.**
- **To live Victorious Lives we must constantly prepare our *Hearts for Battle.***
    - *"Above all else, guard your heart, for it affects everything you do."* (Proverbs 4:23)
    - **We must keep our hearts and lives committed to God's will and way.**
- **To live Victorious Lives we must constantly prepare our *Hands for Battle.***
    - *"Use every piece of God's armor to resist the enemy in the time of evil, so that after the battle you will still be standing firm."* (Ephesians 6:13)

- *"David went and defeated the Philistines. 'The LORD has done it!' David exclaimed. 'He burst through my enemies like a raging flood!' So David named that place Baal-perazim (which means 'the Lord who bursts through')."* (2 Samuel 5:20)
- ***In what part of my life do I need to experience spiritual breakthrough?***

- *“David did what the LORD commanded, and he struck down the Philistines all the way from Gibeon to Gezer.”* (2 Samuel 5:25)
- ***What is the Lord saying to me through this message?***