

The Power within to Stand

Scriptural Reference: Joshua 10:1-14

Key Verse: On the day the LORD gave the Amorites over to Israel, Joshua said to the LORD in the presence of Israel: “Sun, stand still over Gibeon, and you, moon, over the Valley of Aijalon.” (*Joshua 10:12, NIV*)

Life Principle

God in His sovereign will can allow human beings to supernaturally access His divine power. When it seems as though you are alone and powerless, God reminds us that there is a power that is of Him that works through us.

Introduction

Our relationship with God gives us authority to accomplish and overcome any challenge that rises before us. As children of God and believers in His Son, Jesus Christ, we have full access and are reminded that we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us. The Word of God is our weapon that we digest as sustenance for our souls.

Israel was in high pursuit to obtain all that God had granted to them. Others in the region were hearing about their victories and were concerned about their demise. The strategy of one nation, Gibeon, took the approach that since they could not defeat them then they would join them. This alliance drew attention toward Gibeon, and other nations sought to destroy them in the process. We realize that familiarity breeds contempt. God reveals to the nation that He is sovereign and can obtain victory in amazing ways.

Joshua led Israel to partner with Gibeon as the five armies of the Amorites moved in for battle. This allowed what nations were hearing about Israel to become firsthand knowledge. The manner in which God was working on Israel's behalf was extraordinary. God in His supernatural ability showed that man has His authority within to stand against any attack. When enemies collaborate against you, stand—knowing that God provides an alliance to obtain victory; and the authority needed is within us to command the victory.

BIBLICAL EMPHASES FOR STUDY

I. The Enemy's Plotting (*Joshua 10:1-6*)

An interesting dynamic in group development is the reality that the stronger is always in position to be overthrown by another that thinks he or she is able to conquer them. Israel's progress had made them enemies and anyone in alliance with them were under attack as well. War is the element of obtaining and maintaining so that one remains dominant over the other. Gibeon, who went into alliance with Israel, began to experience the pressure of such a force.

Five nations came together with their kings and armies in the hopes of overthrowing Gibeon to lessen the military strength of Israel. This coalition by the Amorites prompted Gibeon to reach out to their alliances to come alongside and help them. We should hold to that truth; we have help when we find ourselves under the pressure of attack by the enemies plotting against us. Never think you have to be in isolation; God has strategically given you alliances to battle all that tries to discourage, defeat, or destroy you.

II. Alliances to Obtain Victory (*Joshua 10:7-10*)

With a swift response to Gibeon's call for help against the Amorites, Joshua and Israel's men of war engaged the enemy with God's leading. Joshua was comforted when God informed him that he would be victorious. Do not be afraid! Today, God is giving us the victory needed to win back our children, our communities, and our churches. We have been under constant bombardment, but today victory will be ours.

We have an opportunity to stand united in the presence of the systems that are trying to destroy our families. Yet, our pursuing victory will take some commitment to keep moving in that direction until we get there. Joshua and his army moved all night until they got to the place for assistance.

Our boldness and faith in God discomforts our enemies. They are confused in our presence and unable to rise against us. Such was Joshua's position as they reached Gibeon. They slew and chased the Amorites that thought they would destroy Gibeon. What is within you is greater than what has come against you. Let's find the thread that unifies us to become victorious, rather than hold the cords of discourse that work against us.

III. Authority to Command Victory (*Joshua 10:11-14*)

God works miracles every day in the lives of His people. As Israel pursued the Amorites, a flurry of great stones fell on those escaping and destroyed them. "Vengeance is mine," says the Lord. More died in the escaping than those in

battle. God in His sovereignty did what no other could do. When you have done all we can, we must stand and watch God see us through.

We are exposed to a more intense part of the battle when we read of Joshua's speaking with supernatural authority to stop the sun from going down so that Israel could have the time to complete the battle. There is a part of God's authority that none have been able to tap into when harboring doubt. Joshua reveals that not only does God step in to fight our battles, but He also gives us power to reign on earth.

If we fall it is because we choose to fall. God has gifted us with so much greatness that victory is on every hand. That does not mean that we will not have to put in the work. But it does allow us to know that when we take one step, God will take two. We are more than conquerors today; let us stand strong and claim victory.

Conclusion

Stop doubting your ability to be successful in life. Each day, God connects you to others who are a part of your alliance to be victorious. If you believe it takes a village to raise our generations, then let's work smarter and in unity to accomplish those goals.

Biblical Principles for Men

1. Who is a part of your alliance—those persons upon whom you depend or with whom you interact?
2. Are they aware that they can depend on you? What instances have there been or could arise in which you show that you are a reliable part of the "alliance"?
3. Can God trust you with the power He has given you? Remember that we are stewards; God has given us certain talents, and so forth. Therefore, it is important that we faithfully exercise those talents.

Closing Prayer

O Lord, we are thankful for the victories You have blessed us with. Please keep Your hands of protection around us as we work to uplift one another daily. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.