**LIGHTS IN A DARK WORLD (#2)**

***The Power of Vision***

Too often Christians feel they are weak and helpless against Satan’s great powers. I beg to differ. With Christ in me I openly defy and challenge him. Please read on.

I recall how Goliath defied God and challenged Israel to a mano-mano duel, believing Jehovah (Israel’s God) was not an equal to the mighty Dagon (god of the Philistines). David, by faith, answered the challenge and famously went down in history, holding the giant’s severed head before both armies for all to see (I Sam. 17). David had the power.

Then there’s that great matchup between Jehovah vs. Baal on Mount Carmel when Elijah challenges the 450 prophets of Baal to a duel by fire. That also ended badly for the loser, with God sending lightening bolts from heaven, followed by the massacre of every false prophet (I Kgs. 18). Elijah had the power.

You also might remember Elisha, who had been mentored by Elijah, facing a massive Syrian army that had surrounded the city of Dothan. Elisha’s servant was terrified of this trap they had fallen into, knowing they were there to capture his master. Elisha asked Jehovah to open the servant’s eyes to see who was really the one in trouble. Suddenly the entire mountains were filled with God’s fiery horses and chariots. With God’s help Elisha had become an army of one. The entire Syrian army was struck blind and led to Samaria. The servant discovered, “Those who are with us are more than those who are with them” (2 Kgs. 6). Elisha had the power.

My hope and prayer for young people today is that they will know and believe that the same Jehovah God that fought on the side of David, Elijah and Elisha is just as real, and just as active, as He was in Biblical days. While God might not be throwing bolts from the sky, or revealing fiery chariots surrounding my enemy, He promises me in His Word that He is just as involved in my life as He was in David’s, Elijah’s and Elisha’s. Don’t believe me? Read the following promises of God:

*“What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?”* (Rom. 8:31-32)

*“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us.”* (Eph. 3:20)

“*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me*.” (Phil. 4:13)

*“Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.”* (Col. 2:15)

Peer pressure to conform to this world (“to squeeze you into its mold” – Rom. 12:2 Phillips NT) is oh so powerful. All of us have, at weak times in our life, caved in to its squeeze. But, like David, Elijah and Elisha, you need to realize that you have at your beck-and-call the power of God to resist. You don’t have to conform! Here’s how.

**The Power Of Vision**

Christians today are in a unique position to stand on the shoulders of Biblical giants, giving us the visual advantage to see behind us into the past, and ahead of us into the future. When tempted to compromise our faith we can easily turn back the clock to study what God’s inspired writers told us about past battles and future victories. We can have 20/20 vision in virtually every battle we face. God’s revelations have shown us Satan’s won-and-lost record every time he faced the Lord. Statistically the devil is a very pathetic Loser (yes, spell that with a capital “L” – and place that letter on his forehead). The Biblical record shows us every defeat he has suffered, and every victory God has won. From Satan’s perspective it’s not a pretty picture! Inspiration graphically paints the scene for us of God vs. Satan (Round 1):

​1 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. 2 He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; 3 and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.” (Rev. 20:1-3)

Then it gives us the blow-by-blow account of God vs. Satan (Round 2 – The Sequel):

7 Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison 8 and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea. 9 They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. 10 The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.” (Rev. 20:7-10)

Young Christians, the power of God’s vision is enormous, giving us the advantage of both perfect knowledge from history, and flawless knowledge of the future. We can know, beyond doubt, how this present war with Satan will turn out.

President Ronald Reagan was once asked if he had a plan to win the Cold War against the Soviet Union. His answer is classic: “Yes, here’s my strategy on the Cold War: We win, they lose.” God has told us His plan to win the Great War against Satan and his principalities and powers in the heavenly places: “We win, they lose.” The devil’s strongholds can be “pulled down” (2 Cor. 10:3-5), his fiery darts can be thwarted (Eph. 6:10-17), he can be resisted in the faith and caused to flee (Jam. 4:7; I Pet. 5:9), he can be disarmed and humiliated (Col. 2:15), and we can become more than conquerors through Christ (Rom. 8:37-39).

I lived to see the Iron Curtain of the Soviet Union destroyed. In the Cold War, we won, they lost. Reagan’s strategy worked. In the next life, in the world to come, I will live to see Satan defeated and the Heavenly War over. We win, they lose.

That is the Power of Vision in our battle against Satan. Young people, like David, Elijah and Elisha, you have the power of God! You can win! Let your light shine. - Rick