

Day 1: Pray for the working saints to be formed into an army to fight for the protection of God's testimony

Num. 1:3 From twenty years old and upward, all who are able to go forth for military service in Israel, you and Aaron shall number them by their companies.

Num. 4:46-47 All those who were numbered of the Levites, whom Moses and Aaron and the leaders of Israel numbered, by their families and by their fathers' households, From thirty years old and upward even to fifty years old, everyone who entered to do the work of service and the work of bearing burdens in the Tent of Meeting

Ministry Portion

The most important age group with respect to the tabernacle was the group between the ages of thirty and fifty. The burden of caring for the Tent of Meeting was directly upon them. It was those in this age group who carried the various parts of the tabernacle from place to place. In the church life we need those between twenty and thirty to fight the battle, those from one month to twenty to guard the Tent of Meeting, and those over thirty to care directly for the Tent of Meeting. According to the book of Numbers, those thirty and over carried the Ark, the table of the bread of the Presence, the lampstand, the incense altar, the bronze altar, and all the vessels and utensils. The children of Kohath took care of the vessels; the children of Gershon, the curtains, the hangings, and the coverings; and the children of Merari, the pillars, the boards, and the sockets. We may apply these types to today's church life. We need many saints experienced in Christ to take care of different aspects of Christ for the constitution of the church life. We need a number of experienced saints to take care of Christ as the Ark, as the incense altar, as the table of the bread of the Presence, as the lampstand, and as the bronze altar. Those who have experienced Christ in these ways should convey these aspects of Christ to the new ones. Many are short of the experience of Christ as the Ark or as the incense altar. Thus, there is the need of the experienced ones to carry Christ to them in these ways. (All Ages for the Lord's Testimony ch 1)

Day 2: Pray for the working saints to follow the pattern of Caleb as a genuine overcomer who had a “different spirit” and was a partner of Christ

Josh 14:7a I was forty years old when Moses the servant of Jehovah sent me out from Kadesh-barnea to spy out the land...

Josh 14:8b ...but I fully followed Jehovah my God.

Josh 14:9 And Moses swore on that day, saying, Surely the land on which your foot has trodden will be an inheritance to you and to your children forever, for you have fully followed Jehovah my God.

Num. 13:30 But Caleb quieted the people before Moses and said, Let us go up at once and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it.

Num. 14:24 Only My servant Caleb, because he had a different spirit and has fully followed Me, will I bring into the land which he entered; and his descendants shall take possession of it.

Ministry Portion

What was the condition for Caleb to experience God's keeping power? Let us consider this matter for a minute. Joshua 14:14 says, "He wholly followed the Lord God of Israel." And how did he wholly follow the Lord? We are told in Numbers 13 and 14. Numbers 13:30 says, "Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once and possess it; for we are well able to prevail." "We are well able to prevail." A person who wholly follows the Lord is one who believes that the promises of God are trustworthy, that He is with His people, and that they are well able to overcome. Brothers and sisters, do you believe this? Many people believe, but their faith is a vacillating faith. They are very timid. They sing their song of praise, but though the words are right, there is something wrong with the tune. In Caleb's case it was not so; he sang the right words in the right tune. He said, "Let us go up at once." A person who wholly follows the Lord and reckons Him to be trustworthy is one who does the will of God and does it at once. (God's Keeping Power, Chapter 1, Section 1)

Day 3: Pray for our realization that to be an overcomer is a matter of decision and choice through the proper exercise of our will

Rom. 12:1 I exhort you therefore, brothers, through the compassions of God to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, well pleasing to God, *which is* your reasonable service.

Josh. 24:15 And if it seems wrong in your sight to serve Jehovah, **choose for yourselves today whom you will serve**, either the gods from across the River, whom your fathers served, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. **But as for me and my house, we will serve Jehovah.**

Rev. 2:7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God.

Hymn 894

Will you be an overcomer? / Christ is calling now! / Will you then be such a follower, Though you know not how?

Will you be an overcomer? / Will you make this choice? / Christ is calling, Christ is calling, / Listen to His voice!

Ministry Portion

The overcomers as today's Zion are for the consummation of the holy city (the church). They are to consummate, to finish, the building up of the local church and to bring in the consummated New Jerusalem in eternity (21:1-2). In order to complete the building up of the Body, the Lord needs the overcomers, and the building up of the Body consummates in the New Jerusalem. This is why at the end of the Bible, in the last book, there is the calling for the overcomers. Today the way to become vitalized is to answer the Lord's call to be an overcomer.

There are two ways before us today. We can either choose to be vitalized or choose not to be vitalized. I am presenting these two ways before us. Which way will we take? Are we going to be vitalized or not? We have to make a resolution. In Judges 5:15 Deborah said, "Among the divisions of Reuben / There were great resolutions in heart." We have to make a resolution to be the overcomers, the vitalized ones. An overcomer overcomes anything that replaces Christ or that is against Christ. In the Bible there is the age of the overcomers, and there is the calling for the overcomers. Furthermore, there is a way for us to be vitalized so that we can be the overcomers. (The Training and the Practice of the Vital Groups, Chapter 2)

Day 4: Pray for the sisters to be today's Deborah and Ruth, keeping God's ordination and choosing to participate with God's elect

Judg. 4:4 Now Deborah was a prophetess, the wife of Lappidoth. She judged Israel at that time.

Ruth 1:16-17: But Ruth said, Do not entreat me to leave you and turn away from following after you. For wherever you go, I will go, and wherever you dwell, I will dwell; and your people will be my people, and your God will be my God. Where you die, I will die; and there will I be buried. Jehovah do so to me, and more as well, if anything but death parts me from you.

Ministry Portion

God's raising up of a female, Deborah, as a judge of Israel was extraordinary, indicating that all the men of Israel had failed God, forcing Him to raise up a woman. In the Bible a proper female indicates one who is in submission to God, one who keeps God's ordination (see note Exo. 2:21, par. 2). This is the position that Israel should have taken before God, but Israel violated God's ordination, leaving her position as God's wife and forsaking Him for hundreds of idols. This brought Israel into a miserable situation and condition. Although Deborah was a very capable person, she was very submissive. God made her the leader, yet she kept the proper order and took Barak as her covering (vv. 6-9; cf. 1 Cor. 11:3, 5-6, 10). When this excellent, extraordinary woman took the lead to practice the female submission to the man, the entire country came into an excellent order, assuming the proper position before Jehovah (v. 10). Among the people there were great resolutions in heart and great searchings of heart (Judg. 5:15-16), and they rose up to follow the others to fight for God's kingdom. Because Israel fought under Deborah in a proper order, God fought for them (vv. 14-24). (Judg 4:4 Footnote 1)

Ruth chose the goal of participating with God's elect in the enjoyment of Christ, and she even became an important ancestor of Christ, one who helped bring forth Christ into mankind. This was more than just a resolution on the part of the Moabite widow; it was a goal, a choosing. Ruth chose God and His kingdom for the carrying out of God's economy concerning Christ. (Ruth 1:16 Footnote 1)

Day 5: Pray for us personally to have great resolutions in heart and great searchings of heart before the Lord

Judg. 5:15-16: Among the divisions of Reuben / There were great resolutions in heart... In the divisions of Reuben / There were great searchings of heart.

Judg. 5:31a May all Your enemies so perish, O Jehovah. But may those who love Him be like the sun when it rises in its might...

Ministry Portion

To have a great resolve is to make a firm decision, and to have a great searching is to devise a plan to live to the Lord and to live out the Lord for His up-to-date recovery in building up of His Body, the preparation of His bride, and the ushering in of His kingdom in its manifestation (Crystallization-Study of Joshua, Judges, and Ruth, Message Seven)

[In Judges 5:31]. For the sun to rise in its might means that it shines brightly, brilliantly, and gloriously. We need the searchings, the resolutions, and the rising up to shine like the sun. If all the churches would be like this, they surely would enjoy the victory. May all the dear saints in the Lord's recovery have great searchings and make great resolutions, and may they all, by loving the Lord, rise up like the sun to shine brightly. (Life-study of Judges, p. 17)

The Bible says that among God's people there were great resolutions in heart, and there were also great searchings of heart (Judg. 5:15-16). For whom did they have great resolutions and great searchings? A person of aspiration, though he lives on the earth, always turns his heart to the Lord. We should have great resolutions in heart and great searchings of heart toward God. May all the young people, starting from today, be willing to have great resolutions and great searchings of heart. To have a great resolve is to make a firm decision, and to have a great searching is to devise a plan. This is not just to have a resolve but to have a great resolve, and not just to make a plan but to make a great plan. May today be the day that you have a great resolve and make a great plan.

Some may ask, "What is the purpose of having a great resolve and a great searching?" It is to live for God on the earth. The meaning of these three words *living for God* is quite broad. In brief, it means to receive God as your life for your entire life. (Crystallization-Study of Joshua, Judges, and Ruth, HWMR, Week 7, Day 6)

Day 6: Pray for the working saints to cooperate with the energizing God and the seven-fold intensified Spirit

Phil. 2:13 For it is God who operates in you both the willing and the working for His good pleasure.

Rom. 15:16 That I might be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles, a laboring priest of the gospel of God, in order that the offering of the Gentiles might be acceptable, having been sanctified in the Holy Spirit.

Rev 3:1-2 And to the messenger of the church in Sardis write: These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: I know your works, that you have a name that you are living, and yet you are dead. Become watchful and establish the things which remain, which were about to die; for I have found none of your works completed before My God.

Rev 3:14-16 And to the messenger of the church in Laodicea write: These things says the Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the beginning of the creation of God: I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot. So, because you are lukewarm and neither hot nor cold, I am about to spew you out of My mouth.

John: 15:2a Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes it away...

Ministry Portion

In this chapter we want to see three particular enemies that we have today. These enemies are deadness, lukewarmness, and barrenness. This is why we feel desperate that we need to look to the Lord for Him to vitalize us. We need to be made living, burning, and fruitful. These three enemies are mainly against good Christians, the brothers and sisters who are regularly attending the meetings. They are not enemies to worldly Christians, to those who live in their pleasures and entertainment. We may love the Lord and attend the meetings faithfully and regularly, but we have to realize that deadness, lukewarmness, and barrenness are our habitual enemies. We may not even consider them as practical and even fatal enemies.

Death is more defiling before God than sin (Rev. 3:1; Lev. 11:24-25; Num. 6:7, 9). Furthermore, lukewarmness is an abominable thing in the eyes of the Lord. The lukewarmness of Laodicea caused the Lord to spew the Laodiceans out of His mouth (Rev. 3:16). Do we appreciate being spewed out of the Lord's mouth? This shows us how serious it is to be lukewarm. We may be good Christians and good saints in the recovery who attend the meetings and serve the church regularly, but we are not so living or burning. We are neither hot nor cold. Instead, we are lukewarm. (The Training and the Practice of the Vital Groups, ch 2)