

Good Morning Holy Spirit

Believe, Achieve and Succeed!



The War You Must Win (Part 2)

by Ronke Adetunji

This article concludes a two-part series featuring bible characters and their *internal* wars. Remember, the old adage says that if you win the *internal* war you will easily win the *external* war. To complete the series, this issue will feature those who, in spite of trials and tribulations, won their *internal* wars and are consequently considered victorious forever, to the benefit of humanity.

The Internal Enemy – Anguish. Genesis 37:18-28 records the “sale” of Joseph by his brothers. To realize the depth of his brothers’ hatred must have been extremely unbearable for young Joseph. The overwhelming pain and sorrow he subsequently experienced can never be adequately described.

Battered by anguish. A glimpse into Joseph’s emotions at the time of his “sale” is highlighted during a conversation among his ten senior brothers after they were falsely accused of theft by Joseph, who they referred to as “the man” in Egypt, “We are verily guilty concerning our brother, in that we saw the anguish of his soul, when he besought us, and we would not hear; therefore is this distress come upon us” (Gen. 42:21).

Anguish – that feeling of doom and gloom, despair and emotional torment – was what Joseph then experienced. After being sold twice and with time to ponder his predicament, his life in pagan Egypt created the right environment for anguish. He alluded to that at the birth of his second son when he said, “God hath caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction” (Gen. 41:52).

Joseph was sold to Potiphar and became overseer over his house (Gen. 39:4). The advances by Potiphar’s wife were rejected by Joseph and her false accusation resulted in his imprisonment. While in prison, Joseph accurately interpreted the dream of Pharaoh’s butler and baker and his only request of the butler was to remember him (Gen. 40:14). However, upon his release, the butler forgot and Joseph continued to languish in prison. All these circumstances created additional opportunities for despair and Joseph’s anguish seemed unending.

Victory over anguish. In spite of the mental and emotional torment, Joseph maintained the right perspective for, in Potiphar’s house, “The LORD was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man” (Gen. 39:2).



A note to you....

FALL!! It is the season which marks the transition from summer into winter and brings falling leaves, falling temperatures, short, grey and dreary days, long, cold nights and falling snow.

There is, however, another fall which is not related to any season, weather or climate, but is the result of Adam’s disobedience in Eden. That fall was so catastrophic that God quickly drew the plan of salvation and sent Jesus to save Adam’s fallen race (John 3:16). That salvation is so unique, so full, so all-encompassing and transforming (yet so free), not even the angels in heaven can fully comprehend the joy of the redeemed. The words of an old hymn express it profoundly: “When I sing redemption’s story, they will fold their wings, For angels never felt the joys that our salvation brings.” *Now that is something to shout about!!*

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Lawrence and Ronke Adetunji

He was also favored in prison for the bible says, "The LORD was with Joseph...and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison" (Gen. 39:21), "And that which he did, the LORD made it to prosper" (Gen: 39:23). It is noteworthy that, while still a slave, Joseph was considered prosperous both in Potiphar's house and in prison. He obviously did not allow his circumstances to influence his mindset.

When his brothers feared retribution after the death of their father Jacob, Joseph dispelled their fears with the words, "Fear not: for am I in the place of God?" (Gen. 50:19). He informed them that God turned their ignoble actions around for good, sending him to be a father to Pharaoh and to preserve life (Gen. 45:5). Joseph was a God-appointed trailblazer who was not motivated by bitterness or memories of his anguish-filled days in Egypt.

Divine elevation. Psalm 113:7 says, "He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill, to set them among princes." This verse aptly describes Joseph's "turn-around" in Egypt after accurately interpreting Pharaoh's dreams, namely, seven years of plenty followed by seven years of famine. He was promoted to second-in-command (governor) in Egypt and was given the king's ring which symbolized Pharaoh's power and authority. He was given as wife the daughter of Poti-pherah, priest of On, who was the elite of the day. Undoubtedly, Joseph's promotion was prestigious, political, social, and economic and his wise recommendations benefitted not only Egypt but also the surrounding nations, for all countries came into Egypt to Joseph to buy corn because the famine was sore in all lands. See Genesis 41:40-57.

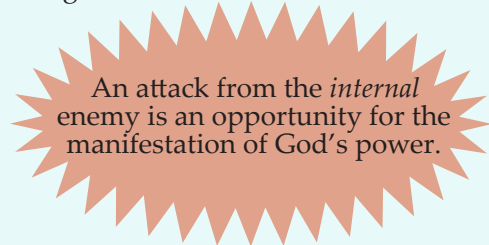
During the famine, Joseph's family migrated to Egypt where they sojourned for 430 years and became a mighty nation. Two great deliverers came from their ranks – Moses, who delivered the Israelites from Egyptian slavery and Jesus, the Savior of the world.

Anguish can debilitate spirit, soul and body. However, the record in Genesis shows that Joseph was a godly individual who was endowed with physical and mental fortitude.

He did not compromise in the midst of temptations, did not exact vengeance when in a position to do so, successfully ruled over a pagan nation, and lived a long and productive life. Joseph won the *internal* war against anguish.

The Internal Enemy – Pride, Arrogance, Racial and Religious Intolerance. These attitudes, either inherited or learned, result in an exaggerated opinion of oneself and foster an irrational hatred or suspicion of a specific group, race or religion. Throughout history, men have killed and have been killed for convictions rooted in religion, race and ethnicity, and the Apostle Paul was no exception.

Battered by pride, arrogance, racial and religious intolerance. Paul's own letters vividly record his pride and arrogance. Philippians 3:5-6 informs us of his race, tribe, religion and educational background; Acts 22:3 says that he learned at the feet of Gamaliel, a prominent teacher of the law in his day; his arrogance and religious intolerance were exhibited in Acts 7:54-8:1 during the martyrdom of Stephen; and he confessed in Acts 22:4, that he persecuted the church. Truly, Paul, before his conversion, was hopelessly driven by pride and arrogance.




Victory over pride, arrogance, racial and religious intolerance. On the road to Damascus with a mission to arrest and imprison Christians, Paul had an unforgettable encounter with the Lord Jesus. His first words were, "Who art Thou, Lord?" (Acts 9:5). For Paul, that moment marked a pivotal change from a proud and arrogant persecutor of the Church to one of the loudest and most steadfast propagator of the gospel of Christ. His national, racial, tribal, religious, academic and social beliefs were all demolished and he became a slave of Christ.

The following scriptures outline Paul's post-conversion sentiments: "The gospel of the uncircumcision was committed unto me" (Gal. 2:7); "I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord... and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ" (Phil. 3:8); "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus" (Gal. 3:28); "For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature" (Gal. 6:15). Also, in Galatians 2:11, Peter was rebuked by Paul when he refused to eat with the Gentiles; in Acts 22:3 Paul defends his Christian beliefs before a multitude, an indication of his victory over pride, arrogance, racial and religious intolerance.

Divine elevation. Paul's victory over his *internal* enemy has benefitted mankind throughout the ages and he is renowned as the most versatile writer of the New Testament. His letters to the church which are reservoirs of information about the risen Christ, guidelines for Christian living, the better new covenant of grace versus the old covenant of works, salvation and the new man, the ministry of the Holy Spirit and the condition of the dead, are all preserved for our edification.

Interestingly, Paul did not experience ease and comfort during the processes which led to victory over the *internal* enemy. The bible record shows that his life was filled with turbulence, imprisonment, lack, physical ailment and other challenges (2 Cor. 11:23-27). However, Paul never reverted to his former conduct and eventually suffered martyrdom. His parting words to Timothy at the end of his life and ministry clearly express his thoughts, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith" (2 Tim. 4:7). Paul gloriously won his *internal* war.

Conclusion. The internal enemy will attack but fear not because Jesus, your strength, has promised never to leave you nor forsake you. Remember that an attack from the *internal* enemy is an opportunity for the manifestation of God's power. Therefore, resist the devil and glorify God. Be encouraged by Psalm 118:6 which says, "The Lord is on my side." Be steadfast, be unmovable and have faith in God. Then and only then will you be victorious in "The War You Must Win." 

By the Word of Their Testimony

1

"Since joining the Good Morning Holy Spirit Prayer Line, I have experienced God's move in an awesome way. In the past, I have had to deal with household wickedness which resulted in people feeding me in my dreams. Those terrible dreams have now stopped and I have more peace in my life now. Praise the Lord!!"

2

"Blessed be the name of our Lord Jesus Christ for He is ever faithful towards His children. I recently informed you of my adversaries and the challenges I was facing. You prayed for me and encouraged me to pray without ceasing. God heard my cry, caused confusion in the camp of my enemies and blessed me with a job after being jobless for almost four months. Praise the Lord!!" Sis. Esther

3

"To God be the glory!! One Sunday morning, my family and I were involved in a car accident and our vehicle was totaled, but we all escaped with no injuries. I give thanks to God for His love and the prayers from Good Morning Holy Spirit and the Hour of Solution. Thank you for encouraging us to follow God. My family and I love you and appreciate your labor of love." YC, Alabama

4

"God Almighty has done it for me and my family. I was believing God for a miracle concerning my home for the past twenty-nine months. I participated in the fasting and prayer program last May, and a few weeks later the loan modification for my home, which the bank said was impossible, was approved. To God be the glory! Thank you and may God bless you and all the ministers on the Prayer Line for your work in His vineyard. I love you all, but remember that Jesus' love for you is much greater. Remain blessed. JE, Maryland"

Be Encouraged

God fetched Moses out of the river;
Chased him out of the palace;
Led him through the desert;
Kept him on the backside of the mountain ; and
Showed him the burning bush before He talked to him.

Therefore, be encouraged, be persistent;
your time will come!!

Attention! Attention!

Mark your calendar!

Do you need a breakthrough, deliverance, liberation or just a closer walk with Jesus?

Make plans to attend the annual
No More Embargo Program,
November 15 to 17, 2013.

More details will follow on the GMHS Prayer Line. Stay tuned!!



Pray Without Ceasing

- 1 I will not be manipulated by the internal enemy, in the name of Jesus.
- 2 Every internal enemy contending with my glory, come out and die, in the name of Jesus.
- 3 Agenda of the enemy for my life, catch fire, in the name of Jesus.
- 4 Association of the ungodly arrayed against me, be dismantled, in the name of Jesus.
- 5 Spirit of weakness and intimidation, release me and die, in the name of Jesus.
- 6 Anointing to win the internal war, fall upon me now, in the name of Jesus.

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Good Morning Holy Spirit
P. O. Box 2282
Bowie, MD 20718
Email: gmhs@gmholyspirit.org
www.goodmorningholyspirit.org

Prayer line information:
Telephone: 712-432-5212
Monday to Saturday: 5:00 a.m.–6:00 a.m.
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Designed By: LDC DESIGNS
ldcdesign10@yahoo.com



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