

*The Battle Is the Lord's*

Carl H. Stevens Jr. is pastor of Greater Grace World Outreach located in Baltimore, Maryland. Pastor Stevens is also chancellor of Maryland Bible College & Seminary and host of the international Christian radio program "The Grace Hour." This booklet was created from a message preached by Pastor Stevens.

Pastor Stevens can be seen weekly on cable television stations throughout the United States. Call us for information regarding programming in your area.

*All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.*

GRACE PUBLICATIONS

P.O. BOX 18715

BALTIMORE, MD 21206

Printed in Baltimore, Maryland, U.S.A.

Copyright © 2003

Grace Publications is a ministry of  
Greater Grace World Outreach, Inc.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

*Introduction* . . . . . 5

*Chapter 1* . . . . . 6

*GOD RESPONDS TO OUR AVAILABILITY*

*Chapter 2* . . . . . 10

*GIVE YOUR ENEMIES UP TO GOD*

*Chapter 3* . . . . . 14

*CONQUERING THE REGIONS OF THE HEART*

*CONCLUSION* . . . . . 23



## INTRODUCTION

Oh, how we like to fight our own battles! For some reason, most of us as Christians just cannot see how we can win a battle unless we give God our assistance.

Spiritual battles, however, can never be won with carnal weaponry (2 Corinthians 10:4; Ephesians 6:12). The efforts of our flesh and our minds fall far short of what is necessary to accomplish real, spiritual victories in the midst of this world's system, which is supernaturally controlled by satanic forces.

This booklet, drawn from a study of Joshua 10, reveals that our only path to victory is our availability to God. When we recognize that every battle belongs to the Lord, then our victories will extend to every area of our hearts and lives (Exodus 14:3; 1 Samuel 17:47).

## *Chapter One*

# GOD RESPONDS TO OUR AVAILABILITY

“God shall hear, and afflict them, even he that abideth of old. Selah. Because they have no changes, therefore they fear not God” (Psalm 55:19).

“Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

“But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord” (2 Corinthians 3:17-18).

As born-again Christians, we have liberty to change. But individuals who refuse to let the Word of God and the Holy Spirit change them do not fear God. As we gaze into the mirror of the Word of God, God’s thoughts toward us become clear. We gaze into the Word, not just glance at it. We go beyond careless observation into studying and internalizing categorical doc-

trine; and through this process, the Spirit of God changes us from glory to glory.

Where people fear God, having a fervent respect for all things concerning Him, a great change happens. Perhaps one of the most exciting adventures in the Christian life is the adventure of change. Recently, during a radio broadcast, a husband called in and spoke of his bad marriage. I felt led to be very objective and honest. Lovingly, but forcibly, this man had to be confronted with the fact that the problem was with him. Fortunately, he agreed that there had been few changes in his life as a husband, though he professed to know Christ.

Because we are born into the world, live in the world, hear the thinking of this world, and receive education from this world, it is very easy to allow the world to change us. When we do not purpose to receive God's truth, ungodly influences will automatically come in and try to conform us to this world. Our genetic makeup, established in Adam's fallen nature, can be the basis of our personality. Satan uses information he gathers from his superficial observation of our temperament and disposition, and his primary sources are our countenance and our confession.

All kinds of problems can affect our personalities. Early in my life, I had to overcome the persecution, accusations, and negative projections of poverty and the rejection it brings. I purposed, however, to let Christ transform me according to His Word, through His Spirit. Now I am changed.

### *Reverence Christ's Lordship*

Where there is no reverence for the Lordship of Christ, there can be no change. Yet, as King of kings and Lord of lords, Christ has more than enough ability to change us.

Consider this: Our inability is simply God's opportunity to respond to our availability. This is why it is so crucial for us to allow God to change us.

"And the LORD said unto Joshua, Fear them not: for I have delivered them into thine hand; there shall not a man of them stand before thee.

"Joshua therefore came unto them suddenly, and went up from Gilgal all night.

"And the LORD discomfited them before Israel, and slew them with a great slaughter at Gibeon, and chased them along the way that goeth up to Bethhoron, and smote them to Azekah, and unto Makkedah" (Joshua 10:8-12).



The people of Israel journeyed behind Moses toward Canaan, the promised land. In God's mind, that land was already theirs. Canaan was God's gift to Israel, but they had to allow God to use them to take it over little by little. Today, in the analogies of heaven, the battles they fought represent what we face every day in our souls and our flesh. God's truth does not change, and today as then, the message is the same: Fear not, and do not be dismayed. God is fighting for us (Joshua 10:8, 25, 42).

## *Chapter Two*

# GIVE YOUR ENEMIES UP TO GOD

I cannot understand why some people have such a habit of fearing people. The fear of man is a snare, according to Proverbs 29:25. This speaks of an entrapment of our emotional structures and our soul complexes.

The Psalmist declared, “I will not fear what men can do to me” (see Psalm 56:4).

“Not a man shall be able to stand against thee,” said Joshua. When Paul went before King Agrippa, it was the king—not Paul—who trembled, because of the truth spoken to him. Paul had no fear of a man. He refused to compromise with hell, he refused to compromise the Gospel, and he refused to compromise repentance.

Throughout the battle of Joshua 10, Joshua kept his roots in Gilgal—the city of power, of resurrection, of faith. This city, mentioned five times in that chapter, typifies the place where grace reigns over sin through righteousness. It is

a place of restoration, of realization, and of revelation. At Gilgal, the Lord Jesus Christ—the captain of the Lord of Hosts—met the soldiers of Israel with His sword drawn.

The interesting part of the battle described in Joshua 10 is God answering Joshua’s prayer to keep the sun and the moon in place until the battle was complete. The sun did not go down for a whole day. This is a great picture of Jesus Christ being in control of the battle. Hailstones fell and killed more than the swords of Israel.

God is always fighting our battles and always winning them. At times, He does it quietly, but sometimes He does it vigorously, always providing protection and provision for His people.

### *Under Our Feet*

“And it came to pass, when Joshua and the children of Israel had made an end of slaying them with a very great slaughter, till they were consumed, that the rest which remained of them entered into fenced cities.

“And all the people returned to the camp to Joshua at Makkedah in peace: none moved his tongue against any of the children of Israel.

“Then said Joshua, Open the mouth of the cave, and bring out those five kings unto me out

of the cave.

“And they did so, and brought forth those five kings unto him out of the cave, the king of Jerusalem, the king of Hebron, the king of Jarmuth, the king of Lachish, and the king of Eglon.

“And it came to pass, when they brought out those kings unto Joshua, that Joshua called for all the men of Israel, and said unto the captains of the men of war which went with him, Come near, put your feet upon the necks of these kings. And they came near, and put their feet upon the necks of them.

“And Joshua said unto them, Fear not, nor be dismayed, be strong and of good courage: for thus shall the LORD do to all your enemies against whom ye fight.

“And afterward Joshua smote them, and slew them, and hanged them on five trees: and they were hanging upon the trees until the evening” (Joshua 10:20-26).

I don't think we could ever begin to realize what God does to our enemies. Most people have received very little doctrine regarding the consequences of being an enemy against God. Someone who opposes God's ministry consistently will be disciplined by God's justice.

God won the victory. And as a result, no one

moved a tongue against the children of Israel. The people of God were established as a people to be feared.

In the same way, no one should gossip about a person who belongs to Jesus Christ. God establishes and vindicates His people and validates His Church, the Body of Christ. To go against His own is to go against God Himself. This does not mean that you cannot disagree lovingly. But no one can go against God's people through the evil government of Satan and get away with it.

After the victory in Joshua 10, Israel enjoyed peace for forty years.

*Chapter Three*

CONQUERING THE REGIONS  
OF THE HEART

“And that day Joshua took Makkedah, and smote it with the edge of the sword, and the king thereof he utterly destroyed, them, and all the souls that were therein; he let none remain: and he did to the king of Makkedah as he did unto the king of Jericho.

“Then Joshua passed from Makkedah, and all Israel with him, unto Libnah, and fought against Libnah:

“And the LORD delivered it also, and the king thereof, into the hand of Israel; and he smote it with the edge of the sword, and all the souls that were therein; he let none remain in it; but did unto the king thereof as he did unto the king of Jericho.

“And Joshua passed from Libnah, and all Israel with him, unto Lachish, and encamped against it, and fought against it:

“And the LORD delivered Lachish into the hand of Israel, which took it on the second day, and smote it with the edge of the sword, and all the souls that were therein, according to all that he had done to Libnah.

“Then Horam king of Gezer came up to help Lachish; and Joshua smote him and his people, until he had left him none remaining

“And from Lachish Joshua passed unto Eglon, and all Israel with him; and they encamped against it, and fought against it:

“And they took it on that day, and smote it with the edge of the sword, and all the souls that were therein he utterly destroyed that day, according to all that he had done to Lachish.

“And Joshua went up from Eglon, and all Israel with him, unto Hebron; and they fought against it:

“And they took it, and smote it with the edge of the sword, and the king thereof, and all the cities thereof, and all the souls that were therein; he left none remaining, according to all that he had done to Eglon; but destroyed it utterly, and all the souls that were therein” (Joshua 10:28-37).

God’s people were courageous in their faith and in their conduct. They were uncompromising in their testimony, passionate in their devo-

tion, sacrificial in their service, and transparent in their life. This speaks of God's unique people and how they began to conquer. They went on to triumph over twelve different cities, and every city represents something different in God's divine revelation toward Church-age believers.

Joshua and the people of Israel followed God to the city of Makkedah, "the place of shepherds." It was the location of a cave in Judah, and there Joshua captured and executed five Canaanite kings. Coming out from the caves, the kings who went against God's people had to bow their heads before the people of God, who soundly defeated them.

Those who go against God's churches, whatever denomination they represent, are enemies who will be put under the feet of His people. God's people are kings and should uphold their position of kingship.

### *From Separation to Subjection*

In verse 29, Libnah was the next city to be defeated. Libnah means "pavement" and it represents a clear path that brings us from separation from evil to subjection to God. Once we have overcome the enemies within our soul, Christ brings us to a place of subjection to Jesus.



From Genesis to Revelation, subjection and submission to God is a consistent theme (see Genesis 3:7 and 1 John 4:17).

Next for Israel came Lachish, which means “invincible”—unconquerable, because of resurrection power. God’s people who walk in resurrection power cannot be conquered by materialism or by the call of the flesh. They rise above the natural enticements of the air and the dominion of the old sin nature with its genetic limitations as they realize victory in Christ.

### *Claiming Our Destiny*

Before they left to take the next city, King Horam of Gezer went up to help Lachish, and Joshua killed him and his people, with no one remaining. The king of Gezer was living in self-deception, thinking that he and his men could overcome the people of God, even though five neighboring kings had already been slain and hung on five trees. He is an example of how people who are cut off from the life of Christ can be easily deceived by their emotions and natural understanding.

Eglon was the next city taken by Israel. Their king had already been slain, and after camping on the edge of the city, Joshua and his people

fought, and every soul in that city was utterly destroyed. At this point, the people of Israel must have seen that God was running the show. God's voice was heard and His people were taught. They were warned, and they listened. They must have finally understood that He had a definite plan for their lives—an eternal destiny.

It is so crucial that each of us lives with a sense of personal destiny. Do you wake up every morning with a personal destiny? Do your thoughts and words center on that destiny? Hebron, the next city captured, means "association," and it speaks of having fellowship and communion with a personal God. This exchange with God often comes in the midst of serious and unusual changes as He reveals to us a personal sense of eternal destiny.

### *The Record of Our Relationship*

"And Joshua returned, and all Israel with him, to Debir; and fought against it:

"And he took it, and the king thereof, and all the cities thereof; and they smote them with the edge of the sword, and utterly destroyed all the souls that were therein; he left none remaining: as he had done to Hebron, so he did to Debir, and to the king thereof; as he had done also to

Libnah, and to her king.

“So Joshua smote all the country of the hills, and of the south, and of the vale, and of the springs, and all their kings: he left none remaining, but utterly destroyed all that breathed, as the LORD God of Israel commanded.

“And Joshua smote them from Kadesh-barnea even unto Gaza, and all the country of Goshen, even unto Gibeon.

“And all these kings and their land did Joshua take at one time, because the LORD God of Israel fought for Israel.

“And Joshua returned, and all Israel with him, unto the camp to Gilgal” (Joshua 10:38-43).

Israel marched on from Hebron to Debir, which means “sanctuary.” It was a place where the Canaanites kept their records and taught their letters. For the people of God, Debir speaks of heaven, the place where we dwell with God as He keeps records of our relationship to the Cross, because of our personal sense of destiny in our relationship to the Redeemer. This place speaks of what we do with the mercy, grace, and love of God that He has taught us in our walk with Him.

## *A View of Wrath*

In Joshua 10:11, before Makkedah was conquered, Israel claimed the city of Bethhoron, which means “house of hollowness.” This represents the place of God’s wrath. It is where Israel was used to bring down the wrath of God upon the city.

When we are soul winning, there are times when we have to mention the wrath of God. Everyone we witness to who is not saved is already condemned (John 3:3 and 18) and subject to the wrath of God. If they never receive Christ as their Savior, unbelievers are condemned forever.

At the judgment seat of eternity, their rejection of the Gospel will be replayed for them in some way. Some will claim that no one ever told them of the love of God for them, yet personally a picture will be revealed, showing some of us on the street or at the door sharing Christ and pleading with them to get saved.

Over the years, we have knocked on thousands of doors in our city. We have heard it all:

“Not interested.”

“I get saved every day.”

“I follow God in my own way.”

The wrath of God is upon those people, and it is their own fault. They are precious souls and they are worth going after. Oh, but how sad it will be for those who fail to respond to His invitation of salvation.

That brings us to the city of Azekah (Joshua 10:11) which means “dug over”—a place that was hedged or fenced in. God sometimes hedges in the unsaved through acts of nature. Hailstones fell from heaven on this city.

What will happen to the unsaved who are trapped in an airplane as it falls from the sky? They are fenced in. Either they will accept Christ at that moment, or they will be dead and gone for all of eternity. Cancer, floods, hurricanes, tornadoes—these things can come upon people quickly and send them into the dungeon of darkness that will be their eternal habitation, unless they respond to the message of the Gospel—that Christ has paid it all, and all that’s left to do is receive His free gift.

Other cities taken in Joshua 10 were Gibeon, “hill city,” and Jarmuth, “heights.” These places refer to those who are fed lies from the atmosphere by Satan’s forces.

Finally, we have Jerusalem, the royal city of Canaan. It is the city that represents the founda-

tion of peace for the people of God. David set up his reign there. It speaks of the ultimate victory of God, the moment when His triumph will bring peace forever to His people.

Joshua and Caleb and the rest of their armies were able to witness great things done by God. They saw the Lord keep His promises and bring victory after victory after victory. In every case, they went forward to do battle; and in every case, the Lord fought for them, and they recognized that the battle is not theirs. The battle is the Lord's.

## CONCLUSION

God will conquer all things for us in the same way He conquered these cities for Israel. Our part is to be available to Him and to give Him the opportunity to lead in these victories.

Every place the soles of our feet shall touch shall be ours. Even when our inability slows us down, God will meet us with His stability, the stability of His immutable love, His amazing grace, and His divine integrity toward His Son, Jesus Christ.

God never fails to meet us where we are and to give us the overcoming life that Israel enjoyed in Canaan. Canaan cannot compare to Heaven. It simply represents God's promises to conquer our enemies because our positional victory has been won.

All we must do is purpose availability and cooperation with Christ, the Word of God, and the Holy Spirit in our hearts. Then, we can realize and accept God's promises. He will honor

every promise He has made to us, in every degree, through the integrity of His character.