

The "Rest of Hobah"

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Genesis 14:10-15

The regional conflict between disgruntled kings had now turned personal for Abraham. His nephew, Lot, had been taken captive and Abraham was determined to get him back. We find in Genesis 14:14, that Abraham pursued the enemy until he located them in the city of Dan: *Now when Abram heard that his brother was taken captive, he armed his three hundred and eighteen trained servants who were born in his own house, and went in pursuit as far as Dan.* Dan represents the place of discovery in this story.

As we each find ourselves in spiritual warfare, we need to pray and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to us the activity of our spiritual enemy. To be effective we must find his point of entry into our lives. We need to discover where engaging in spiritual warfare will be most effective in our battle. It is important that as we wage spiritual warfare through prayer, that we do not generalize our prayers. We must pray specifically. We need to take the Apostle Paul's instruction to heart and be specific when we pray to avoid spiritual shadow boxing; *I run this way: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air* (I Corinthians 9:26).

Learning to Wait on God

After we have prayed, we need to discipline ourselves to wait for God's answer. We need to wait for Him to give us specific instructions so we will know how to address the issue at hand. David lived utterly dependant on God to instruct him as he dealt with his problems. David writes in Psalms 18:32-34, *It is God who arms me with strength, and makes my way perfect. He makes my feet like the feet of deer, and sets me on my high places. He teaches my hands to make war.*

We are very good at leaving God messages and instructions when we pray; but we are lousy at waiting for His answers. We tend to fire off a pray to explain our problem and add our own instructions for getting our problems addressed. Then, we go immediately back to our "to do" lists and in mere moments, we are busy with all the demands on our life. I wonder what our lives would be like if we waited on God with the same urgency and intensity as we sought after Him to meet our needs. Again, in Psalm 27:14, David instructs us to wait on the Lord: *Wait on the LORD; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the LORD!*

Abraham engaged his enemies and kept fighting until he won. He did not stop until he had freed Lot from his captors. Genesis 14:15 tells us, *He divided his forces against them by night, and he and his servants attacked them and pursued them as far as Hobah, which is north of Damascus.* Notice, Abraham attacked his enemies at night. An attack at night from a group of unsophisticated camel attendants would be unexpected. A common tactic of warfare, whether in the physical realm or the spiritual realm, is to launch an attack on your enemy when he least expects it. Spiritually speaking, our enemy uses the darkness of our environment ... problems strike our lives when we least expect them. However, God uses the very weapon of darkness that is meant for our harm, and turns it back on our enemy to defeat hell's agenda against us.

We must never forget that the "light of Christ" within us is greater than the darkness of our enemy that surrounds us. The Apostle John said it this way in John 1:4-5, *Life itself was in him, and this life gives light to everyone. The light shines through the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.* John would later pen these words in I John 4:4, *He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.*

Bring Your Enemies to the Cross

Abraham had discovered and engaged his enemy at the city of Dan. Abraham pursued his enemy to Dan, the place where judgment on his enemies would be rendered (Dan also represents the place of judgment). However, the ultimate place of judgment against our spiritual enemies is the Cross of Calvary. We need to drive our enemies back to the Cross where Jesus defeated the powers of hell. We must bring every issue; every problem; every circumstance; to the Cross, for it is the place of God's judgment on the powers of darkness. As we take our stand in Christ's victory and claim the power of His blood, our enemies have no option but to accept their defeat. The Apostle Paul explained in Colossians 2:14-15 the great victory the Cross has over the powers of darkness: *Having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.*

People often pray, "*Satan, I bind you in the name of Jesus!*" This is great and it defiantly has its place in prayer, but we need to take the prayer further:

We must bind the enemy to the contract of the Cross of Calvary.

- This contract clearly states that whosoever will may come to Christ.
- This contract clearly states that our sins no longer separate us from God.
- This contract clearly states that the blood of Jesus has satisfied our sin debt.
- This contract clearly states He will open the way for us to be related to the Father.
- The contract clearly states we are no longer strangers to God's covenant promises.
- The contract clearly states but that we have been made heirs of God.
- The contract clearly states that we are joint heirs with Jesus.
- The contract clearly states that by the stripes of Jesus, we are healed.
- The contract clearly states that whatever we ask in Jesus name, it will be done for us.

In Genesis 14:16, we read how Abraham finally won the battle at the city of Hobah: *So he brought back all the goods, and also brought back his brother Lot and his goods, as well as the women and the people.* The name Hobah means, "rest from battle." Abraham did not stop fighting and rest until his enemies had been defeated and Lot had been set free. The "rest of Hobah" awaits everyone who is determined to fight the enemy until the promises of God are realized. We must fight until we secure the victory!

There are many in the family of God who have a big problem ... they want someone else to fight their spiritual battles for them. They come to the altar to receive prayer to be delivered from their problems; but will not make the necessary changes in their lifestyle that will position them for victory. Many want the pastor, church leaders, and their friends to labor in prayer over their problems; but, as for themselves, they are too busy or too undisciplined to pray. Bottom line ... you will only fight for something as long as it has value to you. When whatever is at stake no longer carries any value, you will stop fighting! Literally ... ***no value; no fight!***

Pray and Wait for God's Instructions

Bring Your Problems and Your Enemies to the Cross

Don't Stop Fighting Until Victory is Secured