

The Lord Walks Through Your Camp

By Dr. Paul D. Norcross

There are three kings mentioned in the Old Testament as having perfect hearts before the Lord, and a fourth who prayed for such a heart but never sustained it. Only three. All were zealous against idolatry. Of all the kings who did right in the sight of the Lord, including awesome men like Jehoshaphat and Josiah, only three are noted as having perfect hearts.

Deuteronomy 23:14

For the LORD thy God walketh in the midst of thy camp, to deliver thee, and to give up thine enemies before thee; therefore shall thy camp be holy: that he see no unclean thing in thee, and turn away from thee.

Have you been feeling afflicted lately? Have you been fighting some big battles, and getting weary? The Lord wants to take them on for you. He walks about your camp. Is it holy?

Delivered From Affliction

I met a Christian man at my workplace about eight years ago. One night he doubled over in pain. An artery had burst in his chest. His body never healed from the operation, and each subsequent surgery made the problem worse. He lost his job, then his ex-wife garnered his disability checks, and his sister tried to take his house. Having learned to minister healing in the last few years, we would minister to this man and see great results for a few days.

However, the affliction continued. In constant pain, and not wanting to become addicted to his subscription drugs, he gradually became an alcoholic. One day last February his daughter found him unconscious on the floor. The doctors said his body was shutting down and he would be dead within 24 hours. Visiting him in the hospital, I noticed an amulet and a written "verse of comfort" left by the hospital's visiting priest. It was a death curse. I ministered healing to my friend, broke the curses over him (including the curse of diagnosis), and he recovered. He was discharged within a day and a half.

Despite the years of his suffering, this man had learned to praise the Lord. He never gave up. But still, his pain continued.

A week ago, we had the opportunity to minister to the man again, but this time we did it in his house. In our spirits, we knew the reason the man had not been able to keep his healing was the presence of cursed objects in his home.

We first explained how cursed objects in the home give legitimate authority to demons to take up residence. He invited us to tour each room to see if he had any such objects around. We walked into his bedroom and noticed a Native American "dream catcher" and artwork, as well as a spiritually irksome looking carved mask souvenir.

"How long have you had this mask?" we asked. "Oh, about three, no – I guess it's been about five years" he replied. "Did you get it before or after you first started having trouble?" He responded that it was a gift from a relative, and he had received it a few weeks prior to his first emergency operation.

We again explained how cursed objects permit evil spirits to destroy people's lives. We came up with two shopping bags full of seemingly innocent, but demonic trinkets and other objects.

Interestingly, many of these objects were things his kids had made at school, or were gifts from relatives and friends. There was a strong sentimental attachment to many of them. He was willing to collect them and put them outside in the barn, but not willing to get rid of them entirely.

I made a deal with him. If in thirty days he did not see a radical improvement in his health, legal problems, and family relationships, then he could bring the idols back into the house. But if God delivered him in those thirty days, he would burn them.

He has called nearly every night since we ministered healing to him. After just less than a week, this man has determined to destroy those idols, and next week he and his daughters will be attending an Exercising Spiritual Authority class at our church. He now has his strength and energy returning, his daughters are becoming interesting in learning about the Lord, and his body is progressively healing. The improvement is already so dramatic, he refuses to wait the thirty days to get rid of the demonic objects that were portals to affliction in his life. I believe the rest of his deliverance will be received in the Exercising Spiritual Authority class.

Hosea 4:1-6

Hear the word of the LORD, ye children of Israel: for the LORD hath a controversy

with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land.

By swearing, and lying, and killing, and stealing, and committing adultery, they break out, and blood toucheth blood.

Therefore shall the land mourn, and every one that dwelleth therein shall languish, with the beasts of the field, and with the fowls of heaven; yea, the fishes of the sea also shall be taken away.

Yet let no man strive, nor reprove another: for thy people are as they that strive with the priest.

Therefore shalt thou fall in the day, and the prophet also shall fall with thee in the night, and I will destroy thy mother.

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

Sometimes, cursed objects in the home are obvious to all except the owners. But living in an unclean camp caused the Lord to turn away from God's people in the Old Testament. So if you want the Lord to help fight your battles, think about spiritually cleansing your house.

Personally, I wouldn't have beanie babies in my house. I wouldn't have cabbage patch dolls, dream catchers, eastern religious signs and symbols, pornography, demonic videos (you'll be surprised what comes in through Disney these days), popular music (particularly the kind that promotes rebellion such as rock, rap, heavy metal, etc. How holy before the Lord do you think country music really is when it manipulates emotions?) I wouldn't have Native American artwork, or demonic jewelry either.

Curses on objects invite demonic attack into the home. Many people might think that purging such things from the home is extreme and off the wall. They become incensed with anger, for example, when you mention their worldly music. Addictions of any kind are unholy, and music that does not glorify God is often a powerful demonic portal into our camps. Check out your "Christian music too." Just because it has Christian words does not mean it is inspired of the Lord. Does it

bring peace or does it distract your fellowship with Him? Would He be blessed to hear it as He strolls through your camp?

The Lord can help you determine what is unclean to Him. These are the things that will be ungodly and destructive to your spiritual health.

After the recent incident with my friend with the burst artery, I again went through my own house. I found a surprising number of little things such as ninja toys, star trek toys, etc. that had escaped our attention before.

When we got together as a family to teach and pray over cleansing the house, we saw a wonderful release in the spirit. For example, the very next night after thoroughly going through our house, we experienced the most powerful prayer meeting at our church I had ever seen. My six year old daughter prophesied for about eight minutes straight as she was led by the Spirit, and it brought everyone in the meeting to their knees at the astonishing power of God.

Mind you, we thought we were pretty good at keeping a close eye over our house and the things in it. But try asking the Lord to take an inspection tour of your house. Take notes on what He says as you go through each room, attic and basement. You might be surprised and blessed to shed some things you never realized were keeping Him from delivering you in your battles.

What is a Perfect Heart?

One of the three kings noted earlier as having a perfect heart was Asa. Anyone whom the Scriptures declare had a perfect heart before the Lord is certainly worth a closer look.

In II Chronicles 14-16, Asa's reign is described as one who did right in the sight of the Lord. Anytime this phrase is used, the Bible also mentions what they did right. Doing right in the eyes of the Lord always includes the purging of idols. Oppositely, the many kings who did evil in the sight of the Lord permitted gross idolatry in the land.

What made Asa's heart perfect? The answer is simple and awesome.

II Chronicles 15:16 (Lamsa)

But the altars on the high places were not taken away out of Israel; nevertheless

the heart of Asa was perfect in the worship of the Lord his God all the days of his life.

Even though there was more idolatry cleansing he could have done, Asa's heart was perfect because his heart was into worship of the Lord all his days. There are some awesome benefits to having a heart like this!

II Chronicles 16:9 (Lamsa)

For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth; therefore, be strong, and let your heart be perfect towards his worship, and understand all his wonders; for the Lord your God will fight for you.

David, Hezekiah, and Asa. These three men had perfect hearts before the Lord because their hearts were into worship. The Lord fought their battles in ways that still stagger the imagination. Can you imagine facing an enemy army of 185,000 men, praying to the Lord, and finding out the next day the Lord's angel killed everyone of them? Can you imagine the Lord handling your battles just as decisively? Your personal worship of the Lord is serious business. He is walking through your camp. What will He find?

Attitudes are Idols

Satan lives in attitudes. Many times our camps are defiled because we hold attitudes against other people – family, past enemies, people who have done us wrong, and for which we feel justified in holding an unloving attitude. The Lord is walking through our camp. He knows our thoughts afar off (Psalm 139) and is acquainted with all our ways.

Deuteronomy 23:14

For the LORD thy God walketh in the midst of thy camp, to deliver thee, and to give up thine enemies before thee; therefore shall thy camp be holy: that he see no unclean thing in thee, and turn away from thee.

I'll say it again. Satan lives in attitudes. Is there anyone whom you know that causes your gut to flinch or negative thoughts to arise every time you hear their name? Your camp is not holy if you do. The Lord will deal with any unclean thing one way or another. Whether we submit now, or suffer judgment until we become sick of it and finally have to deal with it later, the Lord will not relent. He wants a clean camp, painful though it may be to get it that way. In our desire to have perfect hearts, we would not want it any other way.

Exiting Egypt with His Blood

The Lord wants revival. I don't know any Spirit-filled Christian who doesn't! But perfect hearts in worship is a big part of seeing revival, and taking care of "little" details like cleansing your camp is not a small matter.

Last month I received an interesting word regarding Pentecost that relates to cleansing the camp. Here's what it said:

"The truth of Pentecost is the anointing of My blood upon your doors. With the blood, there is freedom to go out from bondage of the flesh, and into the liberty of the Spirit. It is the freedom to do as I did, and leave your slavery behind.

"Pentecost is the ultimate of grace to man because it is the ultimate of empowering My people to live in the Spirit, not in the flesh.

"My people must experience Pentecost. They must be willing to sacrifice the dearest thing they own – their pride – to Me, and they must receive My blood in its place. When they sacrifice My blood on their spiritual doorways, they can exit from their slavery, and embrace My liberty.

"When you proclaim the blood of Jesus, you sever allegiances to idols. Idols are allegiances. Unwillingness to spend time to be still before the Lord is an allegiance to self. There is nothing in any person's day that is more important than spending time with the Lord. The greatest affront to the Lord occurs when those who wish to enter My presence, and who begin to do so, look at their watch and bolt. Their busy schedule means more to them than I do.

"On the day of Pentecost, the twelve apostles went to so spend time with Me. They had assembled together to praise and to pray. They had waited just as they had been instructed. And on the moment of My choosing on the day of Pentecost, I poured out a release of My Spirit such as had never been seen on the earth up to that day.

"Today, I am still instructing My people by revelation. When they obey it, My Spirit will release to them in awesome ways. I am seeking a people who know My ways because they spend time waiting before Me.

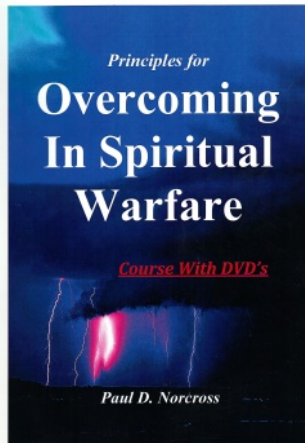
"Pentecost in the book of Acts was a revival. It is only a glimpse of the revival that is coming today in your community if you will come together and be still before Me."

I want the Lord to not only walk through my camp, but be pleased to hang out and fellowship! I want Him to help deliver me every day! I want to walk in holiness before Him, and keep my camp holy before Him. I want to keep my heart perfect in worship before Him because the Father seeketh such to worship Him (John 4:23). Bless God for His mercy to help us into worship, into holiness, and into revival.

May the Lord bless you abundantly, and may you enjoy the pleasure of His company as you spend time with Him in loving fellowship. May he enjoy walking through your camp, and fighting battles for you. Praise the name of the Lord!

With you In Christ,

--Paul Norcross



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