

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

TURNING DEFEAT INTO VICTORY

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PART 2: RAISING AN ARMY

DEFEAT AND RETREAT

Any military leader knows that once soldiers have been defeated, it is hard to rally them for a new fight. The same holds true for Christians. Once a Christian has been defeated, he is demoralized and unable to change his mind that God is not through yet, even if there has been a defeat.

It is a nightmare for a military commander is when a defensive line is broken because the retreating soldiers can panic and that leads to unit disintegration. Each man is then on his own and the same holds true for a church split.

In the previous message we examined what it means to start from scratch, but if there are no soldiers to use the new equipment, all the effort spent obtaining it will lead to nothing. So, how does God raise an army?

STARTING DURING A TIME OF DURESS

All the awakenings and revivals in the last 300 years came during a time of war, moral depravity, famine, financial meltdown or political turmoil. To my knowledge there has never been a great move of God when things are good and people have all the things they want.

God never begins by rallying the masses; instead, He selects a leader and rallies his troops around the leader.

A CRISIS IN ISRAEL

Around 1200 B.C. the people of Israel were led by judges and they had backslidden badly and heavily into pagan worship. God used the Midianites and the Amalekites to bring judgment upon Israel. **Judges 6:1-6**

Pain is a great motivator for people, and when their pleasure was less than the pain they were experiencing, they cried out to God for mercy. **verse 7**

God responded by sending a prophet to recount their history and God's expectation of them. **verses 8-10**

The Bible doesn't record their response, but there must have been repentance because God sent Jesus to Gideon, whom He had selected to deliver Israel. **verses 11-12**

Gideon was not impressed and began to argue with Jesus. **verse 13**

Jesus responded by telling him to go in strength. **verse 14**

Gideon continued to argue with Jesus. **verses 15**



Gideon wanted proof that the person talking to him really was the Lord and that He had the power to deliver Israel from their enemies. **verses 17-24**

ACTION IS REQUIRED

Destroy all idolatry in your life. **verses 25-27**

There will be resistance, but the battle is the Lord's. **verses 28-33**

Satan will rally his troops the moment he smells an awakening among sinners or a revival among believers. **verse 33**

Gideon started to rally the troops, pray and ask God for another sign. **verses 34-40**

THERE IS POWER IN THE GOSPEL

Jesus started out with 120 disciples on the morning of Pentecost. **Acts 1:15; 2:1-15**

Jesus had 3,120 disciples at the end of the day. **Acts 2:37-41**

Since Jesus has not changed, let us proclaim that in the Name of Jesus we shall be able to preach to the unsaved. **Hebrews 13:8**

ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE WITH GOD! Matthew 19:26

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?