

I AM PERSUADED...OR AM I?

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- A. Battles in our lives come and go, and victories are ours for the taking, are we truly persuaded God is willing and able to do what He says He will do? What kind of ground does His Word, His divine laws, divine principles get set in (Matt 13:1-23)?

Do we have any excuses for being wimps in God's Army? *What is your land God wants to lead and empower you to possess?* Has His Truth and Instruction moved into action?

Before we more specifically examine areas of our lives we are persuaded God is becoming sovereign as well as those areas we are not so clearly persuaded, this pause here. Let's briefly review God's instruction regarding our behavior and His criteria in preparation for and during battles . . . battles uniquely tailored by God to train and equip us for victory.

- B. Review God's Five (5) Commands to Insure Victory in Battle (Is. 7:4-14)

1. Be CAREFUL (v4) keep guard, give heed, keep watch
2. Be CALM (v4) be quiet, tranquil, at peace, undisturbed
3. Be COURAGEOUS (v4-6) do not fear/terrified, nor be fainthearted (involves man's mind, will, heart, soul, understanding; root word includes to become intelligent, get a mind, take heart.
4. Be COMMITTED (v7-9) God's prophecies are true and sure; and He expects us to respond in faith and participate obediently and totally. No compromise. Otherwise, we will not stand.
5. Be CREATIVE (v10-14) God challenges us to submit all our God given faculties for His use. He sets the boundaries; and they are always higher than our highest and deeper than our deepest thoughts or desires (Eph 3:14-21). Are we dead enough to our own will that when God asks for an answer, we respond w/ His thoughts and heart. We then watch Him perform awesome deeds in and through us. How wonderful to be one in purpose and divinely creative in all area of our lives. Let us then get free from so many of our limiting presumptions and insecurities that linger and often control us.

- C. Review God's Law of Warfare (Deut. 20:1-10)

1. God has His order of authority and responsibility - prophet/priests/kings/officers

- D. Overview of qualifications—

1. Most committed to the Lord
2. Free from distractions that might dampen their ability to do battle

THE WORD PERSUADE(D) has certain meanings in the Hebrew and Greek. The following definitions are most commonly used:

Hebrew - "pathah" (usually used positively) to be or make spacious, be open, be wide, be open-minded, to be persuaded

"cuwth" (usually used negatively and not as common) incite, allure, entice; root word from "shayith" - thorn bushes, and "shiyth" - to put, set, set mind to

Greek - "peitho" (most commonly used) persuade, trust, obey, have confidence, to induce one by words to believe, to make friends of, gain one's good will

"plerophoreo" (less commonly used) be fully persuaded, make full proof of, to carry through to the end, to make one certain; root words "pleres" – thoroughly permeated with, complete, lacking nothing and "phoreo" - to bear constantly, wear: of clothing, garments, armor

Consider the following statements and write down those areas of your life where you have experienced God's certainty, empowerment and confidence; and are fully persuaded God is willing and able to perform His will in your life.

Search your heart; be practical and specific. Write down any specific areas you are not clearly persuaded and desire God's Sovereign intervention. Each scripture verse you read is an example of either being persuaded by God or by man and the resulting consequences. These are only a few areas of transformation as God works out His Will in your lifetime. Please feel free to add any personal insights or areas not noted at the end of the handout.

1. I have no need to control the wills of other people. The consequences can be very serious (Judges 19:7, 1 Kings 13:11-19**, Matt 18:6-7)
2. I have learned Patience and Forbearance have their rewards. (Prov. 25:15** Amp, Gal. 5:22-26, James 1:4**)
3. I have grown in ability to be a verbal and knowledgeable witness to my family, friends and community. (Acts 18:4**, John 14:12/v9-21, John 15:26-27)
4. I have come to know the promises and power of God are certain. He does what He promises. (Rom 4:21**, 2 Cor 7:1, Heb 6:13-20, Heb 10:22-24**)

5. I have seen and know God's Love has supreme authority and power over all circumstances, created beings, and authorities now and in the future. (Rom 8:38-39**, 1 Cor 13:8, 13)

6. I have come to be secure in my faith walk with God and, therefore, find no need to judge or condemn another Christian's behavior or convictions. Each one is free to give account of himself to God, not to me. (Rom 14:5,12,14**, John 8:15**, James 4:11-12)

7. I have learned God alone protects and preserves me. (2 Tim 1:12**, Psalms 30 & 91)

8. I have grown to know my faith sees the One who promises, and that is enough, even if I do not see the promise manifested in my lifetime. (Heb 6:-12, Heb 11:13-14,39-40, Habakkuk 3:17-19)

THANK YOU FOR BEING WILLING TO SEARCH YOUR HEARTS AND HEAR GOD'S ANSWERS, JUST FOR YOU.

The plans and reflections of the heart belong to man, but the [wise] answer of the tongue is from the Lord. All the ways of a man are clean and innocent in his own eyes [and he may see nothing wrong with his actions],but the Lord weighs and examines the motives and intents [of the heart and knows the truth].Commit your works to the Lord [submit and trust them to Him],and your plans will succeed [if you respond to His will and guidance].

Proverbs 16:1-3 (Amplified)