

Spiritual Living

March 11, 2018

Three Spiritual Realities Of Life

1. Spiritual Direction

Acts 13:4-5 The two of them, sent on their way by the Holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia and sailed from there to Cyprus. When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the Jewish synagogues. John was with them as their helper.

A. Spiritual direction is a partnership of divine empowerment and human action.

1. Doing the spiritual thing is often doing the right thing.
2. Your everyday decisions are a part of your spiritual life.
3. We must be actively open to the leading of the Holy Spirit every day.

Acts 13:6-7 They traveled through the whole island until they came to Paphos. There they met a Jewish sorcerer and false prophet named Bar-Jesus, who was an attendant of the proconsul, Sergius Paulus. The proconsul, an intelligent man, sent for Barnabas and Saul because he wanted to hear the word of God.

4. Start with God's general will and allow Him to direct His specific will.

B. Spiritual direction creates divine appointments.

2. Spiritual Warfare

Acts 13:6-8 They traveled through the whole island until they came to Paphos. There they met a Jewish sorcerer and false prophet named Bar-Jesus, who was an attendant of the proconsul, Sergius Paulus. The proconsul, an intelligent man, sent for Barnabas and Saul because he wanted to hear the word of God. But Elymas the sorcerer (for that is what his name means) opposed them and tried to turn the proconsul from the faith.

A. Spiritual direction will likely lead to spiritual warfare.

1 Peter 5:8 Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

- God's enemy desires to stop God's work.

2 Corinthians 2:11 in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.

B. Divine appointments can be difficult times.

1. No one promised the journey would be easy.
2. Take courage!

3. Spiritual Victory

Acts 13:9-12 Then Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked straight at Elymas and said, "You are a child of the devil and an enemy of everything that is right! You are full of all kinds of deceit and trickery. Will you never stop perverting the right ways of the Lord? Now the hand of the Lord is against you. You are going to be blind for a time, not even able to see the light of the sun." Immediately mist and darkness came over him, and he groped about, seeking someone to lead him by the hand. When the proconsul saw what had happened, he believed, for he was amazed at the teaching about the Lord.

A. Paul's Pattern for Spiritual Victory

1. Know who you are.

Acts 13:9 Then Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked straight at Elymas and said,

1 John 4:3-4 But if someone claims to be a prophet and does not acknowledge the truth about Jesus, that person is not from God. Such a person has the spirit of the Antichrist, which you heard is coming into the world and indeed is already here. You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

1 John 4:4 (NLT) But you belong to God, my dear children. You have already won a victory over those people, because the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world.

- a. You are a child of God.
- b. You have the power of God.

2. Know who your enemy is.

Acts 13:10 You are a child of the devil and an enemy of everything that is right! You are full of all kinds of deceit and trickery. Will you never stop perverting the right ways of the Lord?

- a. When you face spiritual warfare, call it out for what it is.

Ephesians 6:11-12 Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

- It might be demonic.
- It might be people.
- It might be you.

James 1:13-15 When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

- b. Some of the enemy's greatest weapons are counterfeits of God's blessings.
 - The enemy succeeds if he can get you to worship your blessing instead of the Blessor.
- c. The enemy distracts us with our vulnerabilities.
- d. The enemy plays to our weaknesses and our strengths.
- e. The enemy is a master of strategic alliances.

3. Remember who wins in the end.

Acts 13:11 Now the hand of the Lord is against you. You are going to be blind for a time, not even able to see the light of the sun.” Immediately mist and darkness came over him, and he groped about, seeking someone to lead him by the hand.

- a. Remember God’s purpose for your life.
- b. Remember the Word of God.

John 16:33 “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

- c. Your victory may not be immediate, but it is certain.

Romans 8:37-39 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

4. Watch God do amazing things.

Acts 13:12 When the proconsul saw what had happened, he believed, for he was amazed at the teaching about the Lord.

- a. Actions speak louder than words.
- b. God changes lives when we live in victory.