

Building Bridges
PILLARS

with VICTOR SOLOMON



PILLAR 7

Battle of Men

As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him. So, Jesus told him, "What you are about to do, do quickly." John 13:27.

This scripture tells us that Judas acted under the influence of the devil. The influence could mean that Judas had no intention of betraying Jesus until Satan entered him. The change in Jesus' relationship with Judas was the interaction muddled by the devil when he entered Judas. Judas might not have betrayed Jesus or had the courage to do so if Satan never entered him.

1 Chronicles chapter 21:1:

"And Satan stood up against Israel, and provoked David to number Israel."

Satan provoked David - there was no way David would have done what he did if not that Satan moved him to do so.

Oftentimes in life, there are moments when certain things happen because the devil himself leads or takes part in them. This is what we call spiritual battles. We all must be alert to such fights, particularly when external influences take the stage in the life of Christians.

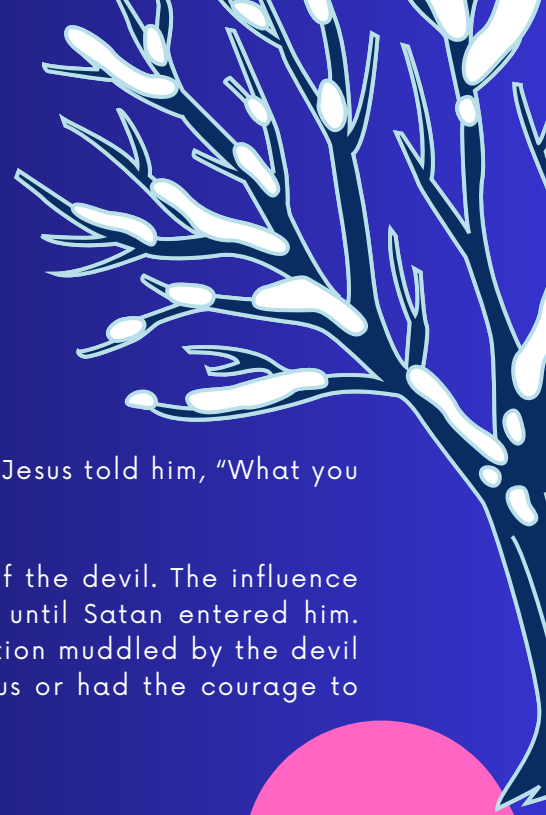
There is another battle, though, that I want to open your eyes to in this pillar. It is called the battle of men. The battle that Joseph fought wasn't spiritual but that of relatives and people related to Joseph. In the episode of Joseph, there was no place where the devil was mentioned.

Genesis 37:5: "And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told it his brethren: and they hated him yet the more."

You will agree with me that vision sharing is best done within close-knit relationships, with relatives and friends. That was what Joseph did, but unfortunately for him, the Bible recorded that upon hearing his dreams, they hated him. The devil didn't push them to hate him. The devil wasn't mentioned here in the verse.

1 Samuel 17:28: "When Eliab, David's oldest brother, heard him speaking with the men, he burned with anger at him and asked, 'Why have you come down here? And with whom did you leave those few sheep in the wilderness? I know how conceited you are and how wicked your heart is; you came down only to watch the battle.'"

The hatred that David experienced was from his brother, not the devil or his community. David's brother was the eldest in the family, he was the one who was meant to support and encourage him, but unfortunately for him, that was the same person who spoke the loudest against him.



PILLAR 7

Battle of Men

There are moments in our lives when the challenges we face involve individuals somewhere exercising power, and authority, or doing what they can to hinder our progress.

Esther 5:13: "Yet all this availed me nothing, so long as I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king's gate." The Jews had no other enemies anywhere but Haman. Some battles are just battles of men.

Sources of the Battle of Men

This battle originates from the "innocent" foolishness of the victim: when you openly bare your heart to the wrong person; when you genuinely feel comfortable in the wrong environment. What Joseph did was innocently share his vision, but he didn't know that he was about to step into the battle of men.

The second source of the battle of men is envy from men: when your progress threatens others; when people do not feel comfortable with your speed, and they suddenly wonder why it must be you enjoying progress.

I want you to understand that all spiritual battles often start with the battle of men. Men start to attract the devil into areas that were never intended. The moment you are faced with the battle of men, be very sure that a spiritual battle will soon come because they are always triggered by the battle of men. The persons behind the battles of men are always people who know us, but they are always masked.

Another thing to note is that the people who start the battle of men are not always aware of when the devil takes over the battle from them by the devil. If you are not aware of this battle, it may be too late for you when you face one.

Let's pray:

This year,

- I will not be careless with my words or my wealth.
- I will not walk into any battle innocently.
- I will not walk in foolishness. I will not instigate my battles.
- I take cover under God against every exposure that is not necessary.

PS. 124:2

"If it had not been the LORD who was on our side, when men rose up against us:"



PILLAR 8

No Stain

If your method is wrong, your answer will be wrong. If you are wrong in your approach to life, you can't get it right. I want you to get it right this year using these 21 pillars. Whatever you get waiting on God is always lasting, with marks that cannot be erased. I pray in the name of Jesus Christ: This year, you will get it right.

Zachariah 3:1: "And he shewed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him."

This verse of scripture tells us that the devil will always want to be wherever the children of God are gathered. The devil mentioned to God in Job 2 that he already visited Job and noticed a hedge around him. Jesus said to Peter, "the devil desires to have you but I have prayed for you." You can't stop the devil from walking around, but you can stop him from touching you and your things by staying and remaining awake. Matthew 13:25 explains: "But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way."

There is one thing that will never go without a price. It is spiritual laxity. When you spiritually sleep off, you will pay, particularly if you are a Christian. Spiritual laxity is like sleeping at the wheel while you are driving.

We are going to look at the lives of three people in the Scriptures.

Abraham

Abraham's life was full of promises. He encountered God and built many altars. Most promises started with him; they were made to him. But you know something? The greatest and only regret in the life of Father Abraham was that moment he went in to a bondwoman. Most people remember Abraham today for the creation of two religions by a major mistake. The greatest mission of the devil is to ensure that if he cannot cancel the promise, he puts a stain on it. The child from the maid was the stain on Abraham's life and the generations that followed.

God helped Abraham to survive because not everybody survives the stain of the devil. Joshua never escaped until the filthy garment was removed.

David

David was so strong, so powerful, everything worked for him. David enjoyed God to the fullest. He became a king at a very young age. You know what? The only thing that stained him was a single act of adultery with Bathsheba, the wife of his servant. That single stain cost David the honor of building a house for God.

That single action left a lasting stain that was never forgotten and will not till the end of time. Most times, this stain or event only happens once, but recovery is hard.



PILLAR 8

No Stain

Samson

Samson was such a special child, endowed with power as a Nazarite. He had his life well arranged by God even to how his hair was to be treated. Samson had so much power that he single-handedly tore a lion apart, lifted a city gate, and created unimaginable fear in the heart of the Philistines. He was so protected by God that the hidden place of his power was mobile.

The coming of Delilah was the stain that eroded his deposit of power and purpose. Samson never escaped from it. Yes, Samson found forgiveness and destroyed all the enemies, but we remember him today for that single stain placed on him.

My prayer for you is that you will not sleep off this year and that you will remain spiritually alert.

Let's pray:

- Lord, let this year be a year of no stain.
- Lord, keep me spiritually alert all through the year.
- No iniquity will be found in me in the name of Jesus.
- Lord, keep the enemy out of my camp.

PS. 124:2

"If it had not been the LORD who was on our side, when men rose up against us:"



PILLAR 9

The spirit of error

The application of knowledge is difficult without the right revelation. When you have the right revelation, you will be able to apply whatever you know correctly. It is the lack of revelation that makes application difficult. But when true revelation comes, the application becomes easy. The Bible tells us that understanding has eyes. The eyes can become the seat of understanding.

Eph. 1:18: "The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints".

You can come to a dimension in your life where God is no longer talking to you from the ears alone but also through your eyes.

Gen. 2:9: "And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil."

Many have told us that Adam named all the animals, but there is a revelation in the verse: "to see what he will call them". That word beams the right light on the verse. When a teacher gives questions to students to see what answer they will give, it doesn't mean the students invent the answers. What it means is that the teacher already knows the answer but wants to confirm that the students indeed know the answers and that their answers conform to his knowledge.

The Bible says the Lord brought them to Adam to see: That I want to see the answer you give doesn't mean I don't know the answer.

Jeremiah 1:11-13 KJV

"Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Jeremiah, what seest thou? And I said, I see a rod of an almond tree. Then said the LORD unto me, Thou hast well seen: for I will hasten my word to perform it. And the word of the LORD came unto me the second time, saying, What seest thou? And I said, I see a seething pot; and the face thereof is toward the north."

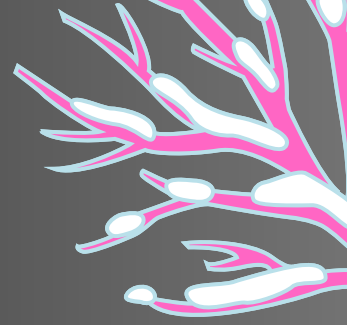
God knew what was there before he asked Jeremiah what he saw. When Jeremiah saw it, God said that he saw well. Now, the continuation of that was, "I will esteem my word to perform it."

The greatest mistake you can make in life is to refuse to see what God already saw. God knows the year ahead, you have to see it to activate God's confirmation.

God brought the animals to Adam to see what he would call them. He asked Jeremiah to see if he would see what was in the tree. You have to see what God sees in every matter of your life if you need a speedy or instant response. The reason why you can't avert some evil is because God has seen it, but you haven't.

PILLAR 9

The spirit of error



My point is this: If seeing is this important, why can't we see or why do we see wrong?

1 John 4:6: "We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error."

We are of God, but what makes us different and respected is that we are free from the spirit of error. There's a spirit called the spirit of error. As long as it's around you, you can't see well. It's a spirit. It's the spirit that pushes you to make wrong decisions. It is the spirit of mistake. It does not allow us to see or when we see, we see wrongly.

When the spirit of error is around, no matter what you do, you will not catch what God is saying. An error means an attempt was made, but the outcome was wrong.

So, you know what the spirit of error is? The spirit of error is the spirit that drains efforts. It makes you attempt something, but it will make sure that you make mistakes. The reason why we see what God sees is that we know the spirit of truth and we know the spirit of error. You must learn to put the bricks of revelations together for correct application.

The spirit of error is like a construction scenario. More often than not, one doesn't notice errors until a structure becomes an edifice. This spirit doesn't express itself when you are struggling.

This year, the spirit of error is far from you!

Let's pray:

- This year, I will see well.
- I am far from every spirit of error.
- I have the spirit of truth therefore I will build well and build right.

PS. 124:2

"If it had not been the LORD who was on our side, when men rose up against us:"



PILLAR 10

No Discouragement

Isaiah 62:6: "I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, which shall never hold their peace day nor night: ye that make mention of the LORD, keep not silence."

Our duty as Christians is to always stand as watchmen over our lives in prayers.

Today in prayer, we are looking at the life of a man called Elijah. Twice in Elijah's life, he called fire down.

2 Kings 1:10: "And Elijah answered and said to the captain of fifty, If I be a man of God, then let fire come down from heaven, and consume thee and thy fifty. And there came down fire from heaven and consumed him and his fifty."

1 Kings 18:38: "Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench."

Elijah was so powerful that he was used to responding to almost every situation with divine affirmation. Fire was a normal response when Elijah faced battles. Almost everything deserved a fire response as long as Elijah was concerned.

Elijah was the voice of God for early repentance. The mountain of transfiguration was established with the person of Elijah as a member of Jesus' special communion. Jesus brought Moses along with Elijah for private conversations. Elijah was special in his days and in the days of Jesus. He witnessed both the Old and the New Testaments.

The change

1 Kings 19:4: "But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers."

How did the powerful Elijah go from strength to threat? How did the man who killed the captain of 50 go from that to seeking death because one woman challenged him?

We must agree and understand that a big man can get run down by little things. As you go on in life's journey, there are times that certain things will come your way and drain your confidence like you never had one in the first place. Behind every powerful man is the most powerful God. Our faith is not immune to challenges nor our lives immune to trials, but we must remember that Elijah escaped.



PILLAR 10

No Discouragement

Vs 5-7: "And as he lay and slept under a juniper tree, behold, then an angel touched him, and said unto him, Arise and eat.

6 And he looked, and, behold, there was a cake baked on the coals, and a cruse of water at his head. And he did eat and drink and laid him down again.

7 And the angel of the Lord came again the second time, and touched him, and said, Arise and eat, because the journey is too great for thee."

The Bible made us understand that at the same moment when Elijah was discouraged, God showed up sending His angel with a heavenly-baked meal. The significance of the change in Elijah's victory was that the angel came at the right time.

The purpose of the discouragement Elijah experienced was to end his life and ministry. At this time, Elijah had not finished his mission, Elisha had not gotten the mantle and double portion. We can conclude, therefore, that there were more victories ahead, but the enemies wanted to eliminate not only Elijah's life but that of the coming Elisha.

Let's pray:

- This year, I will go in heaven's strength.
- I overcome every discouragement.
- God will come for me right on time.
- I will never be left alone.

PROV. 25:5

"Take away the wicked from before the king, and his throne shall be established in righteousness."



PILLAR 10

The special day

Joshua 10:12-15:

“12 Then spake Joshua to the LORD in the day when the LORD delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel, Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon; and thou, Moon, in the valley of Ajalon.

13 And the sun stood still, and the moon stayed, until the people had avenged themselves upon their enemies. Is not this written in the book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and hasted not to go down about a whole day.

14 And there was no day like that before it or after it, that the LORD hearkened unto the voice of a man: for the LORD fought for Israel.

15 And Joshua returned, and all Israel with him, unto the camp to Gilgal.”

On this day, Joshua spoke to the sun and the moon to stand because Israel was facing a strong battle. Science made us understand, however, that the sun and the moon do not move, only the earth does. So, on that day, we can say the earth paused for one day.

Verse 14 says there was no other day like that and that such a day will not be repeated. Why? I assume it's because the earth stopped. The stopping of the earth means that everything paused. For instance,

1. People going to work stopped on the way.
2. Pregnant women in labour stopped pushing midway.
3. People eating paused with their food between their mouth and the plate.

It was a special day. God strangely heard the voice of man. The earth knew and will never forget that it missed a day because Joshua prayed.

It wasn't the miracle or the death of the enemies that made the day special but that the earth paused. It was the day that many other foundations and covenants were shaken. For the first time, a single day turned 48 hours. What a day!

But there was something unique about the Israelites' victory. We saw how their victory came and what caused the death of the enemies. The Bible says more of their enemies died by hailstone than by the sword. What destroyed the enemy's army wasn't the sun that stood or the moon that halted, it was the hailstone sent by God, which had nothing to do with the sun or moon.

Why did Joshua not just ask God to kill all of the enemies? After all, that was meant to be the ultimate goal. Why did Joshua not just ask God, to send fire to destroy them? Why did Joshua have to speak to the sun and the moon? It is the revelation behind the event that we are going to pray about.



PILLAR 10

The special day

Five cities came against Israel. All of them were from Jerusalem.

Verses 3-4:

3 Wherefore Adonizedek king of Jerusalem sent unto Hoham king of Hebron, and unto Piram king of Jarmuth, and unto Japhia king of Lachish, and unto Debir king of Eglon, saying,

4 Come up unto me, and help me, that we may smite Gibeon: for it hath made peace with Joshua and with the children of Israel.

These kings came from Jerusalem, and at that time, almost all the cities were involved in sun and moon worship.

2 Kings 23:5:

“He did away with the idolatrous priests appointed by the kings of Judah to burn incense on the high places of the towns of Judah and on those around Jerusalem—those who burned incense to Baal, to the sun and moon, to the constellations and to all the starry hosts.”

The stopping of the sun and the moon for Joshua, I believe, was to defeat their source of confidence. Joshua knew that if the sun and the moon could be halted, the enemies would be confused and would feel no support. It wasn't the sun and the moon that fought for the Israelites, it had nothing to do with what and how the battle ended, it, therefore, could mean the effect of the stopping of the sun and the moon only affected their adversaries.

God specifically warned the children of Israel against worshipping the sun in Deuteronomy 4:19: “And lest thou lift up thine eyes unto heaven, and when thou seest the sun, and the moon, and the stars, even all the host of heaven, shouldest be driven to worship them, and serve them, which the LORD thy God hath divided unto all nations under the whole heaven.”

Let's pray:

In the year 2024,

- everything my enemy is pushing, thinking it will result in my defeat will fail them.
- Lord visit the foundation of my enemies and destroy it.
- let this year be my special year.

PROV. 25:5

“Take away the wicked from before the king, and his throne shall be established in righteousness.”

