



Spiritual Warfare

Matthew 18:18. We need to resist the enemy where we see that he is at work. Ephesians 6 reminds us that we are in a spiritual battle.

Spiritually we tend to have one-track minds, the thing that we know best is the solution to all problems. Binding the enemy is not going to help if the situation requires obedience. Giving thanks may be important but not the key factor where prayer and fasting are required. We need to lose our one-track minds.



Speak in Tongues

Especially when we do not know what to pray for or how to pray.



Declaring Acripture.

Ephesians 6:17. Using the sword of the spirit which is the word of God. Standing on a promise that God has given and declaring it.



Jehoshaphat approach

2 Chronicles 20:17. Jehoshaphat had to do nothing, just take up position and watch while God dealt with the problem.



Joshua approach

Joshua 6:4. Joshua had to obey even though what God told him to do seemed pointless, when he did God brought the victory.



Faith Deceleration

Judges 6:12. Speaking or acting in faith on a promise that God has given even though we have not seen it fulfilled. Declaring what will be.



Use of the Gifts of the Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12:7-11. Using the Gifts of the Spirit can be a water tunnel into a problem. This after all is why they are given.



What other water tunnels can you think of?

Often the skill is to know which of these spiritual tools is appropriate to the situation. Every city and every problem has a water tunnel, find it and use it.

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The Water Shaft



Read 2 Samuel 5:4-8 1 Chronicles 11

This passage records David's conquest of Jerusalem. Jerusalem was the last major city to be taken. It completed the capture of the land which started 400 years earlier by Joshua with the capture of Jericho. (Jerusalem may well have been captured before this but for some reason was not held.) Jerusalem became David's capital, it was the site of the Temple, where God's glory resided and the place where Christ was crucified. It was quite important.



Impregnable

How difficult was Jerusalem to capture?

The Jebusites who lived in the city claimed that it was so impregnable that it could be defended by the blind and the lame. Jerusalem stood on a spit of land between two valleys. The valley sides were steep the city walls were strong and there was little room to manoeuvre in the valleys. The city was easy to defend and hard to attack.

Do you think this could be a reason it was left until last?



Overconfident

Do you think the defenders were overconfident?

Yes they were, but they had reason to be confident, the city had held for 400 years when every other city had fallen.



What effect did this have on the defenders?

What effect were their claims intended to have on David?

They were trying to discourage David, to make him fearful and get him to give up. They wanted him to despair. To David the city must have seemed impregnable, how could he possibly succeed? There was a good reason to leave this city until last. Today our enemy tries the same tactics.

How does the enemy use this tactic against us?



Intelligence

What would have happened if David had tried a mass assault on the city walls?

Why didn't he?

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A mass attack on the city, even if it had in the end succeeded, would have cost many lives. David knew of a better way. Jerusalem main weakness was its water supply. Maybe he had waited until he had discovered this weakness, maybe that was the reason for leaving Jerusalem until last and for attacking it now. It is very tempting to rush to deal with a situation or a problem before we have God's intelligence and wisdom. We do the 'faith thing' or the 'righteous' Without ever finding out from God the wise thing. (often the faith thing is in reality presumption or impatience, and the righteous thing is human thinking, tradition or just our blinkered assumptions. Storming the city is often not the answer. The obvious solution may not be the best one.



**Why do we so often feel pressured to act precipitously?
Can you think of any examples where the obvious thing is not the best thing?**



The water shaft.

Jerusalem's main water supply was in the valley. It was vulnerable. It was accessible using a series of tunnels constructed at different times. The most famous of these was Hezekiah's water tunnel. This shaft may be identified with Warren's shaft, or it may have been one of the other tunnels above the shaft. The archaeologists currently believe there was some kind of a wall protecting the spring at the base of the valley. David had an eye for the weakness.



Taking Jerusalem.

In our lives, there are going to be Jerusalem's to conqueror. They may be a problem, a challenge or a difficulty to overcome. It could be a sin, an addiction or a habit. It could be something God is calling us to do or it could be a crisis that stands in our way. It may be personal or in our ministry.



Identify your Jerusalem.

From the outside, this situation seems impossible and hopeless. It may be long-standing and the enemy is probably trying to feed you the 'blind and lame' story.



Every Jerusalem has a water tunnel.

In every problem you face there will be some way in, (or out or through.)



Read 1 Corinthians 10:13 Revelation 3:7-8

Just because you cannot see the water tunnel or do not yet know it is there does not mean there isn't one.

As one of David's troops preparing to take the city, but not being privy to David's knowledge how would you feel?

Somewhere in your Jerusalem, there is a water tunnel. God has promised this and it needs to be accepted in faith and given thanks for. Even though as yet you may not have found it.



Intelligence

How are you going to find the weakness in your situation?

Things that will help are
An overall understanding of Gods word.

Why overall, why not just an individual verse?

Praying. Often we understand situations best after we pray especially if we take time to listen.

Wait and Watch. David waited until he found the weakness to act.

A word of wisdom. This is a spiritual gift that sheds light on how to proceed. (prophecy and knowledge can do the same thing.) We need to ask God for a word of wisdom.

Why don't we do this?

Wise council. What is invisible to us is often obvious for someone else. Talk to someone who is spiritually mature.



Some Water Tunnels

Maybe you can think of an example for each of these or describe how and when they might be used.



Prayer

Prayer is a water tunnel. Prayer can blow a problem right open. However, it suffers from the problem of not being visible or dramatic. It does not give you a sense of doing something important. Throwing yourself at the walls of Jerusalem to be killed by the defenders may not be wise or successful but at least it makes you look like a hero. You feel you are solving the problem or at least trying. Water tunnels like prayer are much less spectacular but they are successful. Perhaps this is why we pray less than we should.

It is hard to see any water tunnels that do not include prayer.



Fasting

Mark 9:29 KJV Some situations may require extended prayer or even fasting. The solution is not always a fast one.



Giving thanks

1 Thessalonians 5:18. Often when we start to give thanks to God despite an impossible situation. Thanking Him that He is in control and that all things are going to work together for good, it blows a situation wide open. It is a form of prayer.



Speaking a word of authority

Matthew 17:20. It has been commented that Jesus never prayed for the sick, He told them to be well. To speak a word of authority you need a word from God.