

# FASTING SERIES

## HUMBLING THE SOUL THROUGH FASTING

The book of Judges chapter 20 speaks about the time after Joshua. It was a glorious time under Moses although there were some rebellions. Then the generation that was with Joshua had a fantastic time of conquering all the seven nations that stood against them in the Promised Land. They wiped off all the nations and established the inheritance of Israel. But the generation after Joshua's time did not know the Lord. From time to time, they fell into evil ways and God had to anoint someone as a judge to deliver the people of Israel from time to time. They got into the permissive will of God, then came back to God again, then falling into the permissive will of God, and back again. God kept restoring them from time to time. So for the background of this story that we are going to look at in Judges chapter 20 we have to understand that the Israelites have gone through quite a lot of rebellions by now. Many generations have passed by. Gideon generation has gone by, many of these judges have come, and they have gone. And repeatedly God keeps helping them until towards the end of the book of Judges it reaches a climax where one whole tribe of Israel rebelled against all the other tribes and for the first time they had civil war. They fought among themselves. See how much the rebellion has put them backwards. Now one of the tribes was against the other tribes. They were asked to repent and give up their evil ways but they refused. So all the other tribes congregated together to seek the Lord. The theme in the book of Judges is a book that speaks about the rebellion of Israel and the restoration of God. And from time to time, you will come across that verse where "they did what was right in their own sight". And many times, what was in their own sight was evil in the sight of God. What you and I see may be different from the way God see.

In the book of Judges right at the ending chapter 21:25 *In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.* And so they had a lot of conflict

because one will say this is right for me the other says that's wrong. So there were some who say its right to worship Baal the other say its wrong so they got confused. And these are the words that keep coming up through the book of Judges "they each did what was right in their own sight."

Do you know that God in the book of Deuteronomy told them not to do it? Look at Deut. 12:8 *You shall not at all do as we are doing here today – every man doing whatever is right in his own eyes.* God did not leave us alone in ourselves to do what is right in our own sight. God has given His commandments and His Word. And Moses said you should not repeat this again. You shall not repeat what we have done in rebellion against the Lord everyone doing what was right in his or her sight. Guess what? They did it again. They repeated the same mistake for many generations in the book of Judges although God told them not to do it.

The bible tells us in Heb. 5 as we mature in God our senses are exercised to discern right from wrong, good from evil. So, that is why those who are recently born again need to get hold of the Word of God and meditate on it. Our spirit man has to be trained. Our senses had to be trained to know what is right and wrong. And the Word of God is the training key to our spirit man.

Now in the book of Judges chapter 20 they have civil war. They are fighting one tribe against another. It was eleven tribes against one. And the rebellious tribe was the tribe of Benjamin. Chapter 20 Israel was at war with the tribe of Benjamin. In verse 1-2 *So all the children of Israel came out, from Dan to Beersheba, as well as from the land of Gilead, and the congregation gathered together as one man before the Lord at Mizpah. And the leaders of all the people, all the tribes of Israel, presented themselves in the assembly of the people of God, four hundred thousand foot soldiers who drew the sword.*

Now look at what Benjamin has. Verse 3 *Now the children of Benjamin heard that the children of Israel had gone up to Mizpah.* You read further down in verse 14 *Instead, the children of Benjamin gathered together from their cities to Gibeah, to go to battle against the children of Israel.* What actually happened in the previous chapter was that there was a sin almost like that of Sodom and Gomorrah. Remember the Sodom and

Gomorrah the two angels that came to rescue Lot? All those men gathered together to molest the angels. But they were all blinded and the angels took Lot and his family out except for his wife who looked back and was turned into a pillar of salt. The same thing happens in the book of Judges among the Benjamin tribes. And what happened was that the man that was traveling through the city brought his concubine and they wanted to do the same thing to that man. And in the end, they did it onto the concubine and the concubine died and the news has spread all over Israel. All Israel gathered together to deal with this tribe. It was a sin equivalent to the sin of Sodom and Gomorrah. That is why the whole of Israelites reacted and they gathered together four hundred thousands.

Then on this side the tribe of Benjamin gathered together in verse 15 *And from their cities at that time the children of Benjamin numbered twenty six thousand men who drew the sword, besides the inhabitants of Gibeah, who numbered seven hundred select men. Among all this people were seven hundred select men who were left-handed; every one could sling a stone at a hair's breath and not miss.* They could sling a stone and they never miss, all seven hundred of them. There are a total of twenty six thousand men besides the seven hundred on Benjamin's side and then we have over the other eleven tribes' side four hundred thousand. Now all things being equal Benjamin should lose and the eleven tribes should have won.

Lets look at what actually happened as they warfare together. First of all the Israelites came before God and they sought the Lord in verse 18 that is the first time they sought the Lord after many generations. They probably dusted the house of God that had gathered dust. I mean it was all neglected. Just like some people keep their bibles only on the shelf gathering dust. Here they gathered together and they encamped at the house of God in verse 18 to ask counsel of God. They reached a point when this kind of sin occurred they started to seek the Lord.

Let me tell you if you have been walking in sin living in things of the devil do you know that the things of the devil and the world never satisfy you. It hurts you. It reaches a point where the things of the devil are no more enjoyable. You ask any drug addict and they will tell you they don't enjoy taking drugs any more. It's something that is a torture to them. Nothing that the devil offers you can bring eternal happiness. So, they reached a point and finally they are turning back to God

asking for counsel of God. And the Lord spoke to them in verse 18 *“Which of us shall go up first to battle against the children of Benjamin?”* The Lord said, *“Judah first”* So they started assembling their four hundred thousand men against the twenty six thousand men of Benjamin. They engaged in battle and they lost. Four hundred thousand against twenty six thousand and yet they lost.

But you thought that the Lord said Judah shall go first and if the Lord says so, then the Lord will confirm. They went first and they were defeated. How many of us have reached a point where sometimes the Lord tells you something, you go forth to confront that situation and it still did not work. You have obeyed God’s commandment to the best you know how. You have heard prophecies, you have dreamt dreams and you have seen visions. And when you are out there in the battlefield where the battle is fierce, where blood is being shed all over, where life and death is taking place - at that very place, you meet defeat. What are you going to do? What many would do is simply give up. It was a great loss because the Lord said something but they did not wait on God. The Lord said something but they did not wait on God further. They went off on the first word the Lord said. That sounds like young Christians when the Lord had said something before the Lord could finish the statement they have gone somewhere but they did not hear the other part. The timing of God is important. Don’t hear the first word and run. Wait until He finishes His sentences. Do you know it’s very rude when people are talking to you halfway and you just walk out? That’s what the Israelites did.

The Lord said Judah should go first. They did not ask the Lord about the result. They did not ask the Lord about any other areas in their lives in preparation. They are all ready to fight. They are depending on their muscle power. So all they want to hear is who shall go first. They are all eager to fight. They were not eager to hear the whole total plan of God.

In verse 21 *Then the children of Benjamin came out of Gibeah, and on that day cut down to the ground twenty-two thousand men of the Israelites.* Because of disobedience twenty-two thousand men died. In verse 22 *And the people, that is, the men of Israel, encouraged themselves and again formed the battle line at the place where they had put themselves in array on the first day. Then the children of Israel went up and wept before the*

*Lord until evening, and asked counsel of the Lord, saying, "Shall I again draw near for battle against the children of my brother Benjamin?" And the Lord said, "Go up against him."* The Lord said go against him, second sentence the Lord speaks. In other words, God is saying, "It is My will for you to go against him. It is my will for you to remove the rebellion from them." God's will is being revealed to them but at stages at a time. They have no doubt as to the will of God to go out to battle.

In verse 24 *So the children of Israel approached the children of Benjamin on the second day. And Benjamin went out against them from Gibeah on the second day, and cut down to the ground eighteen thousand more of the children of Israel; all these drew the sword.* Remember the second time before they went out. They came back again and the bible said they wept until evening. Twenty-two thousand men died they cried their tears out. Let me tell you it is not enough to cry. It is not enough for you to put your tears before God. You must add faith to your prayers. You must add the Word to your prayers. And you must add fasting to your prayers. They cried and cried and the next day they went out, eighteen thousand more were killed. That brings the toll to fifty thousand men killed in two days.

They came back to God and the third time they asked God. Before they asked God, they did something else. In verse 26 *Then all the children of Israel, that is, all the people, went up, came to the house of God, and wept.* Now tears are sometimes good because it is a sign of humbling ourselves before God. He said that when Isaiah came to tell king Hezekiah get ready, set your house in order because you are going to die, Hezekiah put his face onto the wall and cried onto the Lord to extend his life. And God send Isaiah back when he was halfway out and said, "Go back for I have seen his tears." Book of Psalms tells us that our tears are put in a bottle of God. But tears without faith and without the Word do not help. If you have the Word, you also need to have a contrite spirit to know and allow the spirit to move your inner most beings and be mounted before the presence of God.

So the third time they came to the Lord, they wept. Then in verse 26 they sat before the Lord and fasted that day until evening. This time they sought God with fasting. They humbled themselves before God, they cried. The day before it didn't mention that they fasted. So they also ate and they cried. But this time they brought the key of fasting into the picture. Victory for them is more important than their daily food.

The accomplishment of the will of God is more necessary for them than food. They have reached a point where their desire is so strong that they will not eat until they hear from God. Unless we reach a point of utmost desire that is what fasting is all about. If God has spoken a word in your life and the word has not take its place yet its time to seek the Lord in fasting and prayer.

It's just like the disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ. He told them in Matt. 10:1 that I give you authority and power over demons. Then in Matt. 17, they could not cast out the demon and Jesus told them this kind go forth not but by fasting and praying. Jesus had given them authority. The authority is not working. Jesus has spoken the anointing in their lives but the anointing was not working. So Jesus said you need to seek God in fasting and praying with all of your heart. And these are the days when God is raising up an army. And that army is going to go before God in great desire. The desire to do the will of God. The desire to say, "Father, hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is done in heaven." We need a group of people who want to see God's will done on earth, more than the desire of their own will; more than the desire of their own interest. And that desire consumes them. Then they will give their time and praying, "O God Thy will be done."

I know that anything that is not in line with the will of God hurts the Father. One day while praying, His presence came to me like a ball of light. Then I was beholding the world before me. I felt that love of the Father. And the love of the Father is tangible. It seems as if I was one with the Father and the Father was with me and there was such a union that was there. As I looked down on the world, I felt like I was looking through the eyes of the Father on this planet earth. And I could feel the feelings of the Father. Our Father has feelings. Genesis 6 tells us when He looked at the world in Noah's time and His heart was grieved. And I felt the heart of God. And for the first time I realized that for every single scene that is happening on this earth, every single evil that is happening on this earth, anything that is not what the Father meant to happen, every small thing hurts Him. Even if one sparrow falls to the ground and dies our Father knows it. And He feels even for that one sparrow. Our Lord Jesus said even the Father feeds the sparrows and if one sparrow falls to the ground and die, our Father knows. Why, because our Father did not make this world to die. Our Father did not make this world to be doomed. Everything was made to last forever. Its not God's will that any man die. Its not

God's will that an animal die. It's not God's will for one dot of evil and sin to creep into this world. And could you imagine that one sparrow that dies God feels it. And every hurt that happens to every man and woman our Father is bearing that hurt too. That's how much His love is. His love is so great that He is pained by every hurt and every cry that is caused by imperfection and anything that is not in line with God's will. Even if they feel forsaken, lonely, all alone, the Father's heart hurts for them. Know that the Bible says that the cries of the widow reached onto God. And God's heart is hurting over everything that is not perfect in your life; over every sin that is in your life; over every situation God hurts. We hurt too, we ache, but God hurts even more.

Paul says in Romans 8 the whole creation groans; Paul says even our spirit groans within us. Even if one hair on our head falls to the ground He knows it, He feels it. Such great love of our Father. And right now at this very moment, the Lord Jesus Christ is interceding at the right hand of the Father for you and I. And He is praying that the church may be perfected. That the perfect will of God may be done in the church. That the perfect will of God may be done on this planet earth. Until every nation and every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. And then will our Father's heart be satisfied that the pain and grief that our Father feels will be no more.

God wants a group of people who will come before Him and who will desire that the will of God to be done on earth more than our will, the will of our Father and not our will. It may cause you something but let me tell you it will pay. It caused Jesus His life to do the will of God. It caused Paul his life to do the will of God. It caused Peter his life to do the will of God. God is raising up a group of people that will say, "Not my will by Your will. Not my selfish will, not my self-centered will, not my pleasure but Your pleasure. Not my want but what You want. That we want the will of God to be done." And the day you desire the will of God to be done more than your daily food. You have reached a point where your desire has climaxed.

All your desire is like a seed. Desire comes in different degrees. All of you have implanted desires by the Holy Spirit. There are some desires that are implanted by the world; some are implanted by your upbringing and some are implanted by men.

Those that are not from God, you have to renew your mind and get rid of them. But there are some desires that God has implanted into us. And the desires can be nurtured. A spiritual desire can be nurtured until it grows and consumes you and affects your daily thinking. And before you sleep you think about that the will of God and when you wake you think about the will of God - it consumes you literally. And your desire is so great that many times you would desire the will of God than anything else.

The disciples in John 4 when they came back with food Jesus said that My food is to do the will of God. They brought food for Him. Remember when Jesus was hungry and thirsty, they went to buy food in John 4 and the Samaritan woman was there. Jesus was thirsty. For the first time you hear Him ask, "Give me water." He actually wanted a drink. He was thirsty because He was also having a body of flesh. Actually, Jesus was also speaking metaphorically. He was thirsty for the soul of the Samaritan woman. He is always thirsting for souls. But when the woman's hunger came forth and the Spirit of God began working through His life He was so caught up in the spirit realm that He ministered to the woman. But the woman never minister any drink to Him. The woman was so touched she went and told the whole town. And when the disciples came back Jesus said My food is to do the will of God. It consumes Him more than His daily food. When desire consummates in your life it will always come into the realm of fasting. How much and how great is your desire? Is it great enough just to pray five minutes? Is it greater enough to pray an hour? Or is it so great that it consumes the twenty-four hours of your life and you are willing to fast and pray it to be. And unless your desire reaches this realm, it will not achieve anything. Many good Christians and many good people lived and died without seeing theirs fulfilled because their desires are like seeds that are not planted. But if you will add fasting to your desires the vision that God gave you whether it be doing a great work out there in the world as a businessman; whether it be in the ministry of God will come to pass. God has put a desire in you. You must nurture it until it consumes you. And then it will come to pass. It consumes you, you talk of it, you see it constantly, you lived in it, and you walk in it. It shall come to pass.

So, the desire for the will of God finally consumes the Israelites. For many generations they were half-hearted. If there were a leader to lead them, they would seek God. Now there is no clear leader. No outstanding man among them. And

they reached a point where even there is no leader they still desired to seek God. Before that, they were half-hearted; seeking God and falling away; seeking God and falling asleep. But now the desire consumes them with great fasting. And they repented before God. Repentance came into the picture. Fasting will do a lot of things. Fasting is a form of humbling ourselves before God. When you humble yourself before God, it will draw God's grace into your life.

Turn to I Peter 5:6 *Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time.* The bible did not ask you to pray for humility. But the bible commands you to humble yourself. Peter says humble yourself. Look at it carefully the bible did not say ask God to humble you. Neither did the bible say pray for more humility. But the bible puts the responsibility on us. Peter in writing to the church says, "Humble yourself." You do something about yourself. You humble your own self. How do we do it? By fasting and praying. Every time the bible talks about repentance in the Old Testament you will notice fasting, you will notice repentance. And when you humble yourself the promise of God is, "I will exalt you. I will raise you up." For promotion comes not from the east or from the west. It comes from God. If you will humble yourself, God says, "I will exalt you." And if God exalts you, none can put you down. But if you exalt yourself there is nothing that will help you to remain there. You will fall again. But when God exalts because you humble yourself you are going to remain in the position that God has placed you to be.

Lets look at Ps. 35:13 *But as for me, when they were sick, my clothing was sackcloth; I humbled myself with fasting. And my prayer would return to my own heart. I paced about as though he were my friend or brother; I bowed down heavily, as one who mourns for his mother.* Verse 13 says I humbled myself with fasting. How do we humble ourselves? Fasting and praying will afflict yourself. You don't have to afflict your bodies like what some monks did in the dark ages with whips. You have to afflict yourself with fasting.

Ps. 69:10 *When I wept and chastened my soul with fasting, that became my reproach. I also made sackcloth my garment; I became a byword to them.* Verse 10 says when I wept and chastened my soul. Fasting touches the soul. You never come out of a fast with your soul the same. Fasting touches the untouchable realm. Scientists could dig into our

skull and touch the gray matter and the brain cells. But no one knows where the mind is because the mind is a part of the soul. They can cut your body into many pieces but they cannot find your emotion. They can grind it into power but they cannot touch the part of you that is your free will. It is in the invisible realm. There are some things that are invisible but they are real. Air is normally invisible but its real we know that. Air that you breathe in right now had weight. It has matters. Inside air has so much weight that when the rocket that has gone out to outer space and return, there must be a special shield on the front of the rocket that touches the air because the rocket becomes red hot and disintegrate because of the contact with air. Although air is invisible, it is a tangible matter in a different realm. There are many things that are invisible that are there. There are radio waves, T.V. waves right now they are in the air and they are real. And there are some things of our beings the soul that the scientists cannot find. That is why some scientists become secular humanistic because they don't believe in the soul since it's in the realm that cannot see. But our soul is real. And if you want to touch your soul realm you have to fast. We have touched on fasting as a side benefit on our body. But fasting does something to your soul.

There is the general principle of fasting that some people who do not know God clearly come with it. When some of these people who are having honorable desires although its not eternal like for example Mohandas Gandhi went on a fast to set India free. And something happened to him during that fast. His desire to set his country at liberty became so great that he wanted to live only for that from that time onwards. When he came out of that fast, the desires peaked and he lived only for that. All his intellectual capacity was only guided towards that desire. All his emotional strength was not tuned to that desire. All his physical strength was now tuned to that one desire to see his beloved country free. That is in the natural what people had done with fasting. Buy I feel sad because some of these wonderful human beings have lived and died for temporary purposes. Today the country needs more people like him. Because what he achieved was temporary. If only they had know Jesus Christ And they have given their intellectual capacity, their emotional capacity, their will and their physical strength to be absorbed in that one purpose of eternal benefit. That is to bring the Good News to all the world and to bring the total will of our Father on this planet earth.

Something happens to your soul when you fast. You have an intellect, you have a

will, you have emotions and you have a body with great energy. But that energy needs to be directed. If your energy is not directed it will not accomplish anything. If all of us were to sit around for days and years doing nothing but just chit chatting, your energy has gone to waste. But if all of us have a purpose and a direction directing all of our intellect and our emotion and all of our strength and will into an objective we would achieve great things. How much more when we come before God and we say not my will but Yours and we direct all our desires. See your desires will be greater than your intellect. Your desires will be greater than your will. Your desires will be greater than your emotion. Because your desires determine what you do with your intellect. Your desires determine what you do with your emotion. Your desires determine what you do with your body and with your time. So, desire is an important area that you need to develop.

Fasting takes your soul and brings it into conformity with the will of our God. When you fast and pray at the same time, prayer links yourself up with the Almighty. Pray to seek the divine will. Pray to bring forth the desires in your heart. You add fasting into it. Fasting converts that seed into a plant. When you come out you have a plant flowering in you. For that very reason when some of you fasted there is a cleansing process in your life. Some of you began to have dreams from your past. Your hurts, your fears that were hidden in the background when you fasted they all came to the surface to be dealt with and to be touched. And some of you when you fasted God has touched you and cleansed your inner most being. God began to show you things of the future. God began to form His desires in you. The Psalms says, "Mould me and make me after Your will. Have Thine own way O Lord." You are the Potter I am the clay. Unless you yield, the Potter cannot do anything. Unless you put yourself into the position to be molded, God cannot mould you and the best way you can place yourself to the hand of the Potter, to let the hand of the Father forms and cleanses us. Let the hand of our Father removes the dirt, those dust, those unpleasant things, those impure things from our lives and let His hands form us. Remove away all those dirt and began to form a perfect vessel onto Him. You will come out of that fast a changed person. If God could do with one person how much more could He do with a corporate fast?

**And all the Israelites came before God in Judges chapter 20 fifty thousand men died for nothing. Let me tell you when you**

disobey God there will be death somewhere along the line. When you disobey God you open doors, you will cause death to others because Satan is a killer and a thief. But when we come before God and we fast and we pray He takes all of our weaknesses, He takes all of our failings, and He says my child I love you. And I will make you where you have failed to make yourself. And I will exalt those who humble themselves. And place them in my body where I want them to be.

None of us are perfect. All of us need the molding of God. All of us have failed in some way in some place. But do not despair do not be discouraged. Return onto the Lord with all of your heart. Like the Israelites when they lost fifty thousand men, they cried before the Lord and they say we want to do your will. It was a good desire they started with. They wanted to remove evil from their midst. It was with a good intention that they have moved into battle. And they have not been negligent totally. They have sought God to a certain extend. But here there is failure before them. Here is this defeat that is facing them. When we bring our failures before Him and you fast and you humble yourselves as the Israelites they wept they cried, they fasted, and they prayed. They sat there before the Lord in verse 26 and fasted that day until evening. When they have completed their fast, they burnt an offering onto God. Blood was shed, praises go up before God and peace offering before the Lord.

Why they didn't do that earlier? I don't know. They should have done it before. They should have fasted. They should have

humbled themselves because of their sins and rebellion. You see they were rebellious and they want to correct another rebellious group. They must come, humble themselves before God, and then offer burnt offerings. You read about burnt offering it says that they are sweet smelling savor onto the Lord. It is pleasing onto the Lord. Let me add this. If you have not worship God and give your burnt offering in worship and adoration and in the blood that is shed to acknowledge that is the blood that sets you free, it's the righteousness of Jesus, it's the armor of God and not your own armor, that you will still had to come back to that one place. No matter how far you go off, how many battles you faced like the Israelites, you will still have to come back to square one to burn that offering before God to give the peace offering onto the Lord. When they did that they completed their worship, completed their praising, now they are peace with God, now they are one with God.

Now God said in Judges 20:27 *So the children of Israel inquired of the Lord (the ark of the covenant of God was there in those days, and Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron, stood before it in those days), saying, "Shall I yet again go out to battle against the children of my brother Benjamin, or shall I ceased?"* Do you know this time they said Lord we want to give up. They were at a point when they wanted to give up. Let me tell you everyone of you has potential. I don't care how you have failed. I don't care how the devil has put you down. I don't care how circumstances have upset you. Don't cease, don't stop, and don't quit. Return onto the Lord thy God.

*And the Lord said, "Go up, for tomorrow I will deliver them into your hand."* When you have sought God with all your heart, you receive the assurance of victory. Never, ever go into something you do not have assurance from God. If God tells you something, you don't have the assurance yet wait on Him because there may be some situations that are hindering the assurance from coming through. And you need the assurance of God comes into your heart. And what is the assurance. It's the confidence of the victory. For the first time they heard God said I will deliver them into your hand. They have assurance, they not only have direction who shall go out first, but they have the assurance. They have the assurance of God for faith is the substance of things hoped for the evidence of things not seen. And this same faith overcomes the world. And if God speaks to you, you must wait on God for the assurance. You must wait on God for His implanted faith. For faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. When the assurance comes in the battle has been won. The battle is not won outside. They thought that their strength and their sword and their skill were winning the battle. But the battle is won in their fasting and praying. You can fast and pray your victory. And then you can walk out and collect the spoils. Don't be dismayed; look onto God. You just have to go out and collect the spoils when you have the assurance. You can face the storms of life with a calm. You can face any mountain because the Almighty Jehovah Jireh, El Shaddai, has put forth His assurance and said victory is yours. And you can go out and just walk on that. It comes from fasting and praying.

**Judges 20:29** *Then Israel set men in ambush all around Gibeah. And the children of Israel went up against the children of Benjamin on the third day and put themselves in battle array against Gibeah as at the other times. Verse 33* So all the men of Israel rose from their place and put themselves in battle array at Baal Tamar. Then Israel's men in ambush burst forth from their position in the plain of Geba. Verse 48 *And the men of Israel turned back against the children of Benjamin, and struck them down with the edge of the sword – from every city, men and beasts, all who were found. They also set fire to all the cities they came to.* Finally you have the assurance the victory is easy. Even if you have been defeated many times before in the same area, but this time you can go out with the assurance. It's a different battle. Even if the enemy against you have gained more confidence against you because of your previous defeat but when you have fasted, you have prayed, you have given your burn offering, your peace offering, you recognize God as your sword, God as your strength, God becomes your warrior.

I don't care how many times you have been defeated in that area. I don't care how many times you have prayed and cried for those healing in your life. Whether it be a sickness in your life. Whether it be a personal area of your life. Whether it be a sin that you keep falling into. When you have prayed, fasted and sought God with all your heart, and even if the voice of God comes to you in a whisper and says, it is done, the whisper of God is enough to remove the thunderstorm of your life. One word of assurance, one word from the Lord is enough to defeat the enemy in your life. It doesn't matter how many times you

have prayed over something. Now you know how long to pray. You fast and you pray till the assurance comes. You are men and women of faith; you go by the assurance and not by the circumstances. Your circumstances may be like a war before you. But when the assurance is there the mountain, I'd like to call it a molehill, you can just crush it under your feet and walk away victorious. Every head bow and every eye closed. The Holy Spirit is speaking all over this congregation.