

THE LANGUAGE OF DEFEAT OR VICTORY

Introduction

- 1) The words we hear and use are very important – language can offer hope or hopelessness
- 2) What we say reflects what is in our heart and our actions (Prov. 23:7; Lk. 6:45)
- 3) Do we use the *language of defeat* – words that promote and lead to spiritual loss?
- 4) Do we use the *language of victory* – words that reflect truth and victory in God?
- 5) Consider the crucial times of life – what language will I be using?

I) TIMES OF FEAR

A) Language of DEFEAT

- 1) *Exodus 14:10-12* – Would have been better to remain in slavery than to trust in God
 - a) Difficult circumstances made them ready to give up and fail
- 2) *Numbers 13:31-14:4* – Would be better to return to slavery than trust in God
 - a) Acts 7:39 – in their hearts they turned back to Egypt – bondage, violence, hopelessness

B) Language of VICTORY

- 1) *1 Corinthians 10:13* – God provides the way of escape
 - a) God is “faithful” (trustworthy) – you can put your complete trust in Him
- 2) *1 John 5:3-5* – faith is the victory that overcomes the world and its hopelessness
 - a) Keep growing in Christ! (2 Pet. 3:18)

II) TIMES OF DISCOURAGEMENT

A) Language of DEFEAT

- 1) *Job 2:9* – Job’s wife advises him to give up on life
 - a) Lost everything, a hopeless situation – no need to hang on any longer
- 2) *1 Kings 19:4, 14* – Elijah gave up soon after his greatest triumph
 - a) Felt scared, alone, and useless as evil appeared to triumph again

B) Language of VICTORY

- 1) *Jeremiah 20:11-13* – The Lord is mighty and awesome to help us
- 2) *Nehemiah 2:18* – It is always time to rise up and build
- 3) *Philippians 4:13* – Do all things through Christ
- 4) *James 4:7* – Resist the devil and he will flee from you

III) TIMES OF DECISION

A) Language of DEFEAT

- 1) *Jeremiah 6:16-17* – Refusal to walk in God’s ways or listen to His warnings
- 2) *Exodus 4:13* – no confidence in doing God’s will; send someone else
- 3) *Matthew 25:25* – refusing to use one’s talents in God’s service

B) Language of VICTORY

- 1) *Acts 5:29* – must always obey God rather than men
- 2) *Isaiah 6:8* – Here am I send me! – being ready to serve God

Conclusion

TIME OF SALVATION

Language of DEFEAT

- Acts 24:25* – need a more convenient time – procrastination
Acts 26:28 – not fully persuaded to be a Christian

Language of VICTORY

- Acts 16:30* – What must I do to be saved? – a desire for divine salvation
Acts 8:36 – What hinders me from being baptized? – desiring the opportunity to be saved

Eternal victory is assured through our Lord Jesus Christ (*1 Corinthians 15:57*)