

## Journey to the Promise: Victory Little by Little

Dr. John Carmichael

[Exo 23:29-30 NASB95] 29 "I will not drive them out before you in a single year, that the land may not become desolate and the beasts of the field become too numerous for you. 30 "I will drive them out before you little by little, until you become fruitful and take possession of the land.

[Deu 7:22-23 NASB95] 22 "The LORD your God will clear away these nations before you little by little; you will not be able to put an end to them quickly, for the wild beasts would grow too numerous for you. 23 "But the LORD your God will deliver them before you, and will throw them into great confusion until they are destroyed.

- My mother drank instant coffee. She taught me to drink instant coffee. It's ok.
- We love the idea of instant breakthrough, overnight miracles, and sudden victories.
- But often, God chooses to bring us into victory little by little.
- Here God says He will give them the victory "κατὰ μικρὸν μικρόν." (LXX)... micron by micron.
- Why? Because He's not just after change in your circumstances—He wants to build strength, capacity, and maturity in you.

What do we need to know about understanding God gives victory little by little?

Here are four important points about understanding that God gives victory little by little.

### I. God's Process Is Always Purposeful

- a. "little by little" was the progression God said was going to characterize their journey.
- b. [Isa 55:8-9 NASB95] 8 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," declares the LORD. 9 "For [as] the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways And My thoughts than your thoughts.
- c. [Phl 1:6 NASB95] 6 [For I am] confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.
- d. God doesn't rush. He works strategically.
- e. "Little by little" isn't delay, it's development.
- f. The gradual process teaches us faithfulness, gratitude, and stewardship.

### II. Spiritual Battles Are Part of the Process

- a. In both verses, good news and bad news. Good news: God has plans for you. Bad news: there are enemies there.
- b. Bill Johnson: A promise from God is an invitation to war.
- c. [Eph 6:12 NASB95] 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual [forces] of wickedness in the heavenly [places.]
- d. [1Ti 1:18-19 NASB95] 18 This command I entrust to you, Timothy, [my] son, in accordance with the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you fight the good fight, 19 keeping faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and suffered shipwreck in regard to their faith.
- e. [1Ti 6:12 NASB95] 12 Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.
- f. [Jos 1:3 NASB95] 3 "Every place on which the sole of your foot treads, I have given it to you, just as I spoke to Moses.
- g. Victory isn't handed over without a fight.
- h. God's promises are certain, but they often require spiritual warfare.

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- i. Sometimes the warfare is just putting your foot on it. Sometimes, it involves strategy and energy.
- j. The “little by little” victories mean we’ll face enemy resistance, but God goes before us.
- k. You may still be fighting in prayer, fasting, and perseverance—because you’re in the process of possessing your promise.

### **III. Growth Must Match the Ground**

- a. Their growth was in the ability to handle the ground they took. It is one thing to take ground; it is another thing to maintain it.
- b. 30 years before Jesus began his earthly ministry. The human part of Him had to grow. [Luk 2:52 NASB95] 52 And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.
- c. Principle for life: utilize the waiting phase to ready yourself for the obtaining phase. [Pro 24:27 NASB95] 27 Prepare your work outside And make it ready for yourself in the field; Afterwards, then, build your house.
- d. God waits until we’ve “increased”—emotionally, spiritually, mentally—to handle the weight of the promise.
- e. If He gives us the land before we’re ready, it will overwhelm us. If you don’t have the promise yet, one of the reasons might be, you are not ready yet.
- f. The gradual victory is a sign of His mercy, not His neglect.
- g. David was anointed king but waited years before sitting on the throne.

### **IV. God Is Faithful to Finish What He Started**

- a. ... you become fruitful and take possession of the land.... But the LORD your God will deliver them before you, and will throw them into great confusion until they are destroyed.
- b. [Heb 10:23 NASB95] 23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful;
- c. [Rom 8:37 NASB95] 37 But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.
- d. Even when progress feels slow, God’s promise still stands.
- e. You’re not being forgotten—you’re being formed.
- f. He will complete the work and bring you into full possession of what He promised.

- **Don’t be discouraged by slow progress.**
- **What looks like a delay is often divine design.**
- **Your current “little” victory is proof that God is with you and working on your behalf.**
- **As you grow, God drives out the enemies—step by step—until the full promise is yours.**