

## LESSONS FROM RICK JOYNER'S BOOK "THE FINAL QUEST"

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### Recap of previous lesson (Thanksgiving and Praise)

The reason why we thank God is because it is He who made us, and He is good (Psalms 100:3, 5). We thank Him by offering sacrifices that include praise and material things (Hebrews 13:15, Leviticus 7:13). When we thank God, we experience His presence (Psalms 100:4), our faith is strengthened (Colossians 2:7), we become whole (Luke 17:17-19) and we enter the fullness of His plans for our lives (1 Corinthians 10:1-10).

### Today's Topic: HUMILITY and PRIDE

*I then looked out over the carnage below and the slowly retreating demonic army. Behind me, more of the glorious warriors were constantly taking their places on the mountain. I knew that we were now strong enough to attack and destroy what was left of this enemy horde. "Not yet," said Wisdom. "Look over there."*

*I looked in the direction he was pointing, but had to shield my eyes from the glory emanating from my own armor to see anything. Then I caught a glimpse of some movement in a small valley. I could not make out what I was seeing because the glory shining from my armor made it difficult to see into the darkness. I asked Wisdom if there was something that I could cover my armor with so I could see. He then gave me a very plain mantle to put on.*

*"What is this?" I inquired, a little insulted by its drabness.*

*"Humility," said Wisdom. "You will not be able to see very well without it."*

*Reluctantly I put it on, and immediately I saw many things that I could not see before. I looked toward the valley and the movement I had seen. To my astonishment, there was an entire division of the enemy horde that was waiting to ambush anyone who ventured from the mountain.*

**Lesson for us: You can never see as God would want you without humility.**

*"What army is that?" I asked, "and how did they escape the battle intact?"*

*"That is Pride," explained Wisdom. "It is the hardest enemy to see after you have been in the glory. Those who refuse to put on this cloak will suffer much at the hands of that most devious enemy."*

*As I looked back at the mountain, I saw many of the glorious warriors crossing the plain to attack the remnant of the enemy horde. None of them were wearing the cloaks of humility, and they had not seen the enemy that was ready to attack them from their rear.*

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*The enemy was fleeing in all directions, except for one division—Pride. Completely undetected, it had marched right up to the rear of the advancing warriors and was about to release a hail of arrows. I then noticed that the mighty warriors had no armor on their backsides. They were totally exposed and vulnerable to what was about to hit them.*

*Wisdom remarked, “You have taught that there is no armor for the backside, which means you are vulnerable if you run from the enemy. However, you never saw how advancing in pride also makes you vulnerable.”*

*I could only nod in acknowledgment, for it was too late to do anything. It was almost unbearable to watch, but Wisdom said that I must. I knew the kingdom of God was about to suffer a major defeat. Though I had felt sorrow before, I had never felt this kind of sorrow.*

**Lesson for us: Pride guarantees defeat and falling(Proverbs 16:18)**

*To my amazement, when the arrows of Pride struck the warriors they did not even notice. However, the enemy kept shooting. The warriors were bleeding and getting weaker fast, but they would not acknowledge it. Soon they were too weak to hold up their shields and swords; they cast them down, declaring that they no longer needed them.*

**Lesson for us: Losing interest in the Word of God is evidence that one has fallen into pride. Sooner or later, delusion will come in.**

*They started taking off their armor, saying it was not needed anymore either.*

*Then another enemy division appeared and moved up swiftly. It was called Strong Delusion. Its members released a hail of arrows and they all seemed to hit their marks. It only took a few of the demons of Delusion, who were all small and seemingly weak, to lead away this once great army of glorious warriors. They were taken to various prison camps, each named after a different doctrine of demons. I was astounded at how this great company of the righteous had been so easily defeated, and they still did not even know what had hit them.*

*I blurted out: “How could those who were so strong, who have been all the way to the top of the mountain, who have seen the Lord as they have, be so vulnerable?”*

*“Pride is the hardest enemy to see, and it always sneaks up behind you,” Wisdom lamented. “In some ways, those who have been to the greatest heights are in the greatest danger of falling. You must always remember that in this life you can fall at any time from any level.”*

*“Take heed when you think you stand, lest you fall,” I replied. “How awesome such Scriptures seem to me now!”*

*“When you think you are the least vulnerable to falling is in fact when you are the most vulnerable. Most men fall immediately after a great victory,” Wisdom lamented.*

**Lesson for us: No one is beyond falling!**

*“How can we keep from being attacked like this?” I asked.*

*"Stay close to me, inquire of the Lord before making major decisions, and keep that mantle on. Then the enemy will not be able to easily blindsides you as he did them."*

**Lesson for us: The remedy against falling as a result of pride is to put our trust in God, not ourselves. We should always be humble to seek His wisdom (Jeremiah 9:23; 17:5-8; Proverbs 3:5-6)**

*I looked at my mantle. It looked so plain and insignificant. I felt that it made me look more like a homeless person than a warrior. Wisdom responded as if I had been speaking out loud.*

*"The Lord is closer to the homeless than to kings. You only have true strength to the degree that you walk in the grace of God, and 'He gives His grace to the humble.'"*

**Lesson: Grace to stand and to walk in victory is for those who are humble enough not to trust in themselves but God (James 4:6)**

*No evil weapon can penetrate this mantle because nothing can overpower His grace. As long as you wear this mantle, you are safe from this kind of attack."*

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*I was left standing in the midst of the great company of angels who were ministering to the wounded on the level of "Salvation." As I began to walk past these angels, they bowed on one knee and showed me great respect. I finally asked one of them why they did this, as even the smallest was much more powerful than I was. "Because of the mantle," he replied. "That is the highest rank in the kingdom."*

*"This is just a plain mantle," I protested.*

*"No!" the angel insisted. "You are clothed in the grace of God. There is no greater power than that!"*

*"But there are thousands of us all wearing the same mantle. How could it represent rank?" I asked.*

*"You are the dreaded champions, the sons and daughters of the King. He wore the same mantle when He walked on this earth. As long as you are clothed in that, there is no power in heaven or on earth that can stand before you. Everyone in heaven and hell recognizes that mantle."*

**Lesson for us: Jesus was exalted because He humbled Himself; so shall we if we walk in humility. And, the extent to which we walk in humility, is the extent to which we will be great in the Kingdom of God (Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 11:29-30; Matthew 23:11-12)**

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*But you must always remember, even if you abide in My presence and see Me as I am, you can still fall if you turn from Me to look at yourself. That is how Lucifer fell. He dwelt in this room*

*and beheld My glory and the glory of My Father. However, he began to look at himself more than he looked to Us. He then began to take pride in his position and power.*

*“Many of My servants who have been allowed to see My glory and be entrusted with My power have fallen in the same way as Lucifer. If you begin to think that it is because of your wisdom, your righteousness, or even your devotion to pure doctrine, you will stumble too.”*

**Lessons for us: 1) You can fall from any level, 2) Do not look to yourself but to God**