

Title: Army of Dominant Optimism

Grant Hill, Garden Gathering, 11/13/22

II Timothy 2:10-16

It is an amazing thing to be worthy of God's trust. It is an amazing thing to be asked by God to do something and to be trustworthy enough in God's sight to do it. None of us are worthy enough. Yet, because Jesus is in you and if you died to yourself, you will live in Him. That is what it says. We have surrendered our lives. We have given up ourselves. We have given up who we are. We have died, and now Jesus can live within us. The reason why you are trustworthy is, because the most trustworthy One, *Jesus*, is within you. So, when God asks you to do something, and you say, "How can you entrust me with this?" The answer is because *God* sees the One who is the most trustworthy *in you*, and He will get it done.

Remember the verse, "He who started a good work in you will finish it." He will finish it. He is the One that God is putting His surety in. The work that He started in you will be finished through the Holy Ghost. Yes, but also He trusts you. He trusts you. Because of your "yes," He believes you. It is a grace and it is a mercy that should bring a humility to your soul, that you are trustworthy. Even when you are faithless, He is faithful, because "He will not deny Himself." The Father will not deny "Jesus in you, the hope of glory." So, your hope in accomplishing the work that Jesus has entrusted to you, is the trustworthiness of Jesus that He will get it done. Isn't that amazing?

In the Boy Scouts, being trustworthy is first, then being loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent. You are first, trustworthy. It is something to aspire to. It is a standard of measure that you want to become. If you try to do it by works, you find out how more and more you are not trustworthy, how you walk in a manner of lying to yourself first, and failing. Men of the house especially are constantly attacked by that spirit of failure. It eats at you. Feelings of, "I am not who I want to become, or I am not who I envisioned myself to be. I am not this man that God entrusted me to be at this age."

We wrestle with that feeling of unworthiness. But, God looks at us and says, "No, you are still trustworthy, because the One who is worthy of trust is in you. He is finishing that work in you, and you are the one I trust." He can look all of His sons in the eye, and say, "I trust you." It is an anomaly and a mystery, but it is the same thing He feels about His Bride. The Bride is pure and clean, even in the midst of uncleanness and impurity. We are the Bride of Christ in that moment, and yet we are becoming the Bride of Christ in that moment. It is the anomaly and the mystery of Christ. How could such an impure people be made white and righteous? You are the Bride of Christ, because Jesus is clean in you, but you are being made ready, being made right, and being made glorious day by day. It is an amazing thing.

We have been talking about this in the last week. I want to reference it today. If you do not know, the washing or the cleansing of God is by the blood of Jesus, and He clears us of our guilt. Part of what makes us know that we are trustworthy is when we are cleansed of that guilt. We are not seeing our guilt before God. The blood of Jesus wipes away the guilt, so that you cannot stand before God, and say, "I am not worthy." Because, He says, "I have wiped that guilt away with the blood of my own Son. The One who was worthy has cleansed that guilt consciousness that you have by His blood. So, if you bring it back up, He constantly is bringing that down.

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He is constantly trying to pull that guilt down, so you can see the truth and what you are actually worth. You can actually see that He trusts you. We often put that guilt up saying, "I am not trustworthy." I am not one to receive that trust. You are right. But, that is not the point. The point is that He has removed the guilt. He has removed that veil. He has removed that argument. He says the truth is that He is the One that speaks the truth. He is the One that knows the truth. He is the One that sees a lot farther than we do. *He sees what we are and who we will become.* It is the mercy of God.

Joel 2:4-9

We talked about revival fire and what that looks like in the church. To be this army embodies a picture that sometimes offends us. But, "When the Kingdom of Heaven suffers violence, the violent take it by force." This is that picture of an army. Jesus is being persecuted daily. But, I am not going to compromise that persecution. I am going to take it all or nothing. The "violent take the Kingdom by force, and reach out and say, "You are going to get all of the Kingdom of God, not just what you want to hear." It is all of the truth or none of it. Not just what is easy for you to hear to get slowly into the Kingdom. It is all or nothing.

Why? Because, that is how God went to the cross. He did not make it easy. He gave up all. He pursues with all of His heart, all of His soul, and with all of His mind. He humbled Himself completely to get us. So, those that have recognized that, "the Kingdom of Heaven is suffering violence, and the violent take it by force." This is what that army looks like. You are called trustworthy enough to be a soldier in this army, if you call the Lord Jesus Christ as your Lord and Master. If He is the master, He is the general. He is the general, and you are the soldier. If He is the commander of angel armies, He can be the commander of your heart. The Lord of hosts, right? So, this is that army.

This reminds me of a quote, "There are many soldiers, but not many warriors," Brandy read in a K4 class. "There are many soldiers, but not many warriors." Being a warrior is a mentality that a soldier must have to be an effective embodiment of a warrior on the battlefield. You can be a soldier and not be a warrior. The difference is a mindset of domination. The difference is a mindset that, "I am going to dominate." It is a mindset of "I am not backing down." This is what is going to happen. So, "there are many soldiers, but not many warriors."

According to Ephesians 6, many of us in the Kingdom of God have put our spiritual warfare armor on. We have on our sword of truth. We have our belt of truth on. We have our feet shod with the gospel of readiness. We have the helmet of salvation on. But, do you have the mind of Christ? I have been dressed for war. But, do I have the mindset of the "violent going to take it by force? Do I have the mindset that it is all or nothing? Do I have the mindset that, "this is what is going to happen and I am going to do it." Do we have the mindset that if Satan were to take you to the top of the temple and *offer* you all that you were wanting to have happen, you would say, "No, I am going to take it to the cross. I am going to settle it there. No, this is not going to be on your terms. It is going to be on *Christ's* terms."

The army of the Lord is supposed to be filled with that mindset. We are taking dominion. If you are taking dominion, you are conquering. You are dominating, influencing, infiltrating, and overtaking. Yes, and establishing and setting up for a long time. Right? If you are setting up a dominion, you are bringing all of your kingdom in and making the place look like and feel like your kingdom.

There is a reason why this Bible in the New Testament was written in Greek. *It was* because of one man. If you read in the book of Daniel, he has a vision about a country that is a bunch of little city states that nobody really cares about. He is living in the time of Babylon which will be around for a few 100 years more, and then there is going to be a Persian empire which will be

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around for another few 100 years. Daniel is not *living in the scope of time* to figure out that there is going to be a conqueror from Greece. Holy Spirit gives him this vision.

Daniel 8:1-3

The country of the Medes and the Persians, that was going to conquer Babylon, was what Daniel saw in the vision that had not yet happened.

Daniel 8:4

The Persians conquer the Babylonian Empire and bring their influence and dominion around the entire world as we know it. It happened.

Daniel 8:5

Goats are not known to be “buff.” Would you rather take a ram or a goat? Personally, I am taking the ram with two horns.

Daniel 8:6-7

Who is he talking about? Well, it is very interesting. The people on a peninsula at that time were known as being people of the goats or herdsmen of goats, *according to stories written of this time*. Holy Spirit gives Daniel a vision of a male goat that is going to come from the country in the West that nobody really knows about. But, it is the Greeks, and Alexander the Great, would come with a mindset of domination. When he rood up on his horse, which was a white steed, he stood about twelve feet tall. *People* were struck with fear.

He dominated and empowered the Persian Empire with such a ferocity that he conquered at a rate the world had never seen before. He was enthralled with trampling down and dominating and bringing his influence on the world and going all the way to India. He did not stop. He just kept going and going and going. He had a “dominating mindset.” Before you stepped on the battlefield, you had to meet him with the ferocity of his mind, or you had already lost the battle.

With Napoleon, it was the same thing. It showed up in Ulysses S. Grant. The first battle that Ulysses S. Grant was in as the head of the Union Army in the Civil War, he lost. But, he still kept marching to Richmond, Virginia. Robert E. Lee said of him, “Finally, there is a general in the Union army that will win this war,” because his mindset was, “I am going to dominate, and I am not going to lose. Even though I have lost, I am not losing.”

That is the mindset of Christ. That is why His kingdom is ever increasing. That is why His dominion rests on the shoulders of the Church and those that have the Kingdom of Heaven. “They suffer violence and they say, ‘no, the violent are going to take this by force.’” It is all or nothing. Wow, there are many soldiers in the army of God, but there are not many warriors that want to do that. That is the dominating mindset.

“I want to give my life to God, but I do not want to read the Bible. Dwight L. Moody, said, “For every ten men that would give their lives to the Lord, I can only find one that will actually read *the Bible*.”

Isaiah 42:11-14

This is that ferocity. This is the tenacity. This is the domination of the army of God that we read about in Joel. You read it and you ask, “Is that me?” That is supposed to be us. How does it happen? You have to take on that faith daily in the simple things. That is your God. Do you know Him like that? When we praise Him, that is what we are talking about. When we actually engage in worship. We are actually opening up a way for the Lord to go and fight for us. To go and rage against His enemies. To go and cry out, and make a way for the Kingdom of God.

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We are actually opening up a way for the King of Glory to fight His battles. We are preparing the way of the Lord, because He is the one who fights for us. Yes, but we want to come alongside Him. That is why when the Israelites left the country of Egypt, they say “this battle is easy to fight. It is way easier to fight battles. Just lift your arms Moses.” Why? Because there was a warrior. There was a dominator in that army that was dominating the battlefield.

These were slaves that had never fought an Egyptian army. But, they know what to do, and they are dominating tribes and nations that had to fight yearly against other tribes and nations. They are overcoming them easily on a battlefield. God says, “when you came out of Egypt, you were an unruly mob, but by the time you came into Israel, you were like an army marching in order.” That is who our God is. “There many soldiers in His army, but not many warriors.”

Zechariah 9:15-17

You have this collision of an intense zeal of an intense warrior. You have this collision of this ferocity, and yet the beauty and the jewels of God’s army. We are a noble, regal, loved, covered, and blessed army that has it all together. Yet, we are filled with a Lion of the tribe of Judah that roars at wickedness and its enemy. You have this weird clash. You say, “I recognize one, but I do not recognize the other.” It could be either one.

There are some people that take on that mindset of a man, who can wake up every day and *have the mindset of I am going to “kick the devil.”* Some of us have no idea what that is all about. We just want to be loved and to know the goodness of God, and that I am a jewel in His crown. Right? The other might say, “I do not know if I would go that far.” I do not know. There are ones full of both love and having a mindset of *confronting the devil*. But, you see what I am saying? The key is to have wisdom and maturity in this picture. We are even supposed to have childlike faith.

We want the new wine. I have preached that from here. If you have never drank wine, you do not care what it tastes like. You want what it does to you. But, when you get older, you say *new wine is terrible*. I want to know the flavors, where the wine came from, and what year it is from. I am more sophisticated now than when I was young, right? But, God says, “the Kingdom is for the child,” to have that mindset that, I want the new wine because I want what it does. I want the roar with the drunkenness of the Holy Spirit and the fire of God. I am supposed to mature and be full of wisdom, yet I am supposed to have that zeal of a young man that is thriving on the new grain and the new wine. It is a clash here in the Spirit.

We will actually see it in the end times, but in the spirit realm and in the prophetic realm, Zechariah chapter nine is a clash of pictures. The clash of what the army of God looks like. It is a clash of maybe what you are comfortable with and who you are and who you are called to be. “There are many soldiers, but there are not many warriors,” with the mindset that they are going to dominate.

Psalms 45:3-5

Who is this? This is Jesus. His arrows are hitting the hearts of the King's enemies. Because of humility, and truth and righteousness, He is ruling and reigning. He has been given a seat beside the Father, who said, “Put up your feet until your enemies become my footstool.” That is the Lord. We want to see Him ride with such a ferocity that Alexander the Great is diminished and seen as nothing. That is what we are talking about. This will happen.

Psalms 45:6-9

It is the same Anointed One here that was with the army, and who holds both of those attributes. You see it? It is this, wow, “zeal for your house has eaten me up,” we read from the book of John.

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How do you dominate? This is my analogy in sports. You start out at the Little League level and T ball, right? It is pretty easy to find the kids who are going to dominate. He or she has an anointing. In the next level, you find the ones that have some skills and are really dominating. At the next level you say, "Wow, they have some really excellent skills." It gets a little harder when they are at the junior high level and on to the high school level where they have been practicing and honing their skills, and they are still dominating in high school. Then, they have some real skills at that minor league level. But, by the time you get to the major league level, that ball is so fast and that hit is so hard, you are amazed with their power, and say, "I have never seen baseball played this fast."

What is the difference in that major league level between those who win twenty seven World Series games and the Cubs, who only win three? It has always been *said*, those Cardinals or those Yankees, when they step on the field they say, "We are playing the Cubs and we are going to win." But, the Cubs say, "Are we going to win? Please just let us win." Cardinals and Yankees fans are saying, "We are definitely going to win!" The Cubs fans ask, "Do the Cubs players on the team not want to win the World Series?" I have asked that question. I am hoping that the answer is yes, they do. Although, when they play in the World Series, they just cannot seem to win. Do you know what I am saying?

You could do *the same example* in football. "Do the Cowboys really want to win the Super Bowl?" We have asked these questions. But, what *makes* the difference when you are at that level where everybody is a pro or an elite player? Everybody has gone through all of those levels and have gone from glory to glory, if you will. You have gone from level to level and now you are at that pro level, but how do you win? How do you win? Most people will tell you, it is because they were with a teammate that did not want to lose and determined they could not lose. Not because they were so prideful, though some of them were. But, others just had it in them that, "even if I lose, I am not going to lose again." That is why you talk about the names of people like Jordan, Brady, Manning, and Maddox because they had something in them that was dominating. It was the mindset of "I am a warrior!"

Obviously I am a baseball *fan*. Many batters when they faced Bob Gibson, were literally terrified before they stepped on the plate. Nowadays it might be someone like Randy Johnson, who people were literally were terrified of just stepping in a box 60 feet away from him. Why? Because he already had a mindset of "If you step in to that box, I am going to dominate you." So, you are going to get to your seat as fast as you can, and a lot of them did. That is it.

What is the difference? You win in the simple things, because in the simple things is the victory. You do not dominate looking at the big picture. You dominate in the simple thing. When you dominate in the simple things, you have a better grasp of yourself. You have a better understanding of yourself. If you have been found a good steward in the little things, you get more little things. Then you get more little things and then all of a sudden it is, "How do you manage this international ministry?" You say, "Well, it is just a simple thing to me." You manage this great big company as CEO. It is just a little thing, because you have been dominating in the little things. But, you do not start by trying to figure out how to do it all. You start in dominating your morning, dominating your mid morning, dominating your lunch, dominating your afternoon, then dominating your evening and nighttime. Okay, I dominated by morning, my mid morning, but, "man, I am hungry." Then it is, "I do not need a siesta." Then, "Wow, it is already nine o'clock." It is like that. That is what it takes. It is hard.

The ones that are the winners in sports, and other activities at higher levels are the ones that did all those little things consistently over time. They kept dominating consistently over time.

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They kept hitting that pitch right there in the same spot, millions and millions of times, before they ever stepped foot on the World Series field. Then when it was the World Series, they have dominated this spot in hitting that outside pitch, all of their life. This is just another day and just another pitch.

That is what it looks like in the Spirit. If you have ever noticed those that are mature in the faith, have grown and they have gone up some levels. They are intense. They carry a lot of faith and a lot of intensity. They take things really seriously. Those that are young in the faith may *think*, "I do not know if I take it that seriously." But, when you have grown in going from glory to glory, and you go to level to level, who are you going against? You are not going against little forces of wickedness. You are going against rulers, then you are going against powers, and then the Lord may have you go against principalities.

If you are going up to those levels in spiritual warfare and taking God's kingdom, dominating, and bringing dominion on the Earth, as it is in Heaven, you have to be in the mindset of Christ. You have to know you are going to dominate in the simple things, and then you are going to dominate in these simple things. Then you are going to dominate, and dominate, and have the mentality of Christ that He took to the cross, because He went all the way to dominate Satan. He took him down, took his kingdom on the Earth, then going down to sheol taking the keys from Satan showing him he will send him there someday. Jesus dominated. How did He do it? By, "Not my will, but Your will be done. I do nothing unless I see My Father doing it." The simplicity of the Gospel. The abiding simplicity of the Gospel.

Win the simple things, because the simple things determine the victory." "It is often the army that did not get stuck in the mud that wins the victory." It is often the army that had enough food for its soldiers, to have enough energy, to win the battle, instead of the ones that forgot and have their supplies stuck in the mud. "Win in the simple things, because it is the simple things that determine the victory." I have some more quotes for you.

"The problem is not to find the answer. It is to face the answer." That is from Terence McKenna. "Don't fear failure. Not failure, but low aim, is the crime. In great attempts, it is glorious even to fail." That is from Bruce Lee. "You miss 100% of the shots you do not take." That is from Wayne Gretzky.

This week I have been hearing this song. It is a fight song sung by the Navy when they are cheering on their Navy football team. You might know it, "I Believe That We Will Win." It is a chant. I want you to hear it. It is a mindset of faith. When we are mature Christians, you will notice that we have the most optimism, the most joy and the most faith, the more mature you go. It is like you become more optimistic, because you know that God is going to win. Because, if Christ is in me, how can I lose? When you are young in the faith, you think, "That just seems so simple." But, when you have the mindset of Christ, you are not like trying to dominate people. You are trying to dominate the enemy, so that the joy of the Lord and the oil of gladness, can ooze on more of my companions.

When you become a Christian, you are going to get more and more optimistic and joyful. As a Christian, you are going to get more and more joy filled, because you are never going to lose. The Kingdom of God will always win, because "the violent take it by force," and it is full of the oil of gladness, that is more than my companions." You say, "I am always an optimistic Cubs fan for the rest of my days." There is one thing that being a Cubs fan has taught me, is how to be optimistic forever.

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It was easy to do that with Jesus, but there is an intensity to it as I grow in the faith that I have to learn. I am learning that it takes this mindset, "I am not going to lose. I believe that I will win. I believe that we will win. I believe that He will win." Then as I get that dominating mindset, the victory comes. Even if the devil punches or it looks like I have lost, I have not. I am going to win. You say, "That is that maturity in the faith." For some people, they will say, "You are just naive." That gift of faith is just that, "You are blind to what is actually happening." "No, I am going to dominate. I am going to be like that male goat that saw the ram, and came with such ferocity, it destroyed an entire empire.

There is an empire on the Earth right now, that I am going to aim at with Christ Jesus in me. We are going to destroy it. But, it takes that. How do I do that? I cannot just take all of Satan's kingdom. I cannot just go up to Washington DC and knock on the doors. So, we need Christ. Yes, I could do that. But, I would be sent to jail and you would have to come pray for me. I have to dominate in the simple things. I have to win in the simple things. I have to win in the morning, win at lunch, win in the afternoon, win in the evenings, and win at night. How do I win? By surrendering to the One who has won in all. Surrendering to the One who is worthy of it all. He is trustworthy with my life, yes?

I want you to hear this song and that is where we will end. Please stand and let's pray. Father, I thank you for this day, Lord. I thank you for ears that are willing to hear. I thank you for our smaller saints, God. They are saints and the Kingdom goes to the saints. Thank you that they carry it, they know it, they hear it easily, and it is simple. I want that simplicity of faith, and the ferocity of faith. I believe that you have won. You are winning around me, because you are the glorious One, that has the scepter of righteousness. Your arrows strike your enemies very well. I thank you, Father, for it. In Jesus's mighty name we pray, amen.

Fight song link

https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=pA_1tWNLkcA&feature=share