

Introduction:

- Gen. George Patton is one of the greatest heroes of World War II and the modern American era. In 1944, Patton assumed command of the US Third Army, which under his leadership, according to Patton historian and biographer Brenton Wallace, advanced farther, captured more enemy prisoners, and liberated more territory in less time than any other army in military history. His role in stopping Adolph Hitler's advance to world domination is legendary. Late in 1945, after the war's end, Patton remained in Europe tending remaining details and business. Having survived all the brutality of war, he was involved in a tragic automobile accident on December 8, 1945, which left him paralyzed. He died less than 2 weeks later. According to one war historian, "He was the right man in the right place, at the time he was most needed. Born to be a soldier, he succeeded in achieving the greatness for which he was destined." **APPLICATION:** Jesus, born to be a Savior, succeeded in achieving the greatness for which he was destined. Spending just six hours on a cross, He liberated more captives in less time than any other person, or army, in history. Jesus was, in the truest sense, "the right man in the right place, at the time he was most needed." *"You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly"* (Romans 5:6). There is a place called the "right time". And like Jesus and like Patton, you are supposed to be in it!
- Last Sunday we answered the question: Why would I want to become a Christian? To experience the generous lavish love of God, to have a relationship with God the Father, and to step into a significant and meaningful destiny.
 - I want to give more time to this subject and to your meaningful destiny in this life today. I want to call you out and call you into the life that God created, equipped and assigned you accomplish! I want you to find your place of passion and peace that causes you to dominate all the giants in your life.
 - Once you give your heart to Jesus your life will fall into one to the 7 following spheres of influence. You are called to be an influencer! Our command is to disciple nations. To disciple a nation, the Kingdom of God must influence you and you must influence these seven spheres of culture in our lives.
- Seven Mountains or Seven Spheres of Influence
 - Religion - where people worship God in spirit and truth or settle for a ritual.
 - Family - where either a blessing or a curse is passed on to successive generations.
 - Government - where evil is either restrained or endorsed.
 - Education - where truths or lies about God and His creation are taught.
 - Arts and Entertainment - where values and virtue are celebrate or distorted.
 - Media - where information is interpreted through the lens of good or evil.
 - Business - where people build for the glory of God or the glory of man. Those who lead this mountain control what influences our culture
- To be influencers we have to be overcomers. *"We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love. When we were utterly helpless Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners."* (Romans 5:3-5, NLT) Jesus was in the right place at the right time! It's all good God uses my past. My life matters, God's plan with a purpose. Give me my mountain-God Destiny for me.

I. It's All Good - God Uses My Past

- A. *"And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them."* (Romans 8:28, NLT) We have to remember that about our lives. I am not saying that God causes the bad things in your life. What I am saying, and what Paul is saying, is that God is a Restorer and a Redeemer. Put your life in His hands and He will make good come out of it. If you are born again today, put your life in His hands.
1. Most people want to forget their past, create new beginnings and move on.
 2. God wants to restore and reform your past and create from it a destiny!
 3. *"And from the days of John the Baptist until the present time, the kingdom of heaven has endured violent assault, and violent men seize it by force [as a precious prize—a share in the heavenly kingdom is sought with most ardent zeal and intense exertion]."* (Matthew 11:12, AMP) We are talking about spiritual violence which means "prevailing with unyielding faith and prayer until we seize the promises of God."
 4. Operating in the Kingdom of God requires us to engage spiritual enemies and a violent struggle is always a part of the encounter.
- B. To many people have been trained by our culture to leave or run away when things get tough. When marriage is tough we leave. When church is tough we find another place to go. When people are difficult we run away. Hear the Word of the Lord church! Where hell assaults you heaven has provided an anointing to decimate that assault!
1. "The very thing that tried to kill you, steal from you, or destroy you, you are often assigned, anointed and equipped by God to rule over!" Mike Maiden, *Turn the World Upside Down* p154. Make sense of your past don't run from it. It's all good in the hands of God. Some examples:
 2. le. Moses - born in Egypt, raised by his mother and an Egyptian princess, fled Egypt because he killed a man. At age 80 God called him back to Egypt to fulfill his destiny. Brought him back to where he started.
 3. le. Joseph - dreamed of dominion, was sold by brother into slavery, falsely accused of rape, imprisoned for crime he did not commit. Then the day came when a key was sent to unlock Joseph for his destiny. A key is being sent to you too!!! Gen 41:42-43. Brought him back to where he started, his family.
 4. le. Samson - a Nazarite, and man called to extreme holiness. Falls in love with a woman from the enemies camp. His parents are disappointed greatly. *"His father and mother didn't realize the Lord was at work in this, creating an opportunity to work against the Philistines, who ruled over Israel at that time."* (Judges 14:4, NLT) Later when his wife was take from him and killed, Samson in his brokenness, defeated the Philistines. God used the man who made a huge mistake. He is a Redeemer, a Restorer and maker of destiny!
- C. It doesn't matter what is in your past, or how dysfunctional your family was (or is) or how much heart ache you have in your past. God wants to take the worst things of your past and transform them into the best things of your destiny! He is Lord over your past and Lord of the present!

II. My Life Matters - God's Plan With A Purpose

- A. To have purpose is to have direction and meaning. If I have a purpose I am going somewhere. I have meaning. To have no purpose or meaning is to be lost/drifting through life.

- B. When you realize that Jesus is Lord of your life (He brings direction), you come to the understanding that He is Lord over your past! (meaning your past failures have no hold over your future advancement) And He is Lord in your present!
1. Your present time may be a land of giants...generational curses, personal weaknesses, discouragement, greed, pride, immorality, fear and lusts. They all want to stop you and keep you from your God ordained future.
 2. You must realize that every spiritual battle you fight is training for your future. David's example. *"I go after it with a club and rescue the lamb from its mouth. If the animal turns on me, I catch it by the jaw and club it to death. I have done this to both lions and bears, and I'll do it to this pagan Philistine, too, for he has defied the armies of the living God!"* (1 Samuel 17:35-36, NLT)
 3. *ie.* Whether you are David in green pasture writing poetry while caring for sheep or a prodigal in a pigpen, there is a pathway from where you are right now to the place God has prepared for you. You were created for that place! Get moving.
- C. Your life has defining moments. I am talking about the present. Many people don't realize, until hind site, just how defining each moment of their life was when until they look back. Use your faith, stir up your passion/determination and get the victory.
1. *"Look, I have given you authority over all the power of the enemy, and you can walk among snakes and scorpions and crush them. Nothing will injure you."* (Luke 10:19, NLT)
 2. What you do in the day of trial and tribulation, when the devil throws his best at you, is that you will either succumb or overcome in defining moments. God put's the pen in our hands to write our future. If you succumbed yesterday, get up and write a new chapter today!
- D. Giants Define you! David became famous not because of the lion, or because of the bear but because of the Giants. Nobody knew David, cared, when he killed lions and bears. But everyone knew when he killed Goliath. David is famous for killing Goliath.
1. Giants that we do not conquer also define us. *ie.* Israel came out of Egypt but refused to enter the promised land. Their doubt, unbelief, and fear defined them. These three things are designed to make you be small in your own eyes. Num 13:28-29. Grasshoppers. This is not our point of view.
 2. We are to see from God's point of view. His point of view is like standing on a mountain top and looking down. Fills you with awe and with rest. *"Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls."* (Matthew 11:28-29, NLT)
 3. *"... In quietness and confidence is your strength..."* (Isaiah 30:15, NLT) This is our challenge: resting in Him while He thrashes the giant. This is your challenge: resting in Him while in the battle. I must do what I know to do, while he does the rest.

III. Give Me My Mountain - God's Destiny for me.

- A. NKJV "Give me my mountain!" *"So give me the hill country that the Lord promised me. You will remember that as scouts we found the descendants of Anak living there in great, walled towns. But if the Lord is with me, I will drive them out of the land, just as the Lord said."* (Joshua 14:12, NLT) The mountain was Caleb's destiny! Spoken by Moses over 40 years earlier! He had to

overcome the slave mentality of Egypt. He had to overcome the doubters of his day. He had to kill giants as an old man to reach his destiny and obtain the prize! Who among us today has a cry in your heart, "Give me my mountain!" "Give me my marriage!" "Give me my county!" "Give me my nation!"

- B. Destiny comes with transformation! Those who have been washed in the Word and anointed by the Spirit are transformed into people suitable for use in a kingdom for influence. What mountain are you called to take? What mountain are you called to occupy.
1. When you operate in your mountain under His authority and anointing you will ask what ever you will and He will give it. *"You didn't choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name."* (John 15:16, NLT)
 2. Our lives are ultimately defined by the quality and quantity of change we allow God to bring into them. God would like to use us all but not everyone is willing to prepare to be used by God.
- C. Never lose sight of the promise.
1. Caleb never lost sight of what was promised to him though surrounded by doubters.
 2. Caleb never lost sight of what was promise him as he helped other tribes to win their territory.
 3. Caleb never lost sight of what was promised though it seemed to be delayed his whole life.
Give me my mountain!

Conclusion:

- Andy Roddick (1982-) is an American tennis player, who holds the titles of former #1 player in the world and winner of the 2004 U.S. Open Tennis Tournament (not to mentions scores of other titles for scores of other tournaments). "He started playing tennis when he was three and a half years old. As a child, he could usually be found carrying his racquet around and asking, 'When can I play?' ...To feed his need for play, "Roddick ... had imaginary friends. 'He'd play imaginary games against them for hours in our garage,' his mother once recalled, 'and he never lost!' ... "By the time he was seven, young Roddick was so certain of his future fame that he gave everyone in his family autographed tennis balls for Christmas." Now that's confidence!
- **APPLICATION** As recipients of the title "Joint Heirs with Jesus," we believers have every reason to be just that confident, and then some. Deut 28 You are the head and not the tail when you obey the Lord!
 - Have you lost sight of what God has promised? Has time delay set you back spiritually? Does your sphere of influence remain uninfluenced by you?
 - Invitation to receive Christ.
 - Invitation to step into the process of being in the right place at the right time.