

# Foreword by Pastor Eric Villanueva

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Pastor Clarence Washington in his second book, *Victory Every Day in Every Way* makes the biblical book of Nehemiah become real for followers of Jesus Christ. Nehemiah faced the news of his ruined city, Jerusalem, feeling helpless with his city out of his reach and yet he cried desperately for God to fix it. His calling on God brought about his order from the king to go home and repair its wall. His leadership and tenacity to succeed among internal conspiracies, enemies outside the gate, and the need to constantly motivate struggling and weary workers lays the foundation. Pastor Washington teaches Christians to approach a disorderly life the way that Nehemiah faced a ruined city and know success, or victory. He lays a foundation in Phase 1 to start the journey, calling the reader to “Hate Your Present Condition.” Phase 2 takes deep, logical, biblical, and true demonstration of spiritual battle. In each step to fighting the spiritual conflict he closes the section with mile markers, closing phrases within a text box to let one know, the main point in that step to victory. Phase 3 is “The Divine Strategy for Maintaining Victory...”

Pastor Washington continued the style of his first book, *Tools for Effective Prayer*. Rather than describe the intensity and obligations of a Navy Seal prayer life, he pastored the reader to live a consistent and disciplined Christian life, praying unhindered. He shepherded his readers to get them where they want to be with God. In this his second book he also makes the reader feel that he is having a cup of coffee, or a visit to the pastoral office as he gives close and personal advice to a church member who wants to leave the frustrations of sins and lack of motivation behind and move on to Victory Every Day in Every Way.

Dr. Sam Hogan, pastor of Good Shepherd Church of God in Christ in Roxbury, Massachusetts taught preaching at Gordon-Conwell Seminary. He told us that in the African American preaching tradition, a sermon which finished with a strong message was when the preacher moved into *third gear*. Pastor Clarence Washington, in *Victory Every Day in Every Way*, screeches across the finish line at full speed, engine screaming. In Phase 3, “The Power of Forgiveness for Maintaining the Divine Strategy for Victory,” he makes it real. Guilt, and holding on to resentment from wounds and trauma without forgiveness are major factors

holding people back from a free and joyful life trapping them in cycles of repeated sinful thinking and living. Without victory in forgiveness, so many deal with wounds and trauma in error. Too often wounded souls, seek comfort through porn and sexual addictions. They end up worse. He then lays out through facts, stats, anecdote, and an objective look at today's society, the devastating effect of sexual sin, especially pornography upon relationships, health, loving, dignity, and productivity in our modern society and how it has invaded, infiltrated, and infected our evangelical churches. He leads the struggling soul into recognizing, "I need help!" and then into a new dimension of healthy spiritual, emotional, flesh and blood victory in daily living from holy scripture. Yes, his pastoral counsel points the way to biblical and real time freedom to live and love God's way.

This book's powerfully ending, the *third gear* seems like a grand slam in a world series or an unforgettable dessert after a wonderful meal, maybe a long touchdown pass in the last seconds of a game, or what Latins call, "*mediacancha*," a soccer goal from the middle of the field at the last second. He walks the reader out of these prisons and pastors the reader in his consultation.

So reading *Victory Every Day in Every Way*, isn't like you're just reading a book. You are in pastoral consultation, and the advice is laden with illustrations and examples like *psychoheresy* and how it leads sincere believers to fall for manipulative leadership such as happened with Jim Jones of People's Temple in San Francisco, allowing me to see how to avoid danger and live biblically. All the while the reader receives a biblical exposition of the book of Nehemiah and deep insight into Nehemiah's own personal struggles and victories.

*Victory Every Day in Every Way* makes disciples of Jesus by truth delivered in love from one who knows your pain and struggle as a follower of Jesus and a church member. The loving touch, human caring, and yet calling for change and repentance is biblical pastoring. Yet, the book doesn't lack scholarly and technical excellence in bibliography, footnotes, and extensive relevant references. Rather than hard core discipline for the spiritual Navy Seals or a soft and cushy exchange between a grandfather God ready to dispense all the goodies, he pastors his reader into a relationship with God, their role in the church and the world, and all of the basic spiritual disciplines *with help from a Jew named Nehemiah*. My sincere prayer is that God would grant a vast audience to

Pastor Washington's books and that they'd challenge and soothe needy souls as he shepherds his readers into consistent prayer and victorious Christian life. IN JESUS' NAME, AMEN.

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# **PHASE 1**

**STARTING THE JOURNEY TO  
VICTORY EVERY DAY IN EVERY WAY**





1

**Starting Is the  
Hardest Part  
of the Journey!**

Clarence Washington Sr.

### *Hate Your Present Condition*

From studying the book of Nehemiah—and from the practical experiences of life—most of you who are reading this book know that the hardest part of any task can just be getting started! Likewise, the hardest part of any successful trip or journey is sometimes getting started. It seems like it takes me forever to get all of the stuff that I need to go on a three-day fishing trip that is only a couple hundred miles from home.

And, regardless of how much planning I do, occasionally, I still forget to take something that would have made the trip more enjoyable. But also, every now and then, I forget something like my fishing net, which has provided me with some interesting stories to tell. For on a couple of those forgetful occasions, I hooked a really big fish and had to land it without a net. You see—it seems like that's the way life is! There are so many little details that need to be considered to ensure a successful trip—even short trips.

Therefore, in writing this book, I tried to address the details of the trip or journey to victory in a simple and easy way to grasp and retain. This is particularly true of the first phase of the journey—*Starting the Journey to Victory Every Day in Every Way*. Henry Ford said, “Whether you think you can or you think you can't, you're right.” It may be hard getting started on the journey to victory, but through Christ, everything that God has purposed and planned for your life is possible (Phil. 4:13). This is true regardless of your starting point.

So be confident of this! Take a step forward on the journey to victory—a step toward building a spiritual wall of protection around your life. Read the first four verses of Nehemiah chapter 1:

The words of Nehemiah son of Hacaliah: In the month of Kislev [Nov/Dec] in the twentieth year [446–445 B.C.], while I was in the citadel of Susa [east of Babylon, 150 miles north of the Persian Gulf], Hanani, one of my brothers, came from Judah with some other men, and I questioned them about the Jewish remnant that had survived the exile, and also about Jerusalem. They said to me, “Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down,

and its gates have been burned with fire.” When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven. (1:1–4)

Verse 4 of Nehemiah’s diary reveals that the first thing a person must know is that—*getting started on the journey to victory requires some help from God*. God has to condition your heart to get you started on the journey to victory. Nehemiah said in verse 4, “When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven.” Nehemiah prayed to God for help! So how did God condition Nehemiah’s heart to get him started on the journey to rebuild the huge protecting wall around the temple and the city?

Nehemiah’s diary in 1:1–4 tells us that when his brother told him about the trouble his people were undergoing—the extreme embarrassment and disgrace they were suffering—it broke his heart! The news of the inability of his people to rebuild the wall around Jerusalem to protect them from their hostile neighbors—broke Nehemiah’s heart! Hanani told Nehemiah about how the once very creative, intelligent, and militarily and politically powerful Jewish people were now very passive. They had no desire or the courage to come together and rebuild the great wall they so desperately needed for uninterrupted, victorious living amongst their hostile neighbors. Nehemiah was overwhelmed with sorrow. He *hated*, with all his heart, the powerless condition in which his people were living!

So the very first thing God did to get Nehemiah started on the journey to rebuild the wall—the journey to victory—was to arouse some intense hatred in Nehemiah for the living conditions and the attitude of his people. God used Nehemiah’s brother to passionately paint a clear, vivid, and detailed picture of the disgraceful, pitiful condition of his people. And it was Nehemiah’s hatred of the living conditions and attitudes of his people that drove him to mourn, fast, and pray to the LORD for help.

Summarizing what has been learned so far from Nehemiah in these first four verses, we can say that—Whatever is broken in you, God can repair! Whatever has been closed off to you, God can reopen! And whatever you have lost, God can restore or recover!<sup>1</sup> But—you must first intensely hate your present condition or your current status in life

Clarence Washington Sr.

and the things that are keeping you from achieving *victory every day in every way*. You must first hate your present condition enough to be driven to fast and pray to God for a plan that shows you how to travel from where you currently are in life to where He wants you to be.

And the reason why God interacts with us in this way is that—God sovereignly gives all men and women free will to make their own decisions and choices. This means that He won't overstep the free-will boundary and force us to do anything that we don't want to do. We must go to God in prayer and seek His help.

However, God will send, motivate, or allow situations and circumstances to come into our lives that will encourage us to see and agree with His point of view on the issues of life that are preventing us from possessing what He has purposed and planned for us. You see, that's what God did to Nehemiah. We must first intensely hate where we are in life. We must intensely hate some things that are happening in our lives so that we are motivated to go to God in prayer for the help we need to start the journey to victory.

For a vivid example of this, let me say that if a person has a demon living in him or her, nobody can exorcise or deliver that person and cast the demon out—if that person wants the demon to stay. Likewise, the reason why people can't stop drinking, drugging, trafficking in pornography, reading erotic romance novels, engaging in sexual self-gratification, smoking, and over-eating is because they don't yet hate these things or what these things are doing to them—enough! Because free will always prevails. (See discussion in chapter 16 entitled, *Maintaining Strategy for Victory by Breaking Free from Pornography and Sexual Addictions*.)

In other words, so long as you are indifferent about where you are in life—or in love with where you are in life or with the things that are keeping you from journeying to where God wants you to be—you won't be able to overcome those things. You cannot conquer what you cannot or will not hate. And—whatever you cannot or will not conquer will eventually conquer you.<sup>2</sup> The psalmist said in chapter 97, verse 10, "Let those who love the Lord hate evil, for he guards the lives of his faithful ones and delivers them from the hand of the wicked."

As I think about the many things I hear people say that they don't like doing, I know that most of them don't yet possess enough hatred to be delivered. I hear people say such things as—"I don't like being

overweight!” Well, that may be true. But—do you intensely hate being overweight? This is the real issue. Or, they will say—“I don’t like smoking cigarettes! I want to quit!” But do you intensely hate smoking cigarettes? Do you intensely hate what cigarettes are doing to your lungs and to other parts of your body? Some say—“I don’t like arguing with my wife or arguing with my husband all the time!” But do you hate it enough to do something godly and positive about it? “I don’t like being an alcoholic!” But do you hate what being an alcoholic or being addicted to drugs is doing to your health and to your relationships with others? That’s the real question! Do you hate those things enough to be delivered, transferred, or brought into the victory of kingdom living?

Paul said, “For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves” (Col. 1:13). But, in order to stay out of the darkness from which Christ rescued us and to keep from becoming its slave again, we must intensely hate the darkness of the things and systems of this world—every moment of our lives.

And you will know when you truly start hating the darkness because your hate will drive you to grieve. Your hate will cause you to weep, mourn, fast, and pray to God to help you get rid of what’s keeping you from taking hold of His plan for your life—just like it did to Nehemiah.

So God allows us to experience some painful consequences, consequences that are caused by the things that are keeping us from starting on the journey to victory. And He does this to develop a hatred in us for these things. The authors of the book, *Counseling for Substance Abuse and Addiction*, S. V. Cleave, W. Byrd, and K. Revell, said: “The basic motivation for human change is pain. This pain may be physical, emotional, or spiritual; however, once pain gets our attention we will do something to remove it.”<sup>3</sup> C. S. Lewis put it this way: “But pain insists upon being attended to. God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains: it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world.”<sup>4</sup>

And so, we must be careful not to get in the way and block the pain of people close to us who are having a hard time hating the things that are keeping them from starting on the journey to victory. No other Scripture in the Bible illustrates this principle with more clarity than *The Parable of the Prodigal Son* recorded in Luke 15:11–24.

In this parable, Jesus said that there was a man who had two sons. The younger son asked his father to give him his share of the family estate or his inheritance. And when the father did what was asked of