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Principles of Victory

Spiritualizing a football game to some would be considered out of bounds. Some people ask me, “Does God care about football.” My answer, “God cares about anything that people are involved in. If he cares about you and me when we go to work, why wouldn’t He care about those whose work is a sport called football. We are body, soul and spirit so everything is at least somewhat spiritual in nature and sometimes predominantly spiritual in nature”

The Saints win the Super Bowl! These words are words that some never thought would be uttered in this life and yet there are reasons that this was a possibility at all. These reasons I will call “The Principles of Victory.” I hope by the time you finish reading this you will be able to relate these principles to the battle we are in to make Louisiana a “Light and Voice” for God.

- 1) Acknowledge God – I know there are those who are involved with this team that are Christians and some that are not. Those that acknowledge God say the most important thing that can be said in any endeavor – God is involved; He is watching; this matters to Him because I matter to Him! **The change in Louisiana matters to God!**
- 2) Leadership with the Right Vision – Notice, not just a vision but the right vision. In football it’s easy – win the Super Bowl. In other endeavors of life it’s not so easy to know if your vision is correct. In Louisiana we know our vision is right because God has spoken it. **Our Vision –Louisiana to undergo the greatest God-Ordained change of any state in the history of this nation!**
- 3) Faith vs. Unbelief – As I watched the game with my Dad last night I noticed how hard it was for him to believe they would or could win. After so many years of letdowns (my Dad was a Saints fan when it wasn’t fun to be one) it is hard to put your faith in something that has failed you so many times. In Louisiana, one of our biggest challenges is to embrace, exude and confess IN FAITH the word of the Lord over us that speaks of a future that is entirely different than the past. **To believe God’s vision for us to be what we’ve never been.**
- 4) Do It For the Right Reason – I am sure you all noticed that the coaches and players kept saying that this victory was for the City of New Orleans and the State of Louisiana among others. It was bigger than them. It was about more than just football. This touches the area of motive for us as we pray and press toward our destiny in God as a state. It has to be about more than us. **This change is about those that come after us. This is about those that do not know Jesus YET!**
- 5) Do Your Job- Like a football team the body of Christ has many members. We all need each other to be who God called us to be, operate in the gifting and callings that He has ordained and be thankful when others are doing their job well as we do the same. **Be who God called you to be in the midst of this change.**
- 6) Give God Glory – A person who has watch this whole season could not deny that certain things have happened that defy explanation. Opposing teams missing chip shot field goals. Key turnovers at key times. The list is long of the “breaks” that went the Saints way. After winning 13 straight games I was watching a pre-game show before game # 14. An announcer held up a shirt that someone printed in support of the Saints. It said, “What Would Brees-us Do.” The obvious reference was to the statement, “What Would Jesus Do.” The Saints lost the next 3 games. The Bible says that God will not share His Glory with any flesh. **As we become a “Light and Voice” to a nation may we lay every crown at God’s Feet and give Him Glory! When we do that, He does what man cannot do!**

I keep hearing people say that the city of New Orleans “deserves” this championship. I understand why they say this in light of all the devastation of Hurricane Katrina and all that has come after that. The City of New Orleans has been through a lot but it does not “deserve” a Super Bowl Championship. Just because you roam around in the wilderness for 40 years does not mean you get to go into the Promised Land. There were conditions on entry. You get what God gives when you receive it the way He says. The Saints did not win the Super Bowl because they stayed in the National Football League for 44 years. They won because their leadership and their players did what you have to do to win a championship.

As I look at the City of New Orleans from a Biblical Worldview I see a city that has in the past done just about everything you can do to “prevent” God from blessing. From voodoo to witchcraft, Mardi Gras to homosexual decadence parades, corruption in government, etc. etc. It does not “deserve” to be blessed by God but there are those in the city that have been crying out to God for years and God in His Grace has offered a window of time to change and now an example of how change happens.

Lest you think this is a spiritual observation only, I was listening to WWL Radio the other day after the Saints won the NFC Championship game and one of their talk show hosts expressed how he wished the city would take their lead from the Saints organization on how to do things the right way and what happens when you do. Even people in the secular world get it. Will the city shed the ways of the past so it can walk in victory? Will the new Mayor, Mitch Landrieu be a leader that brings into play the “Principles of Victory?” We will see. You can book this though. We at IFL will be praying for that exact thing to happen!

Our State does not “deserve” to be a “Light and a Voice” for God. Things are changing because we are changing. We are changing because we’re letting God change us. God gives us opportunity for change because He is gracious and good. The more we decide to do things God’s way the more we will receive of that which He and only He can give.

Remember Jesus is The Champion of the World.