Book Review

Review of the book Entitled “Victory Techniques”
Author Ed. Dr. Daniel Ahia-Armah

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For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world:
and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.
(1 John 5:4)

What an introduction! As it is said that first impressions count a lot, I believe that merely reading this introduction will stir the reader into reading more of this book, ‘Victory Techniques’.

Rev. Ahia-Armah starts this great book by illustrating how the resurrection of Jesus from the dead gives us - we who believe in his name - victory over the powers of death, the grave, and man-made obstacles.

He points out that the same Holy Spirit that operated the resurrection of Jesus from the grave, is the very Spirit that lives in those who have put their trust in Jesus Christ. The Bible, as Rev. Ahia-Armah puts it, does not only inform us of the victories that Christ won for us, but it also provides us with skilful means by which we can practically experience this victory in our lives.

Victory Techniques, as Rev. Ahia-Armah puts it, are: “...the wisdom and the strategic approach that God gives us to overcome the impediments of this life”. In Chapter 1, we are introduced to the key ingredients of ‘victory techniques’ and ‘anti-victory techniques’. We learn that the promises we read in the scriptures can become real: in other words, they can be transformed from books in the Bible to reality in our lives. Simply put, God’s word can indeed become flesh. We also learn that “...desire and expectation are not enough requirements for victory. Attitude is very principal”.

Rev. Ahia-Armah is once again taking a Bible story and making it relevant and practical to our situation. This book, ‘Victory Techniques’, is based on a single story of David and his men, as recorded in 1 Samuel 30. In this book, Rev. Ahia-Armah leads us on a detective journey to discover the anti-victory techniques we should never adopt, and the victory techniques that will help us to win the daily battles of life.

In the next three chapters, Rev. Ahia-Armah takes us through some anti-victory techniques, which, I agree, we must avoid if we want to see ourselves walking the paths of victory.

Chapter 2 is about the unguarded city of Ziklag. David and his men left their families alone in Ziklag, to go to battle with the Philistines. In this chapter, the writer brings this story to life and applies it to the daily life of a believer in Christ Jesus. Jesus said we are to be on our guard, or in other words, we are to watch out. We are to be alert and keep watch over our lives. The devil, our enemy, comes with a predetermined plan to steal, kill and destroy. We must ask ourselves, ‘Is there any breach in my life through which the enemy can attack me’? Or better still, ‘how can I have my life guarded’?

This is exactly what Rev. Ahia-Armah is helping us to find, through the lines of this chapter. He is steadily leading us to detect these possible breaches in our lives, and prescribe how we should
prevent them from taking place. If they have already happened, he tells us how to repair them and never have them open up again.

Rev. Ahia-Armah says that just as the enemy was on a raid expedition, seeking vulnerable cities to destroy, so too is the devil vigorously searching for an available nation, city, family, church, or person to attack.

We need to be aware that the Bible says in many places (Job1:10; Psalms 124:2) about how fortified the protection of God is over his people. As Psalm 91 beautifully puts it:

*He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." Surely he will save you from the fowler’s snare and from the deadly pestilence. He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.*

We must be aware of the fact that this hedge around us can be broken into. But how can this be? Rev. Ahia-Armah puts it this way: “Crabs bite with their pincers and mosquitoes their proboscis, but DEATH bites or stings with SIN”. We are urged in many other places in the Bible not to create holes in this hedge. And the only way that can happen is through sin.

The good news, however, is that if your hedge has been broken into, there is still chance for you to come back to the Lord by confessing and renouncing the sins in your life.

A person may wonder why he is still not able to win life’s daily battles, although he has searched and is sure there isn’t any pertaining sin in his or her life. In the Chapter 3, we read about ‘the impotence of tears and sorrows’. Jesus has advised us not to worry about anything. Philipians 4:6-7 states:

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

Rev. Ahia-Armah referred to the story of Hannah, recorded in 1 Samuel 1. For many years, Hannah cried, but nothing happened about her barrenness. However, when she decided to pray, something significant happened.

We see a similar thing, in the story we are considering. David and his men wept until no strength was left in them. We can all attest that the weeping party brought no solution to the problem they were facing. And as Rev. Ahia-Armah puts it, we all need to put an end to the weeping party. We all need to pray to bring victory into the situations we are or might be facing.

Another mistake we tend to make when faced with difficulties, is to blame others. This is the third and last anti-victory technique Rev. Ahia-Armah is urging us against. The men of David started blaming the whole problem on him.

Rev. Ahia-Armah here contrasts what happened at the fall, in the Garden of Eden, with what happened in this part of the story of David and his men. He says that we will notice in both accounts - of the mischief of David’s fighting men and the excuses of Adam and Eve - that the blame game achieved nothing and could not address or find a solution to the problems at stake.
This book shows us how every difficult situation in our lives is a battle, and how we are not to allow our enemy the devil to win the day.

Rev. Ahia-Armah points out that as Christians, when we fight fellow believers, friends and siblings, we are only chasing the shadows of the devil. From this chapter, we learn that we should never fight our leaders, because when we do, we will not find any solution to our problem. Worse still, we will be stoning the leaders God has put over us.

Stoning our leaders, as Rev. Ahia-Armah calls it, results from a spirit of rebellion which has its roots in Satan. When this spirit is in operation, we are able to raise accusing fingers against the leaders in our churches. When our leaders are stoned, God’s plans for our lives as churches, families and even nations, can be frustrated.

Rev. Ahia-Armah truly hopes that the fights in the churches will cease; that the fights in our families come to a stop; and that our energies be gathered together against our common enemy Satan.

Let us stop focusing on blaming people and blaming the things we are going through; and let us use the time saved to focus on overcoming the mountains in our lives.

Having considered the three mistakes we tend to make when difficulties arise in our lives – which Rev. Ahia-Armah calls ‘anti-victory techniques’ - the writer proceeds, in the next six chapters, to help us consider the victory techniques we need.

Chapter 5 opens with these words, “... but David encouraged himself in the Lord his God” (1 Sam 30:6b). From this chapter, all the way to the end of the book, the writer takes us through six key things we should do to bring victory home.

In the midst of a perceived mess of failure and a threat over his own life, David dug deep into himself to rescue the situation. The ‘but’ in the passage above signifies a change in the situation. Here, we see a change in David’s attitude. The writer points out that David’s first grasp of the victory knob is that he ‘encouraged himself in the Lord’. He remembered that God had delivered him from many enemies in the past.

Rev. Ahia-Armah brings out, through this act of David, how we also should encourage ourselves in the Lord, through God’s word.

When we encourage ourselves in the Lord, we find the energy we so badly need, to stand and confront the situation at stake. Encouraging ourselves in the Lord is an invitation to God to come and be part of the situation.

Whenever God gets involved, we find direction as to what we are to do to bring salvation and victory to ourselves and to the people of God. God’s given direction becomes the golden key with which we can unlock any impossible situation.

Chapter 6 brings us the second victory technique we must adopt in difficult situations. Rev. Ahia-Armah takes us through what seems like an interminable list of moments when God spoke to people. Reading these lines will definitely stir you to hear from God.

This is how the writer summarises the experience of Paul the apostle: “Saul, who later became Paul, had a single encounter with the voice of God, and his story changed forever. From A ZEALOUS PERSECUTOR of the GOSPEL, HE BECAME A PROMOTER AND A PREACHER OF THE GOSPEL.”
The writer is bringing to us so strongly, the crucial place that God’s word should hold in our lives, especially when we are in difficult times.

Hearing the voice of God becomes indispensable to our lives as children of God. This is the source of our direction, and this is where we get to know what to do in each and every situation facing us, whether good or bad. The Lord expects us to be acquainted with his voice, so that we can hear him when he speaks. Jesus says, “My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me” (John 10:27).

Are you still bearing any needless pain? “Oh what needless pain we bear, all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer”, says the song ‘What a friend we have in Jesus’. Today, get rid of the needless pain, anxiety, sorrow and tears, by carrying all these to God in prayer.

We are still on this detective journey, where the techniques for an assured victory are being revealed to us. Rev. Ahia-Armah looks at the third victory technique in Chapter 7. This, I believe, is crucial to the Christian life itself. This technique is FAITH. The Bible says that without faith, no one can please God (Hebrews 11:6). The Christian life is usually referred to as Christian Faith. This tells us how crucial faith is to all we do as Christians. In fact, we dare say that without faith, there is no Christianity!

Chapter 6, as we saw, was about David inquiring and hearing from God. This is what God said in response:

Pursue them," he answered. "You will certainly overtake them and succeed in the rescue. (1 Sam 30:8b)

The Bible continues, “So David went...........”. When direction comes from God, we need to move with faith - just as David did - and claim the victory God has lain before us. David acted in response to God’s direction, and such is faith.

In this chapter, the writer leads us through various ways we can keep our faith in God active, so as to produce results and win battles. Rev. Ahia-Armah says that faith is the answer to every question that life will ask you. Is anything threatening you right now? Only faith in Christ will bring you salvation. This is why Rev. Ahia-Armah writes, “…take notice that it was the faith connection that released God’s hands to do what He had said He will do”.

Read this chapter in the book, ‘Victory Techniques’, and you will get more clues about how you can nurture and apply faith in life situations, to bring victory both to yourself and to the Kingdom of God. By the time you’ve read up to this point, I believe your faith level will have risen, and you will feel that you can tackle any situation at all.

Rev. Ahia-Armah shows us another technique we should add to faith. He writes, “Although David had received a word of direction from the Lord, and had believed that word, there was yet another hurdle to jump towards victory”. Chapter 8 reveals how we should engage in the battle itself, with the faith that we have. The Bible says that it took David and his men over twenty-four hours of fighting with their enemies. It took long hours of persistent and determined fight from David’s troops, to see the fulfilment of the prophetic word they received from God. We are to notice here that although God shows us the way to victory, we are to engage ourselves in the battle, and we must fight to win the battle.
Rev. Ahia-Armah contrasts the victories of the Israelites in the wilderness under Moses, and the victory of archangel Michael and his army over Satan, with the battle which David and his men fought with the Amalekites. Through these events, Rev. Ahia-Armah shows that we have to fight the battle with all our strength. However long you fight, victory will arrive one day, so don’t give up. Don’t ignore the spiritual drumbeats of war!

Chapter 9 brings us an interesting aspect of the victory line God places before us his children. This quote from the book just says it all:

“Every human being, irrespective of his status, has something significant to offer. Let us show respect to what people have, and this will bring a big blessing to us. Abraham entertained strangers who turned out to be carriers of the greatest need in his life – the son of promise. Maintenance of good relationship is a victory technique. The greatest gifts you have around you are people. Maintain a good relationship at all times, and shouts of victory will be heard from your dwelling place”.

I think these words have said it all, when it comes to this chapter. We will get more tips to help us know how we can create and maintain good friendships that will help us in the path of victory.

This chapter looks at how David and his men found a dying Egyptian slave in the wilderness; how they rescued him; and how this slave turned out to be the person who showed them the way to the Amalekite camps. God has placed agents of victory in your life, and you will only be doing the best if you find these people and allow them to have the exact impact in your life that God has appointed them for.

Having used all the techniques that Rev. Ahia-Armah has been leading us through, in this wonderful book, David and his men fought the battle for long hours. Just as God told David, there was total victory. He and his men recovered everything they had lost.

Rev. Ahia-Armah beautifully ends the book on the last technique, which I will call ‘GRATITUDE’. It is said in Psalm 20 that others will rejoice when we are victorious. Indeed, many are waiting to celebrate and praise the Lord for our victories in life.

In Chapter 10, the writer urges us not to mistreat people who mistreated us while we were in difficulty. He helps us to see that our victory is for a bigger goal. We are to shout aloud when we are victorious, for the people of God to rejoice with us. We are to share the spoil of war with our friends and our leaders.

He writes, “Giving to the elders is a victory technique. It helps maintain our victory, and places us at the disposal of God’s unction upon elders”.

Do remember, when the difficult times come - and they will surely come - Jesus says, “Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age”. Isaiah 43:2 also states:

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.

Do remember that we are in a battle. Therefore, let us not leave our lives unguarded. And when we are at the battlefront, let us not be anxious or blame other people for it. Rather, we are to seek the face of the Lord. We will receive direction from him, and by faith we will march on and fight the
enemy, while retaining our good relationships. And when we are victorious, let us share the blessings with the company of believers - the people whom God has placed in our lives.

This book contains excellent material for group or individual Bible study. Readers from all walks of life will be able to identify with, and link its truths, guidance and counsel, to situations in their work, business, marriage, family life, ministry, and church. Whatever your situation, if you want to see God’s plans come to fruition in your life, this book is for you!
I am grateful to Rev. Ahia-Armah for this eye-opening, faith-stirring book which I believe will help every child of God to march on and enjoy greater victory.

God bless you richly!

‘Whatever happens, and however long it takes, victory is the portion of the believer.’

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