

Another Day in the Battlefield

Strength runs out of the soul at the scene of hundreds of soldiers coming against us; woe is us! So we think and feel in the battlefield. Nevertheless the armor of the Lord is always ready for us to fight or defend ourselves with. Many times we have to be reminded of it. King David won many battles in great faith and trust in the Lord, especially that against the giant Goliath. Sometimes we get so overwhelmed with our battle that all we see is a giant coming against us, and fail to see our Lord at our side battling for us. David didn't look at the size of the giant; he focused only on one thing: to get rid of him, and he did it in the strength of the Lord with just a few stones in his sling. Victory never seemed impossible to him. When we focus on the size of our enemy, faith seems to get smaller and we are faced alone with our problem, because we lose spiritual focus, which would give strength to go on, no matter how great the battle would look to us.

The Lord's strength never fails. After a while being in the battlefield with the same situation we become tired and discouraged and lose the strength to go on. When Israel saw the size of the Egyptian army coming against them, they cried to the Lord and were delivered from them. When King Jehoshaphat realized the strength of the three armies coming against him, he turned to the Lord and through the weapon of praises, he and Israel were delivered. When we run away from our battles, we fail to accomplish the will of YAHWEH. The Lord never calls us to suffer alone; our battles are also His battles. The struggles we face are for the strengthening of our faith; they bring us closer to God, they teach us to persevere and they test our faith. One more day in the battlefield is, according to Peter, for the genuineness of our faith to be tested, to redound to praise and glory and honor at the coming of our Lord YAHSHUA (I Peter 1:7). When we are in the battlefield of persecution, we are to be reminded that all that suffering is not to be compared to the glory which will be revealed to us. The early Christians suffered great persecutions and many died as martyrs for Christ; not forgetting that today many continue suffering and being killed for the love of Christ. However, of this one thing they are sure: beyond the blue sky there is a mansion prepared for them, where they will live eternally free to worship the Lord.

When we are in the battlefield of sickness, we claim His promise, "By His stripes we are healed". Yes, we are. But sometimes sickness is for death, and not for healing. Our Lord has called many saints home through it, without this promise being fulfilled in their life. It is good to be submissive to what God has for us in the experience of sickness. He will accomplish His purpose in each life differently, but His promises remain true. It is in the battlefield that we have the opportunity to apply the word of God and acquire a deeper understanding of its meaning. God's promises are not to be claimed as we see fit; they are to be earned through obedience to His word in the context of His whole Word. If I am chosen to be molded according to the image of His Son YAHSHUA, then I am called to suffer. Paul was a good soldier in his battlefield; as a good soldier he fought the good fight and was ready to receive his reward of a crown. King Josiah, the most faithful king that reigned in Israel, with great zeal for the word of

God, was killed in the battlefield. He was still very young, with much zeal to continue the work for the Lord. When in the battlefield we must realize our position with God. Are we submitting our will to His? Or are we blaming Him for not fulfilling His promises in us? All the apostles were martyred in the battlefield, fighting for the cause of Christ. Stephen's death was to him victory, when we read the manner in which he died- by the death of stoning. He died filled with the Holy Spirit and controlled by Him, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and YAHSHUA standing at God's right hand (Acts 7: 55). And while they continue to stone him he prayed, Lord Jesus, receive and accept and welcome my spirit! And falling on his knees, he cried out loudly, Lord fix not this sin upon them! And when he had said this, he fell asleep (v.59-60). That reminds us of our Savior's word before he died for those who were killing Him.

Many are the wars we face and many are their characteristics. The believer, however, needs to distinguish the enemy and his strategies against him. He needs to know when to defend himself and when to attack. He needs to follow the One Who is the Lord of Hosts- his commander and surrender all to Him. For him the victory will come through death or by healing in the case of sickness. Job was a good fighter in his battlefield and he was blessed with double the blessings he had before. That was the will of God for him. For each of us, we don't really know what is ahead for us; we must be certain of who holds our life and our future. It is a must to seek His will and act upon it, as the dark clouds cover our heads and the light becomes dim.

They tried to kill the apostle John by putting him in a cauldron of hot water; unsuccessful with the idea, they sent to a deserted Island to die. God's plan for him had not being accomplished yet; he was to receive a message to give to the world about the end of times. God used him to reveal the Apocalypse the world will go through. Whatever He has for you and me, it must be accomplished through our obedience and submission, no matter what it takes. When we are weak He will be strong in us in our battlefield. Moses, when fighting the enemy had to have help, when he became weak and no longer could keep his arms up. There will be times when the battle will be intense and we will become weak, but God will provide someone to lift our arms up to receive the strength needed, for His work must be done. Whatever battlefield you are in, give up all your self-sufficiency and rely on the Lord's. Soon you will find out how much easier it will be. Let go and let God do the work for you; He is only a prayer away! Be strong in the Lord and in His might power (Ephesians 6:10). Let His Word comfort you in your battlefield. He says to Israel and to all who believe His Word: Listen to Me, house of Jacob, (your name) all the remnant of the house of Israel, **who have been sustained from the womb, carried along since birth. I will be the same until your old age, and I will bear you when you turn gray. I have made you, and I will carry you; I will bear and save you (Is. 46: 3-4).**