

God's Battle Strategy Pt. 4

March 1, 2020

WE LIVE IN A CRUEL AND BLOODY BATTLEFIELD WHERE SIN IS CROUCHING AND SATAN IS PROWLING

2 Chronicles 20:1-2 ESV

1 After this the Moabites and Ammonites, and with them some of the Meunites, came against Jehoshaphat for battle.

2 Some men came and told Jehoshaphat, "A great multitude is coming against you from Edom, from beyond the sea; and, behold, they are in Hazazon-tamar" (that is, Engedi).

Ephesians 6:12 ESV

12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

Genesis 4:7 ESV

7 If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it.

1 Peter 5:8 ESV

8 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

THERE CAN BE ONLY ONE REACTION TO FEAR

2 Chronicles 20:3 ESV

3 Then Jehoshaphat was afraid and set his face to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah.

"So, first of all, let me assert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself—nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts to convert retreat into advance."

President Franklin D. Roosevelt, March 4, 1933

2 Timothy 1:7 ESV

ESV "for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control."

CSB "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but one of power, love, and sound judgment."

Psalms 56:2-4 ESV

2 my enemies trample on me all day long, for many attack me proudly.

3 When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.

4 In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me?

DON'T BECOME ISOLATED - ASSEMBLE WITH GOD'S PEOPLE

2 Chronicles 20:4 ESV

4 And Judah assembled to seek help from the LORD; from all the cities of Judah they came to seek the LORD.

5 And Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the LORD, before the new court,

Nehemiah 4:17,19,20 ESV

17 Those who carried burdens were loaded in such a way that each labored on the work with one hand and held his weapon with the other.

19 And I said to the nobles and to the officials and to the rest of the people, "The work is great and widely spread, and we are separated on the wall, far from one another.

20 In the place where you hear the sound of the trumpet, rally to us there. Our God will fight for us.

Hebrews 10:24-25 ESV

24 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works,

25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Ephesians 4:16 ESV

16 from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

"People who attend religious services tend to live longer than those who don't. In a 12 year study of people over age 65, those who went more than once a week had higher levels of a key immune system protein than their peers who didn't. The strong social network that develops among people who worship together may contribute to your overall health."

Medicine Net, 18 Secrets for a Long Life, Get Spiritual,

2/22/2020

REMEMBER GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY

2 Chronicles 20:6 ESV

6 and said, "O LORD, God of our fathers, are you not God in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. In your hand are power and might, so that none is able to withstand you.

Jeremiah 32:17 ESV

17 Ah, Lord GOD! It is you who have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you.

Psalms 139:16 ESV

16 Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.

Job 31:4 ESV

4 Does not he see my ways and number all my steps?

REMEMBER AND RECOUNT GOD'S MIRACLES

2 Chronicles 20:7 ESV

7 Did you not, our God, drive out the inhabitants of this land before your people Israel, and give it forever to the descendants of Abraham your friend?

Psalm 40:9-10 ESV

9 I have told the glad news of deliverance in the great congregation; behold, I have not restrained my lips, as you know, O LORD.

10 I have not hidden your deliverance within my heart; I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation; I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness from the great congregation.

Psalm 71:15-18 ESV

15 My mouth will tell of your righteous acts, of your deeds of salvation all the day, for their number is past my knowledge.

16 With the mighty deeds of the Lord GOD I will come; I will remind them of your righteousness, yours alone.

17 O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds.

18 So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those to come.

Malachi 3:16 ESV

16 Then those who feared the LORD spoke with one another. The LORD paid attention and heard them, and a book of remembrance was written before him of those who feared the LORD and esteemed his name.

REMEMBER GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

2 Chronicles 20:8-9 ESV

8 And they have lived in it and have built for you in it a sanctuary for your name, saying,

9 'If disaster comes upon us, the sword, judgment, or pestilence, or famine, we will stand before this house and before you--for your name is in this house--and cry out to you in our affliction, and you will hear and save.'

Deuteronomy 31:6 ESV

6 Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the LORD your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you."

Psalm 37:24 ESV

24 though he fall, he shall not be cast headlong, for the LORD upholds his hand.

Psalm 37:25 ESV

25 I have been young, and now am old, yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken or his children begging for bread.

Lamentations 3:22-23 ESV

22 The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end;

23 they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

REMEMBER GOD'S WORD AND PROMISES

2 Chronicles 20:10-11 ESV

10 And now behold, the men of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir, whom you would not let Israel invade when they came from the land of Egypt, and whom they avoided and did not destroy--

11 behold, they reward us by coming to drive us out of your possession, which you have given us to inherit.

Psalm 119:28 ESV

28 My soul melts away for sorrow; strengthen me according to your word!

Psalm 119:50 ESV

50 This is my comfort in my affliction, that your promise gives me life.

Psalm 119:92-93 ESV

92 If your law had not been my delight, I would have perished in my affliction.

93 I will never forget your precepts, for by them you have given me life.

REMEMBER YOUR UTTER DEPENDENCE ON GOD

2 Chronicles 20:12 ESV

12 O our God, will you not execute judgment on them? For we are powerless against this great horde that is coming against us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you."

John 15:5 ESV

5 ...apart from me you can do nothing.

Psalm 127:1 ESV

1 Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.

Matthew 7:21-23 ESV

21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

22 On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?'

23 And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'

2 Corinthians 12:9 ESV

9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Jeremiah 17:5 ESV

5 Thus says the LORD: "Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the LORD."

DON'T RELY ON YOUR WISDOM OR PERSPECTIVE

2 Chronicles 20:12 ESV

12 O our God, will you not execute judgment on them? For we are powerless against this great horde that is coming against us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you."

Proverbs 3:5-7 ESV

5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.

6 In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

7 Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil.

1 Corinthians 2:9-10 ESV

9 But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him"--

10 these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.

FIX YOUR EYES - GUARD WHAT YOU SEE AND HEAR

2 Chronicles 20:12 ESV

12 O our God, will you not execute judgment on them? For we are powerless against this great horde that is coming against us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you."

Matthew 14:28-30 ESV

28 And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water."

29 He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus.

30 But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me."

Hebrews 12:1-2 NASB

1 ...let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Psalms 119:37 ESV

37 Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things; and give me life in your ways.

2 Corinthians 4:16,18 NASB

16 Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.

18 while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen...

LISTEN FOR GOD'S DIRECTION, BOTH INDIVIDUALLY AND CORPORATELY

2 Chronicles 20:13-14 ESV

13 Meanwhile all Judah stood before the LORD, with their little ones, their wives, and their children.

14 And the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, son of Benaiah, son of Jeiel, son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, in the midst of the assembly.

James 1:5 NASB

5 But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

1 Corinthians 12:7-11 ESV

7 To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

8 For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit,
9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit,
10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.
11 All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

PRAYER IS WHERE THE WORK IS DONE AND THE BATTLE WON

2 Chronicles 20:15-17 ESV

15 And he said, "Listen, all Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem and King Jehoshaphat: Thus says the LORD to you, 'Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed at this great horde, for the battle is not yours but God's.

16 Tomorrow go down against them. Behold, they will come up by the ascent of Ziz. You will find them at the end of the valley, east of the wilderness of Jeruel.

17 You will not need to fight in this battle. Stand firm, hold your position, and see the salvation of the LORD on your behalf, O Judah and Jerusalem.' Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed. Tomorrow go out against them, and the LORD will be with you."

- ***Your battleground is prayer; let God fight your enemies and resolve the circumstances. Prayer is releasing your control to God's control, however He chooses to move.***

1 Peter 5:6-8 ESV

6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you,
7 casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

8 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

Psalms 37:5 ESV

5 Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act.

- ***Your battle is absolute surrender to God's will and ways. Once surrendered, God can and will have His way in your life.***

Luke 22:41-44 ESV

41 And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed,

42 saying, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done."

43 And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him.

44 And being in agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

Luke 23:46 ESV

Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last.

- ***Victory is not you getting your way but God getting His way. Success is not you winning, but God winning. God's victories are eternal, our victories are only for a moment.***

Matthew 26:51-54 ESV

51 And behold, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear.

52 Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its place. For all who take the sword will perish by the sword.

53 Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels?

54 But how then should the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must be so?"

- **Prayers have great power only when they are fully surrendered to God, His will, His way, His time. God answers prayers; He doesn't answer selfishness.**

James 5:16 ESV

16 The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

1 John 5:14-15 ESV

14 And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us.

15 And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.

- **Victory is not the absence of problems. Victory is facing your problems in perfect peace, fully surrendered and fully convinced of God's goodness.**

Philippians 4:5-7 ESV

5 Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand;

6 do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Romans 8:35 ESV

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?

Romans 8:37 ESV

37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

- **No matter how great the trial, the pain or the suffering, God's goodness, peace and strength will always be infinitely greater through the surrender in prayer.**

1 Corinthians 10:13 ESV

13 No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

BE QUICK TO LISTEN FOR GODLY COUNSEL

2 Chronicles 20:21 ESV

21 And when he had taken counsel with the people, he appointed those who were to sing to the LORD and praise him in holy attire, as they went before the army, and say, "Give thanks to the LORD, for his steadfast love

endures forever."

Acts 6:3 ESV

3 Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty.

PRAISE AND WORSHIP IS SPIRITUAL WARFARE

2 Chronicles 20:22 ESV

22 And when they began to sing and praise, the LORD set an ambush against the men of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah, so that they were routed.

23 For the men of Ammon and Moab rose against the inhabitants of Mount Seir, devoting them to destruction, and when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, they all helped to destroy one another.

24 When Judah came to the watchtower of the wilderness, they looked toward the horde, and behold, there were dead bodies lying on the ground; none had escaped.

- ***God is enthroned and inhabits the worship and praise of His people. He moves freely and with great power when He alone is exalted.***

Acts 16:25-26 ESV

25 About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them,

26 and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. And immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's bonds were unfastened.

- ***The Church is supernaturally built with living stones, placed and fit together by the very hands of God, to be the spiritual temple housing God's presence and worship on the earth.***

1 Peter 2:5 ESV

5 you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 2:19-22 ESV

19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,

20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone,

21 in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.

22 In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

- ***The Church is supernaturally built by the Holy Spirit, not by human hands nor growth and marketing strategies.***

1 Corinthians 12:18 ESV

18 But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose.