

FIGHTING FOR OTHERS

Joshua 10:1-14 (NLT)

- There are lots of people who need help from the Lord and His people (Joshua 10:3-6).
- Question – *“Who are some of the hurting and hopeless people in the world around me?”*
- To help the hurting people of our world, we must be willing to sacrifice our comfort and fight on behalf of others like Joshua and the Israelites were willing to do (Joshua 10:6-9).
- The battle between the Israelites and the five Canaanite kings was a strategic battle in Israel’s conquering of the Promised Land. (Joshua 10:1-27).
- Just as the Lord fought on behalf of the Israelites when they fought for others, He will fight for us in our day and time (Joshua 10:1-14).

OUR STORY REMINDS US THAT:

WE CAN EXPECT CONFLICT IN OUR LIVES

- Life is filled with all types of “battles.”
- Question–*“What are some ‘battles’ I’ve had to fight in my life?”*

Sometimes We Will Have To Fight:

- **SOCIETAL BATTLES ON BEHALF OF OTHERS**
 - *“The men of Gibeon quickly sent messengers to Joshua at Gilgal, ‘Don’t abandon your servants now!’ they pleaded. ‘Come quickly and save us! For all the Amorite kings who live in the hill country have come out against us with their armies.’”* (Joshua 10:6 NLT)
 - **We live in a world where people are mistreated physically, emotionally, financially and verbally.**
 - **Abusive and malicious people are under the influence of the Devil.**
 - JESUS – *“The thief (Devil) comes only to steal and kill and destroy.”* (John 10:10 NIV)
 - **The Lord has given us a mandate to help the hurting and threatened people of our world.**
 - *“There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be openhanded toward your brothers and toward the poor and needy in your land.”* (Deut 15:8, 11 NIV)

- "Some of you . . . are evil, and you lie and cheat to make yourselves rich. . . . You refuse to help the poor get the justice they deserve. (Jeremiah 5:26-28 CEV)
- JESUS – "When you put on a luncheon or a dinner . . . invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. Then at the resurrection of the godly, God will reward you for inviting those who could not repay you." (Luke 14:13 NLT)
- **Justice is always worth fighting for – and there will be no justice without battles.**

- **SPIRITUAL BATTLES FOR OURSELVES**

- **We live in a world where there is always conflict between God (good) and the Devil (evil) and so when we become Christians we enter into that spiritual conflict.**
- "Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms." (Ephesians 6:10-12 NIV)
- **The Lord has given us some "spiritual weaponry" to help us in our battle with the forces of evil (2 Cor 10:4).**

Our "spiritual weaponry" includes the:

1. **Armor of God**

- "Use every piece of God's armor to resist the enemy in the time of evil . . . Stand your ground, putting on the sturdy belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness. For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News, so that you will be fully prepared. In every battle you will need faith as your shield to stop the fiery arrows aimed at you by Satan. Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." (Ephesians 6:13-17)
- **We put on the "armor of God" through prayer (Eph 6:18-20)**

2. **Artillery of God**

- "The sword of the Spirit is the word of God." (Eph 6:17 NLT)
- "Paul got so exasperated that he turned and spoke to the demon within her. 'I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her,' he said. And instantly it left her." (Acts 16:18 NLT)

- *“They have defeated him (the devil) because of the blood of the Lamb and because of their testimony. And they were not afraid to die.” (Revelation 12:11 NLT)*
- **We utilize the “artillery of God” through prayer, witnessing and spiritual confrontation.**
- **Question – “What kind of ‘battles’ am I in or should I be in, and what steps am I taking to ‘win’ those ‘battles’?”**

OUR STORY REMINDS US THAT:

WE CAN EXPERIENCE CONQUEST IN OUR LIVES

- There can be no “victories” in our lives if there are no “battles” to be won.

To Experience Godly Victory We Must:

- **LIVE COMPASSIONATELY**
 - *“Joshua and the entire Israelite army left Gilgal and set out to rescue Gibeon.” (Joshua 10:7 NLT)*
 - **We must be sensitive to, concerned about and responsive to the needs of others.**
 - *“When He (Jesus) saw the crowds, He felt compassion for them, because they were weary and worn out, like sheep without a shepherd.” (Matthew 9:36 HCSB)*
 - *“As God's chosen people . . . clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.” (Colossians 3:12 NIV)*
 - **Question – “What mistreated persons or people group do I need to be assisting?”**
- **LIVE CONFIDENTLY**
 - *“Do not be afraid of them (the Amorites), the LORD said to Joshua, ‘for I will give you victory over them. Not a single one of them will be able to stand up to you.’” (Joshua 10:8 NLT)*
 - **People struggle with “fear” more than any other negative emotion in the world.**
 - **The primary “fear” I struggle with in life is**
_____.
 - *“The LORD is my light and my salvation— so why should I be afraid? The LORD protects me from danger— so why should I tremble?” (Psalm 27:1 NLT)*
 - **We must purpose to live by “faith” rather than by “fear.”**
 - The LORD – *“Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.” (Joshua 1:9 NKJV)*

- **Our confidence must be in the Lord and we must always believe that He will fulfill His promises to us.**
- *"The LORD is faithful to all his promises."* (Psalm 145:13)
- **LIVE SUPERNATURALLY**
 - In the Joshua 10 story the Lord worked miraculously to:*
 - 1. **Send down Hailstones from Heaven (Joshua 10:11)**
 - **Large groups of men have died throughout the centuries as result of hailstorms.**
 - 2. **Stop the Sun from descending (Joshua 10:13)**
 - **The miracle of the "sun standing still for a day" can be substantiated scientifically and historically.**
 - **The "laws of nature" are simply "laws" that follow the "law of God."**
 - **The Lord will fight for us just as He fought for the Israelites (Joshua 10:8, 14).**
 - *"The battle is the Lord's . . ."* (1 Samuel 17:47 NKJV)
 - **The Lord wants us to experience the "miraculous" in our lives on a daily basis.**
 - *"Great is the LORD! He is most worthy of praise! . . . Let each generation tell its children of Your mighty acts. I will meditate on your majestic, glorious splendor and your wonderful miracles."* (Psalm 145:3-5 NLT)
 - **Question – "What mighty and miraculous works have I witnessed the Lord performing in, for and through my life, or in, for and through the lives of others?"**
 - **We must daily depend on the mighty power, provision and protection of the Lord.**
- **The Lord wants us to experience victory in the "now life" as well as the "next life."**
 - *"In all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us."* (Romans 8:37 NIV)
 - *"Thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ."* (2 Corinthians 2:14 NKJV)
- **God's plan for us is not the subtraction of problems from our lives, but the addition of God's power to our lives.**
 - **When we live in and by God's purposes and power we will have victory over all obstacles and opposition.**
 - *"If God is for us, no one (or nothing) can stand against us!"* (Romans 8:31 NKJV)

- **Question – “*What is the Lord primarily communicating to me through this message, and what are some steps I can take to respond to this message?*”**

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