

## The Battle is Not Yours

Dr. John Carmichael

[2Ch 20:22-23, 27-30 NASB95] 22 When they began singing and praising, the LORD set ambushes against the sons of Ammon, Moab and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; so they were routed. 23 For the sons of Ammon and Moab rose up against the inhabitants of Mount Seir destroying [them] completely; and when they had finished with the inhabitants of Seir, they helped to destroy one another. ... 27 Every man of Judah and Jerusalem returned with Jehoshaphat at their head, returning to Jerusalem with joy, for the LORD had made them to rejoice over their enemies. 28 They came to Jerusalem with harps, lyres and trumpets to the house of the LORD. 29 And the dread of God was on all the kingdoms of the lands when they heard that the LORD had fought against the enemies of Israel. 30 So the kingdom of Jehoshaphat was at peace, for his God gave him rest on all sides.

- Life has a way of surrounding us. Pressure from multiple directions, problems that feel bigger than our capacity, and moments where we honestly don't know what to do next. Many believers love God sincerely yet still live as though they are fighting alone.
- 2 Chronicles 20 reminds us that confidence in God is not automatic. It is cultivated. Jehoshaphat shows us how to respond when fear shows up and enemies advance. This is a story not just about God's power, but about our posture.

**What do we do when the battles we face are bigger than our strength and we don't know what to do?**

**Here are six truths that we need to realize that helps us to trust the God is fighting our battles.**

### I. When Fear Comes, Turn Your Heart to Seek the Lord

- a. [2Ch 20:3-4 NASB95] 3 Jehoshaphat was afraid and turned his attention to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. 4 So Judah gathered together to seek help from the LORD; they even came from all the cities of Judah to seek the LORD.
- b. Fear is inevitable, but where you turn in fear determines who fights your battle.
- c. [Psa 34:4 NASB95] 4 I sought the LORD, and He answered me, And delivered me from all my fears.
- d. Trusting God rather than leaning on our own understanding. [Pro 3:5-6 NASB95] 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 your paths straight.
- e. Fear is not a failure; remaining passive in fear is. Seeking God means intentional movement: prayer, fasting, gathering with God's people. Instead of rehearsing the problem, rehearse the presence of God.

### II. Build Confidence by Remembering Who God Is

- a. [2Ch 20:5-9 NASB95] 5 Then Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the LORD before the new court, 6 and he said, "O LORD, the God of our fathers, are You not God in the heavens? And are You not ruler over all the kingdoms of the nations? Power and might are in Your hand so that no one can stand against You. 7 "Did You not, O our God, drive out the inhabitants of this land before Your people Israel and give it to the descendants of Abraham Your friend forever? 8 "They have lived in it, and have built You a sanctuary there for Your name, saying, 9 'Should evil come upon us, the sword, [or] judgment, or pestilence, or famine, we will stand before this house and before You (for Your name is in this house) and cry to You in our distress, and You will hear and deliver [us.]'
- b. Confidence grows when prayer starts with God's character, not our crisis.

## **The Battle is Not Yours**

**Dr. John Carmichael**

- c. God is faithful to His word. [Num 23:19 NASB95] 19 "God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent; Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?"
- d. God does not change. [Heb 13:8 NASB95] 8 Jesus Christ [is] the same yesterday and today and forever.
- e. Remind yourself of God's past faithfulness: personally and biblically. Speak God's sovereignty aloud in prayer. Confidence isn't denial of trouble; it's declaration of truth.

### **III. Admit Your Limits and Fix Your Eyes on God**

- a. [2Ch 20:12 NASB95] 12 "O our God, will You not judge them? For we are powerless before this great multitude who are coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are on You."
- b. Victory begins when self-reliance ends.
- c. [Psa 121:1-2 NASB95] 1 A Song of Ascents. I will lift up my eyes to the mountains; From where shall my help come? 2 My help [comes] from the LORD, Who made heaven and earth.
- d. God's power is perfected in weakness. [2Co 12:9 NASB95] 9 And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.
- e. Stop pretending you have it all together. Shift your focus from outcomes to obedience. Fixing your eyes on God is an act of faith, not passivity.

### **IV. Trust God's Word: The Battle Belongs to Him**

- a. [2Ch 20:15-17 NASB95] 15 and he said, "Listen, all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem and King Jehoshaphat: thus says the LORD to you, 'Do not fear or be dismayed because of this great multitude, 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, and you will find them at the end of the valley in front of the wilderness of Jeruel. 17 'You [need] not fight in this [battle;] station yourselves, stand and see the salvation of the LORD on your behalf, O Judah and Jerusalem.' Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out to face them, for the LORD is with you."
- b. God does not just comfort His people. He confronts their enemies.
- c. [Exo 14:14 NASB95] 14 "The LORD will fight for you while you keep silent."
- d. [Rom 8:31 NASB95] 31 What then shall we say to these things? If God [is] for us, who [is] against us?
- e. Believe what God says, even when circumstances disagree. Stand where God tells you to stand. Waiting is not weakness when it's obedience.

### **V. Praise Before the Victory Is Seen**

- a. [2Ch 20:18-22 NASB95] 18 Jehoshaphat bowed his head with [his] face to the ground, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell down before the LORD, worshiping the LORD. 19 The Levites, from the sons of the Kohathites and of the sons of the Korahites, stood up to praise the LORD God of Israel, with a very loud voice. 20 They rose early in the morning and went out to the wilderness of Tekoa; and when they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Listen to me, O Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem, put your trust in the LORD your God and you will be established. Put your trust in His prophets and succeed." 21 When he had consulted with the people, he appointed those who sang to the LORD and those who praised [Him] in holy attire, as they went out before the army and said, "Give thanks to the LORD, for His lovingkindness is everlasting." 22 When they began singing and praising, the LORD set ambushes

## **The Battle is Not Yours**

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against the sons of Ammon, Moab and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; so they were routed.

- b. Praise is spiritual warfare that releases God's intervention.
- c. God inhabits the praises of His people. [Psa 22:3 NASB95] 3 Yet You are holy, O You who are enthroned upon the praises of Israel.
- d. Praise precedes deliverance. [Act 16:25-26 NASB95] 25 But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and the prisoners were listening to them; 26 and suddenly there came a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison house were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened.
- e. Praise shifts the atmosphere before it shifts the outcome. Worship God for who He is, not just what He does. Gratitude declares trust before the breakthrough.

### **VI. Watch God Bring Victory and Rest**

- a. [2Ch 20:24-30 NASB95] 24 When Judah came to the lookout of the wilderness, they looked toward the multitude, and behold, they [were] corpses lying on the ground, and no one had escaped. 25 When Jehoshaphat and his people came to take their spoil, they found much among them, [including] goods, garments and valuable things which they took for themselves, more than they could carry. And they were three days taking the spoil because there was so much. 26 Then on the fourth day they assembled in the valley of Beracah, for there they blessed the LORD. Therefore they have named that place "The Valley of Beracah" until today. 27 Every man of Judah and Jerusalem returned with Jehoshaphat at their head, returning to Jerusalem with joy, for the LORD had made them to rejoice over their enemies. 28 They came to Jerusalem with harps, lyres and trumpets to the house of the LORD. 29 And the dread of God was on all the kingdoms of the lands when they heard that the LORD had fought against the enemies of Israel. 30 So the kingdom of Jehoshaphat was at peace, for his God gave him rest on all sides.
- b. God's victories are complete. He brings deliverance, blessing, and rest.
- c. God causes enemies to flee. [Deu 28:7 NASB95] 7 "The LORD shall cause your enemies who rise up against you to be defeated before you; they will come out against you one way and will flee before you seven ways.
- d. Jesus gives rest to the weary. [Mat 11:28-29 NASB95] 28 "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. 29 "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS.
- e. Expect God not only to deliver you, but to restore you. Testimony strengthens others' faith. Rest is the fruit of trusting God fully.

- **When God's people turn their eyes toward Him in prayer and praise, God steps in and fights the battles they cannot fight themselves.**
- This story teaches us that God is not distant, silent, or indifferent. He is present, powerful, and actively fighting on behalf of those who seek Him. The confidence that God fights our battles is not wishful thinking. It is cultivated through prayer, humility, trust, and praise.
- When our eyes are on Him, His hand moves on our behalf.