

# WAR FOR ONE

Hi and welcome to week three of our Series "War for one" Last week P. Mark taught us who our enemy is and what tactics he uses against us. Today we will learn How we are to fight our battles.

All throughout the bible we see a pattern of spiritual warfare and breakthrough with the power of praise. In the battle of Jericho, God used the sound of trumpets and the shouts of his people to physically tear down the walls of the enemy. In 2 Kings Chapter 3 - Elisha asked for a harp to play, and as a result, the power of God came upon him to prophesy. And many of you may remember that David's harp soothed the tormenting spirit that plagued Saul.

**1. What impossible battle are you facing right now? Ask yourself how will you fight this battle?**

Let's look at other stories in the Bible to teach us this morning how we are to fight our battles. The most important step in the battle, as we will see, is to realize that we do not battle alone.

Let's look at one of my favorite stories in the Bible found in 2 Chronicles 20

**2. Stop and Read 2 Chronicles 20 together. What did you notice about this story? What Did the Lord highlight to you as you were reading?**

The People came and told King Jehoshaphat, that a number of their enemies were coming to attack them from beyond the Dead Sea and from Edom. Starting at verse 3 it says, "Jehoshaphat was afraid, and he resolved to seek the Lord. Then he proclaimed a fast for all Judah, who gathered to seek the Lord."

Let's stop here for a moment. I want us to see two things. First, Jehoshaphat just learned that a fierce battle was coming his way and the Bible tells us he was afraid.

**3. In your current situation, what are you afraid of? What do you need to surrender to the Lord right now?**

Regardless of how many times the Lord exhorts us Do not be afraid, the simple fact of the matter is we are human and sometimes our initial reaction is fear.

Secondly, It's natural to be afraid at first. It's what you do next that matters. You see Jehoshaphat's fear of the Lord was greater than his fear of his enemies which is why it drove him to utterly abandon himself to God in this powerful prayer. Starting at verse 6,

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*"Yahweh, the God of our ancestors, are You not the God who is in heaven, and do You not rule over all the kingdoms of the nations? Power and might are in Your hand, and no one can stand against You. Are You not our God who drove out the inhabitants of this land before Your people Israel and who gave it forever to the descendants of Abraham Your friend?"*

Jehoshaphat is calling on who God is; his very nature! Then he continues to pray and declare what he has done and promises to do.

*"They have lived in the land and have built You a sanctuary in it for Your name and have said, 'If disaster comes on us—sword or judgment, pestilence or famine—we will stand before this temple and before You, for Your name is in this temple. We will cry out to You because of our distress, and You will hear and deliver (v. 6-9).'"*

*"10 Now here are the Ammonites, Moabites, and the inhabitants of Mount Seir. You did not let Israel invade them when Israel came out of the land of Egypt, but Israel turned away from them and did not destroy them. 11 Look how they repay us by coming to drive us out of Your possession that You gave us as an inheritance. 12 Our God, will You not judge them? For we are powerless before this vast number that comes to fight against us. We do not know what to do, but we look to You."*

I love this! King Jehoshaphat basically is saying to God it's your possession and You are the one who gave it us. Surely you're not just gonna allow them to roll up in here and take it from us are you? And probably the most significant thing he prays is WE ARE POWERLESS. In those three simple words King Jehoshaphat is humbly admitting their total dependence and need for the Lord. They admit, they don't know what to do, but they know the one who always knows what to do - The God who has consistently delivered them.

I wonder how many of us get so caught up in trying to win the battle in our own strength. Sometimes we need to hit that rock bottom place before we really recognize our desperate need of our savior.

I hope you would be greatly encouraged after you hear God's beautiful response to His people's prayer. Speaking through a prophet In verse 15 He says,

*"Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast number, for the battle is not yours, but God's."*

Woooahh Okay HOLD UP!!! Did you catch that? Who does the battle belong to? YESSS. The battle belongs to the GOD! Turn to your neighbor and say HALLELUJAH this is not my fight!

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Recently I was reminded of this truth! I was interceding for a loved one and I felt exhausted. When I reached out to P Mike, he reminded me that whenever he feels like that, its often because he's trying to make something happen. In that moment, I realized that's what I was doing. I was interceding trying to make something happen instead of interceding to surrender the situation to the Lord so that He can make something happen.

Another wise minster once told me, Theresa when you are working God is waiting but when you are waiting God is working.

## **4. What would you rather do - work or wait?**

Sometimes we get so impatient waiting for results or answered prayer we can accidentally try and take the reigns out of the Lord's hands. That would be a big mistake, AMEN?

Lets keep reading, because if the battle belongs to the Lord and He is the one fighting for us what are we suppose to do? How do we fight in the battle? Picking up in the story at verse 16 the Lord tells his people,

*<sup>16</sup> Tomorrow, go down against them. You will see them coming up the Ascent of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the valley facing the Wilderness of Jeruel. <sup>17</sup> You do not have to fight this battle. Position yourselves, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord. He is with you, Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid or discouraged. Tomorrow, go out to face them, for Yahweh is with you."*

## **5. What does it mean to position yourself and receive the salvation of the Lord?**

Wow, God flat out told them YOU DO NOT HAVE TO FIGHT THIS BATTLE! He simply tells them to position themselves and stand still. Can you imagine seeing your enemies outnumber you and coming up a hill straight at you and all you are doing is standing there! NOW that is faith. Hallelujah.

So how did they fight there battle? They postured themselves to worship and praise their God because they believed HE would fight for them and so must we!

In verse 18 it says, *"Then Jehoshaphat bowed with his face to the ground, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell down before the Lord to worship Him. <sup>19</sup> Then the Levites ... stood up to praise the Lord God of Israel shouting with a loud voice.*

In order to claim victory we must first recognize the victory has already been won. Yes, there is a battle but the word of God promises us that HE has already won it for us.

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Therefore we praise the Lord FROM a place of victory not FOR our victory. We don't say I have to praise the Lord SO THAT he will win this battle for me. No, your hearts position should be I'm praising the Lord in thanksgiving because I KNOW HE has already won this battle.

You say, yeah but Pastor Theresa I don't see the victory, I do feel the victory, I'm still in the midst of the struggle. YES I know, and that's why we must praise God in Faith! We believe before we see and we speak those victories before they are realized.

Hebrews 11:1 says, *"Now faith brings our hopes into reality and becomes the foundation needed to acquire the things we long for. It is all the evidence required to prove what is still unseen."* (The Passion Translation)

What is unseen? Your victory! It is there it just has not manifested yet but by faith you know it will!

## **6. How can you live as though what you are believing for has already come to pass? How do you increase your faith to believe before you see?**

How do I walk in that confident faith? Well, Romans tells us that faith comes from hearing and hearing the word of God. So let scripture build your conviction and faith.

John 16:33 Jesus tells us, *"I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."*

Turn to your neighbor and say - Take heart!

Turn to your other neighbor and say - Jesus has overcome the world.

What does that mean to take heart? Be encouraged, be assured, hold your head up high. Don't bow your head as if you've been defeated.

No matter what you are facing this morning you should stand tall because Jesus has already overcome the world. Hallelujah!

1 Corinthians 15:57 says, *"But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."*

Continue to search God's word daily and seek what HE says about your situation and believe that what HE says is true. Then begin to praise and thank him for it. Speak that reality into your current situation as you praise him because you know you are victorious.

## **7. Search the word of God together to find a scripture you can apply to your situation and believe God for. Share this with your group.**

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So LET'S SEE HOW THE STORY ENDS:

*"<sup>20</sup> In the morning they got up early and went out to the wilderness of Tekoa. As they were about to go out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Hear me, Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem. Believe in Yahweh, your God, and you will be established; believe in His prophets, and you will succeed."<sup>21</sup> Then he consulted with the people and appointed some to sing for the Lord and some to praise the splendor of His holiness. When they went out in front of the armed forces, they kept singing:*

*Give thanks to the Lord, for His faithful love endures forever.  
Give thanks to the Lord, for His faithful love endures forever.  
Give thanks to the Lord, for His faithful love endures forever.*

*<sup>22</sup> The moment they began their shouts and praises, the Lord set an ambush against the Ammonites, Moabites, and the inhabitants of Mount Seir who came to fight against Judah, and they were defeated. <sup>23</sup> The Ammonites and Moabites turned against the inhabitants of Mount Seir and completely annihilated them. When they had finished with the inhabitants of Seir, they helped destroy each other."*

Someone in this house say HALLELUJAH!!! Church this is the power of Praise!! God made their enemies turn and destroy each other!

In my many years of studying praise and worship I discovered an academic book called, *The Power of Praise and Worship* by Terry Law. It was one of the best explanations to help me understand why praise is so important in the believers life.

Think of an ICBM (Inter continental ballistic missile)

Tip of the missile is the warhead - that's the actual part of the missile that will do some serious damage. Without this part of the missile it is utterly useless!!

The back 2/3 of the missile is what propels the warhead to its desired target. That's where you would find the guidance and control devices, the Fuel Tank, the Oxygen tank, the turbine and pump, the combustion chamber and the control vanes. As awesome as that sounds and looks, the truth of the matter is, without the warhead it's just a dud.

Terry Law likens the power or the actual warhead to be The name of Jesus, the Blood of Jesus, and the Word of God.

What carries that power to our targeted enemy is our praise. So when we shout our praise we are sending the power of God's name.

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In Biblical times, someone's name represented what the person stood for, the substance of their character, or their authority. So when we are praising God because HE has already won the victory we are sending the power that is in His name; the authority of that name to overcome in that situation. He has the ultimate authority in and over all things! Hallelujah.

You might say well does that story always happen? Will this actually work for me? To that I say absolutely. But don't take my word for it Let's look real quickly at another story I love!

In Acts chapter 16 Paul and Silas were traveling and met this girl who had a spirit within her and could predict things. She made a lot of money for her master through fortune telling. As she was following Paul and Silas she said "These men, who are proclaiming to you the way of salvation, are the slaves of the Most High God." She did this for many days. Until one day Paul just got irritated with her and commanded the spirit to leave her in the name of Jesus! And because of that name it had to obey and came right out of her. Well you can imagine her owners where not too pleased with this because now they can't continue to make money. So, They took Paul and Silas before the governing officials and Paul and Silas were thrown in jail for "disturbing the city." They were stripped of their clothes and beaten with rods. The jailer was order to keep them securely in prison so he put them deep in the prison and shackled their feet so they could not escape.

We pick up the story here at verse 25... *About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. <sup>26</sup> Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the jail were shaken, and immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's chains came loose. When the jailer woke up and saw the doors of the prison open, he drew his sword and was going to kill himself, since he thought the prisoners had escaped. But Paul called out in a loud voice, "Don't harm yourself, because all of us are here!" Then the jailer called for lights, rushed in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. Then he escorted them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"*

Hallelujah...Paul and Silas are released from prison, the jailer and his whole family receive Jesus as their Lord and savior and now the man who once held them captive is serving them a meal in his own home! All this because Paul and Silas were praying and singing unto the Lord!

Who is like our God - nobody! Only a God like our God can take the most dismal situation and turn it around for good!

We simply fight this battle by praising the ONE who has already WON!!

**8. Spend the rest of the evening taking time to praise God for who He is and what you are believing for Him to accomplish in your situation. Praise Him for your victory!**