

## LIFE IS A BATTLE

### *I.*

#### *Introduction*

People in the world use this phrase: "Life is a battle." They say it to give courage in difficult life situations: "Life is a battle! Do not give it up! You can win it!" Battle here is of course metaphorical. It is not a literal fight with an adversary, but simply overcoming oneself, one's afflictions, weaknesses or grieves and thus winning the battle.

### *II.*

#### *Christians fight with a real enemy*

Even Christian's life is a battle. Even Christians often have to overcome themselves, their afflictions, weaknesses or grieves to win their battles. In these aspects are our battles similar to battles of people in the world. However, there is one great difference, for our battles are often literal battles with real adversary. The adversary is Satan and his spiritual forces of evil. Our battles with Satan are spiritual. Satan takes advantage of our difficult situation we are in and tries to tempt us to commit a sin and turn us away from God.

Eph 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

There is nothing new on God's people fighting with Satan. Satan fought against God's people throughout the history. He used every opportunity to smite and destroy them. He almost succeeded. In 8th century BC northern Kingdom of Israel was utterly destroyed. In 6th century BC southern Kingdom of Judah was utterly destroyed. It looked as if God gave it up with His people. However, even in that time existed faithful remnant of God's people.

Any general who wants to defeat his enemy strikes the weakest point. Our weakest point is not our spirit, but our flesh, because of its desires. Some of the basic desires of flesh are desire to eat, drink, sleep, sexual desire or desire of bodily comfort (e.g. we want to be warm, dry, healthy, not hurting in any way). When these desires are not met, we are more vulnerable to Satan's attacks. Do you recall where Satan attacked Jesus after He had fasted 40 days and nights? His hungry flesh was where Satan attacked Him on the first place:

Mt 4:3 And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread."

**Our flesh is where Satan strikes us. He wants to take control of our body and through our body to take control of our spirit to enslave us spiritually and thus destroy us.**

Mt 26:41 Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

On the other hand, a soldier who is expecting an attack from his enemy, fortifies the weakest point of his defense. Then he watches and prays that his general sends re-enforcement when the attack comes. We are like the soldier. We are expecting an attack from Satan and we need to fortify our weakest point. How are we going to do that? In historical museums there are on display iron

breastplates, shields, helmets that soldiers of long ago fortified their bodies with against their enemies. These things are heavy. Full iron armor weighted tens of kilograms (pounds). Some were so heavy that they virtually made their bearer incapable to defend himself against his enemy once he fell on the ground, which cost him his life. Is this the kind of fortification we need? In fact there is no physical thing we could use to fortify our body against supernatural forces of evil. So what can we do? Are we defenseless? No! **We must fortify, but not our body, but our spirit with God's spiritual armor which will help our spirit to have control over our body. And we must watch and pray to God for help when the attack comes.**

Eph 6:11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

12 For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

13 Therefore take the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

14 Stand therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

15 and having shod your feet with the equipment of the gospel of peace;

16 besides all these, taking the shield of faith, with which you can quench all the flaming darts of the evil one.

17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

18 Pray at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication...

### *III.*

#### *David and Goliath*

When I speak about God's people fighting Satan throughout history, I would like to mention one particular example – David and Goliath.

Do you think that David was fighting a mere man Goliath? Let's think about it. Throughout the human history, God had his people (those who obeyed Him) and Satan had his people (those who obeyed him). There were frequent wars between these two camps. In this particular instance, Satan sent his army of Philistines against God's army of Israelites. There was a giant warrior Goliath in Philistine army who defied armies of the living God. Let's read Goliath description and what he did:

1Sa 17:4 And there went out a champion out of the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span.

5 And he had an helmet of brass upon his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail; and the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of brass. {armed: Heb. clothed}

6 And he had greaves of brass upon his legs, and a target of brass between his shoulders. {target: or, gorget}

7 And the staff of his spear was like a weaver's beam; and his spear's head weighed six hundred shekels of iron: and one bearing a shield went before him.

8 And he stood and cried unto the armies of Israel, and said unto them, Why are ye come out to set your battle in array? am not I a Philistine, and ye servants to Saul? choose you a man for you, and let him come down to me.

9 If he be able to fight with me, and to kill me, then will we be your servants: but if I prevail against him, and kill him, then shall ye be our servants, and serve us.

10 And the Philistine said, I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together.

11 When Saul and all Israel heard those words of the Philistine, they were dismayed, and greatly afraid.

There was none among the men of Israel who could rival Goliath in all his physical qualities and fortifications. They were aware of it and that was the reason they were afraid of Goliath. Because of their fear, they let him defy them and their God. Unfortunately for the Israelites, beginning with their king Saul and ending with the last soldier in the army, they could not see beyond the physical height, muscles and armor of Goliath to the almighty God. God was able to give them victory over Goliath and Philistines, had they put their trust in Him for help. A shepherd boy from the flocks named David shamed them all, by putting his trust in God for help.

1Sa 17:26 And David spake to the men that stood by him, saying, What shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine, and taketh away the reproach from Israel? for who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?

32 And David said to Saul, Let no man's heart fail because of him; thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine.

There is not more tragic scene in this story than the one when a shepherd boy David was consoling desperate warrior king Saul surrounded with his army in full arms. Saul in the past had led his soldiers into countless battles against powerful enemies and defeated them. Did he really think he did it by his own power? Now a boy tells him: "Let no man's heart fail because of him; thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine."

We have seen the disposition of David's spirit who put his trust in God to face the enemy. Now, let's compare it with disposition of Saul's spirit who did not put his trust in God to face the enemy:

1Sa 17:33 And Saul said to David, Thou art not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him: for thou art but a youth, and he a man of war from his youth.

Because of his lack of trust in almighty God, Saul could not see how a youth David could succeed against a giant warrior who caused fear even among Saul's soldiers. Saul's heart failed him.

#### *IV. The first battlefield*

**When Satan attacks our flesh, the first battlefield takes place in our mind and heart.** Satan tries to intimidate us in order that our spirit capitulates before him and we do something evil or avoid doing that which is good. In both cases committing sin. If we do not put our trust in God like Saul did not put his trust in God, Satan will succeed. However, if we put our trust in God like David did, Satan's attempt to intimidate us will fail:

1Sa 17:34 And David said unto Saul, Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock: {lamb: or, kid}

35 And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him.

36 Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God.

37 David said moreover, The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said unto David, Go, and the LORD be with thee.

”The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine.” That's what David said to Saul. That's what he believed in his heart based on his previous experience with God in whom he had put his trust. Then he went and did accordingly to his belief and defeated Goliath, because God had delivered Goliath to him:

1Sa 17:45 Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin; but I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.

46 This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down, and cut off your head; and I will give the dead bodies of the host of the Philistines this day to the birds of the air and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel,

47 and that all this assembly may know that the LORD saves not with sword and spear; for the battle is the LORD's and he will give you into our hand."

48 ¶ When the Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine.

49 And David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone, and slung it, and struck the Philistine on his forehead; the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the ground.

50 So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and struck the Philistine, and killed him; there was no sword in the hand of David.

51 Then David ran and stood over the Philistine, and took his sword and drew it out of its sheath, and killed him, and cut off his head with it. When the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled.

**We need to keep in our mind that our battles with Satan are God's battles also and only God can give us victory in our battles if we put our trust in Him.**

## *V. Applications*

What are the applications for our life?

To live a Christian life in the immoral world, to stand for God, truth and that which is good, to make right choices and to do right things regardless of the enemy, regardless of the opposition and regardless of consequences may sometimes feel like facing Goliath.

Whether at work, where employer and co-workers do not care a bit about God's Word in making business clean and you are the only one to make a difference. But if you make a difference, you may lose your job amid economical downturn and consequently financial means to provide for your needs and for your family.

Whether at home or anywhere else. I am in touch with a teenage girl in the Czech Republic who wants to be baptized by immersion under water, but her parents are devout Catholics and oppose her leaving Catholic religion. She has a dilemma what to do. Be baptized or please her parents? Have peace with her parents upon whom she depends or lose the peace at her parent's home?

If we feel and act like we cannot do anything for God's cause, we say that we cannot go to face Goliath. We give up our spiritual battle with Satan. But we cannot please God like that.

The only way we can please God is to prevail over Satan in our spiritual battles. The only way we can prevail over Satan in our spiritual battles is to fortify our spirit with God's spiritual armor. Having our spirit to control our flesh. Putting our trust in God. Doing what God says in His Word. Praying to God for help. Then God will give us the victory.

Ps 62:8 ¶ Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us. [Selah]

Isa 12:2 "Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation."

Php. 4:13 I can do all things in him who strengthens me.

## *VI.* *Invitation*

Does your life seem to be a hopeless battle? Jesus can turn your defeat in victory, if you make Him your Lord and Savior. Do it today, for tomorrow may be too late for you!

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