

NOT RELYING ON THE ARM OF FLESH

TEXT: (II Chronicles 32:7-8, NIV)

⁷ “Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or discouraged because of the king of Assyria and the vast army with him, for there is a greater power with us than with him. ⁸ With him is only the arm of flesh, but with us is the LORD our God to help us and to fight our battles.”

INTRODUCTION

1. “There is a greater power with us than with him” (II Chronicles 32:7, NIV).
2. “The one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world” (John 4:4, NIV).
3. “With him (the enemy) is only the arm of flesh, but with us is the LORD our God to help us and to fight our battles” (II Chronicles 32:8, NIV).
4. "The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds" (II Corinthians 10:4, NIV).
5. "This is what the LORD says to you: 'Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God's'" (II Chronicles 20:15, NIV).

I. A SPIRITUAL WARFARE

A. Recognizing the Enemy

1. "Then the Philistine said, 'This day I defy the ranks of Israel! Give me a man and let us fight each other'" (I Samuel 17:10, NIV).
2. "David said to the Philistine, 'You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the LORD will hand you over to me, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head. Today I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel'" (I Samuel 17:44-45, NIV).

B. Understanding the Enemy

1. “A man’s enemies will be the members of his own household” (Matthew 10:36, NIV).
2. “Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ” (II Corinthians 10:5, KJV).
3. "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 6:12, NIV).

II. SPIRITUAL EQUIPMENT

A. Our Power Comes from God

1. “Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes” (Ephesians 6:11, NIV).

B. God Provides the Armor

1. "Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation" (Ephesians 6:13-17, NIV).
2. "For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires. ¹³ Nothing in all creation is hidden from God. Everything is naked and exposed before his eyes, and he is the one to whom we are accountable" (Hebrews 4:12-13, NLT).
3. "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee" (Psalm 119:11, KJV).
4. "In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express" (Romans 8:26, NIV).

C. The Power of Fasting

1. "Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting" (Matthew 17:21, KJV).
2. "Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?" (Isaiah 58:6, NIV).
3. "Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you and the glory of the LORD will be your rear guard.

Then you will call, and the LORD will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: 'Here am I' If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk, and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday.

The LORD will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail" (Isaiah 58:8-11, NIV).

III. PRACTICING SPIRITUAL WARFARE

A. Prayer

1. "O Lord, listen! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, hear and act! For your sake, O my God, do not delay, because your city and your people bear your Name" (Daniel 9:19, NIV).
2. "But Jacob replied, 'I will not let you go unless you bless me'" (Genesis 32:26, NIV).
 - b. "God, I'm serious; I need your help."
3. "I tell you, even though he will not get up and give you the bread because of friendship, yet because of your shameless audacity he will surely get up and give you as much as you need" (Luke 11:8, NIV).

B. Fasting

1. "Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?" (Isaiah 58:6, NIV).
2. "Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the LORD will be your rear guard. Then you will call, and the LORD will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I" (Isaiah 58:8-9, NIV).

C. Filling Your Heart with His Word

1. "How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word. I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. Praise be to you, LORD; teach me your decrees. With my lips I recount all the laws that come from your mouth. I rejoice in following your statutes as one rejoices in great riches. I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways. I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word" (Psalm 119:9-16, NIV).

D. Trusting the Lord

1. "You will not have to fight this battle" (II Chronicles 17:20, NIV).
2. "Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the LORD will give you, O Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Go out to face them tomorrow, and the LORD will be with you" (II Chronicles 20:17, NIV).
3. "Stand ye *still*, and see the salvation of the LORD" (II Chronicles 20:17, KJV).
4. "Jehoshaphat appointed men to sing to the Lord and to praise him for the splendor of his holiness as they went out at the head of the army, saying: 'Give thanks to the LORD, for his love endures forever.'

As they began to sing and praise, the LORD set ambushes against the men of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir who were invading Judah, and they were defeated. The Ammonites and Moabites rose up against the men from Mount Seir to destroy and annihilate them. After they finished slaughtering the men from Seir, they helped to destroy one another" (II Chronicles 20:21-23, NIV).

CONCLUSION

1. "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6-7, NIV).