

## 2 Chronicles 20:17 (NKJV)

<sup>17</sup> You will not *need* to fight in this *battle*. Position yourselves, stand still and see the salvation of the LORD, who is with you, O Judah and Jerusalem!’ Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them, for the LORD *is* with you.”

- All of us face various kinds of battles in our lives
- No one escapes problems or challenges, which we often call “*the storms of life*”
- The good news is that God already knows what He will do when we face difficulties
- He has a plan to bring us victory

Our text here tells us that we do not need to fight our own battles, because our battles belong to the Lord, not to us

- We just need to take our position and stand still until our breakthroughs come
- I believe that position is worship

Unless we have strong faith in God, anytime a storm comes into our lives the first thing that happens is we lose our peace and begin to feel fear

- Satan injects “*what if*” thoughts into our heads
- We often start to think we are going to have the worst possible outcome
- God wants us to be totally free from fear
- He doesn’t want us to live in torment

## Isaiah 40:31 (NKJV)

<sup>31</sup> But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew *their* strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

- We may need the strength we gain by waiting to do what He instructs us to do
- Those who wait on the Lord are the ones who receive answers and are strong enough to follow directions

## 2 Chronicles 20:14–15 (NKJV)

<sup>14</sup> Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, in the midst of the assembly. <sup>15</sup> And he said, “Listen, all you of Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem, and you, King Jehoshaphat! Thus says the LORD to you: ‘Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle *is* not yours, but God’s.

- When they were all together before the Lord, someone began to prophesy
- The Spirit of God came upon him and spoke through him because the people were waiting on the Lord to lead them
- When we learn to seek God and wait on Him, He will give us an answer
- The answer may be very plain and simple

The Lord told Judah to not be afraid because the battle was His not theirs!

## 2 Chronicles 20:16–17 (NKJV)

<sup>16</sup> Tomorrow go down against them. They will surely come up by the Ascent of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the brook before the Wilderness of Jeruel. <sup>17</sup> You will not *need* to fight in this *battle*. Position yourselves, stand still and see the salvation of the LORD, who is with you, O Judah and Jerusalem!’ Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them, for the LORD *is* with you.”

- Yes, its is true that their position, as well as ours is to stand still and see God’s deliverance
- However, worship was their actual position
- The reverent position of being on our knees, faces to the ground is a battle posture
- Kneeling with uplifted hands is a position from which to fight and gain victory
- David said that God teaches my hands to war and my fingers to fight – **Psalm 144:1**

I believe that David learned to lift his hands in worship and surrender to the Lord

- He recognized this as a battle position
- Perhaps when David played an instrument his fingers were fighting

Praise, worship, clapping our hands in enthusiasm, singing, God’s word, joy – All of these are weapons of warfare

## 2 Corinthians 10:4 (NKJV)

<sup>4</sup>For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds.

- Our weapons are not natural, earthly weapons
- They are not tools the natural mind would understand, or might even seem to work in the physical realm
- But on God's Kingdom they do work
- When the Israelites were in battle they would often send the tribe of Judah ahead of everyone else
- Judah represents Praise

They entered into battle with worshippers going before them

Like Israel we must learn to fight our battles God's way not our way

## Ephesians 6:12 (NKJV)

<sup>12</sup>For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

- The battles we fight are not against people
- They are against Satan, the enemy of our souls
- We take our battle position of standing our ground and worshipping the Lord

## Ephesians 6:13-14 AMP

<sup>13</sup> Therefore, put on the complete armor of God, so that you will be able to [successfully] resist *and* stand your ground in the evil day [of danger], and having done everything [that the crisis demands], to stand firm [in your place, fully prepared, immovable, victorious]. <sup>14</sup> So stand firm *and* hold your ground, HAVING <sup>[a]</sup>TIGHTENED THE WIDE BAND OF TRUTH (personal integrity, moral courage) AROUND YOUR WAIST and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS (an upright heart).

- To Stand means to abide in or enter God's rest
- Not necessarily physical rest, but spiritual rest
- When I am standing my ground, I am refusing to give in
- I am persisting in believing that God will deliver me
- I am abiding (remaining and continuing) in Him

## Psalm 32:7 (NKJV)

<sup>7</sup> You *are* my hiding place; You shall preserve me from trouble; You shall surround me with songs of deliverance.

- In our battle against spiritual enemies, our position is "*In Christ*"
- Abiding and resting in Him, in worship and praise
- Stop trying to figure everything out, calm down and focus on God
- Open your mouth and sing the songs of deliverance that the Lord gives you

## 2 Chronicles 20:18–19 (NKJV)

<sup>18</sup> And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with *his* face to the ground, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem bowed before the LORD, worshiping the LORD. <sup>19</sup> Then the Levites of the children of the Kohathites and of the children of the Korahites stood up to praise the LORD God of Israel with voices loud and high.

- Here we see that they bowed down and worshiped as well as standing in praise
- We should do both on a regular basis

Don't get caught up in positions, but where is your heart?

If you have a business that is struggling financially

- Go to your office, close the door, get on your knees, lift your hands, and start to worship
- Thank God that He is taking care of your problems
- Do it several times a day

Take a stand in your homes, for your family, spouse children

## 2 Chronicles 20:20 (NKJV)

<sup>20</sup> So they rose early in the morning and went out into the Wilderness of Tekoa; and as they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Hear me, O Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem: Believe in the LORD your God, and you shall be established; believe His prophets, and you shall prosper."

Sing, Praise and Give Thanks

2 Chronicles 20:21 (NKJV)

<sup>21</sup> And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed those who should sing to the LORD, and who should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army and were saying: “Praise the LORD, For His mercy *endures* forever.”

- Singing and giving thanks in times of trouble may not make sense to us, but that is what we need to do
- Many things do not make sense in our minds but that doesn't mean that we shouldn't do them

We rely on our minds far too much without realizing that many wrong things have been programmed into our minds

Romans 12:2 (NKJV)

<sup>2</sup> And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

- Sometimes in prayer we can say so much that we are not even sure what we are asking for
- We need to remember that all we really need is HIM

The best way to get our needs met is to simply ask for what we need and then worship God

- He doesn't just give what we need, He is what we need
- When we need peace, He is our peace
- When we need joy and strength we need to remember that His joy gives us strength

Sometimes we are under so much mental or emotional pressure that we just need some kind of release

- Worship brings that release
- We should begin to praise and worship Him even before we get out of bed
- Worship can get you ready for your day while you drive to work

Worship focuses on who God is, His character, goodness, faithfulness, grace, love, and many other wonderful things

Murmuring, grumbling, fault finding, or being negative create an atmosphere in which the enemy can work

By starting to worship God for the changes He has already worked in us, we will start to see those things manifesting more and more

- We remain in a position to receive all that God has for us
- When we worship we will begin to see things change in our jobs as well as at home

### Psalm 84:11 (NKJV)

<sup>11</sup> For the LORD God *is* a sun and shield; The LORD will give grace and glory; No good *thing* will He withhold From those who walk uprightly.



## The Lord Brings Deliverance

### 2 Chronicles 20:22 (NKJV)

<sup>22</sup> Now when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushes against the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; and they were defeated.

- The people of God were determined to seek Him rather than live in fear
- Their praise confused the enemy
- NLT – “*they started fighting among themselves*”

We see the same principle in the book of Judges

### Judges 7:1–3 (NKJV)

Then Jerubbaal (that *is*, Gideon) and all the people who *were* with him rose early and encamped beside the well of Harod, so that the camp of the Midianites was on the north side of them by the hill of Moreh in the valley. <sup>2</sup> And the LORD said to Gideon, “The people who *are* with you *are* too many for Me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel claim glory for itself against Me, saying, ‘My own hand has saved me.’ <sup>3</sup> Now therefore, proclaim in the hearing of the people, saying, ‘Whoever *is* fearful and afraid, let him turn and depart at once from Mount Gilead.’ ” And twenty-two thousand of the people returned, and ten thousand remained.

Gideon was facing a major battle but instead of giving him more troops God told him he had to many for God to give him the victory

There are times we have to many things going on for us from a natural perspective for God to work a miracle

- Sometimes God works through our weakness instead of our strengths
- We do not need God's intervention if anyone else but God can help us
- God was letting Gideon know that they were to strong in themselves
- He wanted them in a position where they had to depend on God entirely
- God instructed Gideon to have the fearful go home
- More left than stayed – 22,000 vs 10,000

How many times does God tell us to do something but then fear comes along, and we hesitate and become double-minded?

- Remember, fear not, for I am with you – **Isaiah 41:10**
- The fact that God is with us is the number one reason we should not give in to fear
- God is with us and will protect us if we put our trust in Him

## Judges 7:4–7 (NKJV)

<sup>4</sup> But the LORD said to Gideon, “The people *are* still *too* many; bring them down to the water, and I will test them for you there. Then it will be, *that* of whom I say to you, ‘This one shall go with you,’ the same shall go with you; and of whomever I say to you, ‘This one shall not go with you,’ the same shall not go.”

<sup>5</sup> So he brought the people down to the water. And the LORD said to Gideon, “Everyone who laps from the water with his tongue, as a dog laps, you shall set apart by himself; likewise everyone who gets down on his knees to drink.” <sup>6</sup> And the number of those who lapped, *putting* their hand to their mouth, was three hundred men; but all the rest of the people got down on their knees to drink water. <sup>7</sup> Then the LORD said to Gideon, “By the three hundred men who lapped I will save you, and deliver the Midianites into your hand. Let all the *other* people go, every man to his place.”

- The men were all thirsty
- When they saw the water some of the men ran, put their faces in it and began to drink
- Others cupped their hands and brought the water to their mouths
- Those who cupped were still able to keep their eye on the enemy while they drank
- They remained alert and ready to do their job
- The others were only concerned with getting their needs met

Sometimes when we are only concerned with getting our needs met we may miss God's miracle

- Sometimes we are so busy providing for ourselves that we miss God's will

The 300 showed wisdom, diligence, and the willingness to be aware of their surroundings

- On the look out for the enemy while still getting the water they needed
- These are the type of people God chooses to work through

### Judges 7:8–13 (NKJV)

<sup>8</sup> So the people took provisions and their trumpets in their hands. And he sent away all *the rest of* Israel, every man to his tent, and retained those three hundred men. Now the camp of Midian was below him in the valley. <sup>9</sup> It happened on the same night that the LORD said to him, “Arise, go down against the camp, for I have delivered it into your hand. <sup>10</sup> But if you are afraid to go down, go down to the camp with Purah your servant, <sup>11</sup> and you shall hear what they say; and afterward your hands shall be strengthened to go down against the camp.” Then he went down with Purah his servant to the outpost of the armed men who *were* in the camp. <sup>12</sup> Now the Midianites and Amalekites, all the people of the East, were lying in the valley as numerous as locusts; and their camels *were* without number, as the sand by the seashore in multitude.

<sup>13</sup> And when Gideon had come, there was a man telling a dream to his companion. He said, “I have had a dream: *To my* surprise, a loaf of barley bread tumbled into the camp of Midian; it came to a tent and struck it so that it fell and overturned, and the tent collapsed.”

- Here Gideon receives instruction from the Lord, through a dream
- This was confirmation that the Lord would use his small army to defeat the enemy
- The Lord was showing Gideon would not defeat their enemy through natural means, but supernaturally
- Barley bread was considered inferior or simple

#### Judges 7:14–15 (NKJV)

<sup>14</sup> Then his companion answered and said, “This *is* nothing else but the sword of Gideon the son of Joash, a man of Israel! Into his hand God has delivered Midian and the whole camp.” <sup>15</sup> And so it was, when Gideon heard the telling of the dream and its interpretation, that he worshiped. He returned to the camp of Israel, and said, “Arise, for the LORD has delivered the camp of Midian into your hand.”

- When Gideon’s Comrades returned they knew God had spoken
- They shared the good news with Gideon and worshipped
- Gideon started to talk as if they had already won the battle
- He didn’t wait to see the outcome before proclaiming their triumph – that’s faith!

### Judges 7:16–20 (NKJV)

<sup>16</sup> Then he divided the three hundred men *into* three companies, and he put a trumpet into every man's hand, with empty pitchers, and torches inside the pitchers. <sup>17</sup> And he said to them, "Look at me and do likewise; watch, and when I come to the edge of the camp you shall do as I do: <sup>18</sup> When I blow the trumpet, I and all who *are* with me, then you also blow the trumpets on every side of the whole camp, and say, '*The sword of the LORD and of Gideon!*' " <sup>19</sup> So Gideon and the hundred men who *were* with him came to the outpost of the camp at the beginning of the middle watch, just as they had posted the watch; and they blew the trumpets and broke the pitchers that *were* in their hands. <sup>20</sup> Then the three companies blew the trumpets and broke the pitchers—they held the torches in their left hands and the trumpets in their right hands for blowing—and they cried, "The sword of the LORD and of Gideon!"

- God purposely put something in both hands of the soldiers
- This would ensure that they couldn't draw their swords
- They had to depend entirely on God

### Judges 7:21–22 (NKJV)

<sup>21</sup> And every man stood in his place all around the camp; and the whole army ran and cried out and fled. <sup>22</sup> When the three hundred blew the trumpets, the LORD set every man's sword against his companion throughout the whole camp; and the army fled to Beth Acacia, toward Zererah, as far as the border of Abel Meholah, by Tabbath.