

2 Chronicles 20:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ 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.”

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 (*in Praise and Worship*) until our breakthroughs come

2 Chronicles 20:22 (NKJV)

²² 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*”

Ephesians 6:12 (NKJV)

¹² 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*.

Exodus 14:13–15 (NKJV)

¹³ And Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. ¹⁴ The LORD will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace.” ¹⁵ And the LORD said to Moses, “Why do you cry to Me? Tell the children of Israel to go forward.

- Here again we see that the Lord gives instruction to “Stand Still”
- They had been slaves in Egypt for 400 years
- Freedom was finally within reach
- Pharaoh reluctantly let the people go into the wilderness
- God had told Moses to lead them into the Promised Land
- They were on the road to the good life they had longed for

Even though Pharaoh let them go he sent his army after them

- There they stood the Red Seas on one side and the Egyptian army on the other

They were ready to return to Egypt because they thought their only other option was to die in the wilderness

- Trusting in God to intervene didn't cross their minds
- Often we do the same thing they did – Run!

What we run from hurts us the most. – Author unknown

We cannot run away from problems, we have to stand and face them

- We have to move toward them, in faith, trusting God to help us overcome them
- This is the picture of courage

Courage is not the absence of fear, problems, or seemingly impossible obstacles

Moving forward when you feel afraid, believing God will be with you as you keep moving toward your goal – that's courage

- This is what we see the Israelites do
- They followed the advice God gave Moses
- God did the impossible – parted the Red Sea
- They walked across on dry ground

The Egyptian army was drowned as the waters came crashing down on them

- Nothing is impossible with God
- Its radical obedience that leads us to the miracle-working power of God
- Disobedience will never do that

Remember Moses ran from Egypt when someone saw him kill an Egyptian that was beating an Israelite

- After forty years in the wilderness God sends him back to Egypt
- He had to return to the place he ran from – [Acts 7:23-36](#)

When Hagar ran from her mistress, Sarah, God told her to go back and submit to her control

Genesis 16:8–9 (NKJV)

⁸ And He said, “Hagar, Sarai’s maid, where have you come from, and where are you going?” She said, “I am fleeing from the presence of my mistress Sarai.” ⁹ The Angel of the LORD said to her, “Return to your mistress, and submit yourself under her hand.”

- At first glance this seems unfair
- Sarah mistreated Hagar
- But we cannot forget that Hagar had a wrong attitude toward Sarah

We frequently see what others do to us as wrong, but we don’t see what we may also be doing that’s wrong

- We want to run from the discomfort and pain

But God will keep us there until we see our part in the problem and allow him to correct our behavior

- Most of the things we run from are the tool God uses to help us mature

James 4:7 (NKJV)

⁷ Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

- Can you resist the Devil if you’re not submitted to God’s plan or to those He has placed in authority over you?

Elijah ran from Jezebel and hid in the wilderness, but when he finally met with God, he was told to get back to work and face Jezebel – **1 Kings 19:1-6**

Jonah ran from God's call and found himself in a terrible mess

- He cried out to God and God delivered him
- He had to go back and complete the assignment he had refused to do – **Jonah 1-3**

King David ran from (ignored) his sin of adultery with Bathsheba and the murder of her husband for at least a year

- God sent Nathan the prophet to confront him
- He had to face the truth and repent
– **2 Samuel 12:1-9; Psalm 51**

People run from difficulties for all kinds of reasons and in various ways

- We may run from responsibility or accountability
- Hard work, difficult people, challenging places
- Our sin, ourselves, the truth, the past, and many other things

Sometimes we remove ourselves physically from the situation

Sometimes we stay busy in order to not face the problem

Sometimes we escape through substance abuse or addictions

Excuses Keep Us Trapped

We can make all kinds of excuses why we can't obey God

- An excuse is nothing more than a reason stuffed with a lie
- Even if we were mistreated we cannot allow it to give us an excuse to behave badly
- Jesus came to set us free from "All" bondage
- He cannot set us free if we run and hide from the truth

Every excuse we make for our bad behavior or disobedience keeps us trapped in it

Many people were invited to a big dinner party

Luke 14:18–20 (NKJV)

¹⁸ But they all with one *accord* began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.' ¹⁹ And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.' ²⁰ Still another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.'

- This represents an invitation to accept Jesus and receive forgiveness for our sins

Also... are we are so busy taking care of the things that God has provided for us that they become the things that keep us from putting God first in our lives?

- We would have nothing without God's goodness

We cannot allow the blessings of God to be the things that keep us from being obedient to God or doing the right thing

Galatians 5:13 (NKJV)

¹³ For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not *use* liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

- We live in a society that demands our freedoms and liberty
- We are often selfish or insensitive as to how our liberties affect those around us
- Our liberties should not be an excuse to offend others

1 Corinthians 10:31–33 (NKJV)

³¹ Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. ³² Give no offense, either to the Jews or to the Greeks or to the church of God, ³³ just as I also please all *men* in all *things*, not seeking my own profit, but the *profit* of many, that they may be saved.

- What Paul is saying is that we need to consider the feelings of others
- What if we really monitored ourselves for one week?
- We don't call someone back that we said we would, and we make up an excuse
- We are late for an appointment and we blame it on the traffic

How many marriages end and site “incompatibility” as an excuse

- The truth is we don't want to make the effort to learn how to get along
- Any two people can find many reasons to not get along

Mature people will do everything they can to make a marriage work before they give up

Some people move from job to job and never stick with something long enough to learn a trade or get promoted

- There's always something wrong with the management, the working conditions, or the other employees
- Its never their fault or laziness

They may find a new job but before long have the same problems there and quit

When we live this way, we are deceived and don't realize that the devil is putting these thoughts in our heads

- If we never face the real problem the devil will ruin our lives

2 Timothy 2:26 (NKJV)

²⁶ and *that* they may come to their senses *and escape* the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to *do* his will.

Numbers 21:4–5 (NKJV)

⁴ Then they journeyed from Mount Hor by the Way of the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; and the soul of the people became very discouraged on the way. ⁵ And the people spoke against God and against Moses: “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For *there is* no food and no water, and our soul loathes this worthless bread.”

- Like Adam we blame our problems on others as well as God Himself
- Many people are angry with God because of the pain they have experienced
- God is not the source of your problems – The devil is!
- The only way to get him back for the evil he has done is to do as much good as you possibly can – **Romans 12:21**

Philippians 4:11–13 (NKJV)

¹² I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. ¹³ I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

- As we face our issues we realize they no longer have power over us
- In our walk with God we must continually be learning and changing

Being a Christian does not mean that God will make everything comfortable and wonderful for you

We need to put on the full armor of God and cast down every thought – **Ephesians 6:11; 2 Corinthians 10:5**

- God has given us responsibility in the process
- He never fails to do His part
- He won't do our part for us
- He wants us to actively participate with Him
- We are partners with God in His work

Many times, people say, "I don't know why God would allow this or that to happen. If He is good and He delivers us from our problems when we pray, then why is this happening to me?"

We are to keep our focus on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, waiting patiently in faith for the breakthrough and victory He has in store – **Hebrews 12:2; Ephesians 6:13**

- God is fighting with us and for us
- He promises to help but the timing and the way in which He does it is up to Him

Deliverance comes when we learn to stand still (stop running) and confront the problem we prefer to avoid

- Open your heart to God and the truth, and let Him do what He needs to do to set you free – **John 8:32**

Practical Ways to Avoid Deception

Manage your emotions and feelings

- Feelings can be quite motivating, but when they disappear, we should not stop doing what we committed to do
- Learn to judge what you feel according to God's word

Avoid Extremes

It may be prudent to save money for the future but if we become stingy, we may hoard out of the fear of not having enough

- When we live this way, we are not trusting God to take care of us

Some people are not willing to do anything for anyone while others do too much for some people

- Don't become self-absorbed and stingy
- Don't enable someone to not care for themselves
 - This may allow people to take advantage of you
- We also may be (running) by staying busy

Some people have no discipline at all, while others are very legalistic, living by rules and regulations

- Don't be spiritually lazy
- Don't become difficult to get along with and critical of people who don't live like you do

Don't Put Your Trust in the Works of the Flesh

- Don't try to make things happen without leaning on God
- God doesn't do everything for us, but we cannot do anything without Him
- These activities keep us busy and frustrated
- They are not effective and leave us disappointed
- Worry is an attempt to solve our own problems
- Cast your care upon Him – **1 Peter 5:7**

Refuse to Compromise

- The devil says, “*just once won't hurt.*”
- Set standards and live by them
- Don't compromise when others urge you to
- We are in the world but not of it – **John 17:14-16**

Deny Deceitful Desires

- God will give us the desires of our heart – **Psalm 37:4**
- He won't give us the desires of our flesh
- Sometimes we pursue things that have no ability to do for us what we think they would
- They may be exciting for a short time but leave you empty in the long run

Jesus said He came that we might “*enjoy life and have it in abundance*”

He wants us to have an abundance of all good things, but we must remember that things without God cannot give us happiness