

## **Turn the Battle**

### **Apostolic Message April 2022**

#### **Scripture Reading**

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armour of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 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 6.10-12**

#### **Introduction**

##### **A. We all face battles**

- Internal - Small battles that war within our own hearts and minds
- Relational - Tensions and struggles in families, workplaces and Church
- Political - Nation rising against another nation

##### **B. Kingdoms will Clash - Light and Darkness**

Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. [9] Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings. **1 Peter 5:8-9**

##### **C. See in the Spirit - Live aware of what's happening**

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**

##### **D. Turn the battle - The situation can be changed**

He will be a spirit of justice to the one who sits in judgment, a source of strength to those who turn back the battle at the gate. **Isaiah 28:6**

- God's ability to make right assessment, enabling correct decisions to be made
- The Lord will be our strength and courage to turn the battle at the gate

#### **Natural or Spiritual - How will you respond?**

For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. [4] The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. [5] We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. **2 Corinthians 10:3-5**

#### **1. We do not wage war as the world does**

For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. **2**

### **Corinthians 10.3**

- Our fight is not against other people
- Our fight is not against ourselves - it may be a spiritual attack
  - Many people blame themselves and even punish themselves
  - Intimidation, introspection, self pity - must not open these doors
- Wisdom to discern -
  - What's really happening?
  - What am i feeling, sensing?
  - Why am i feeling this?

### **2. We do not use the weapons of the world**

Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Messiah. For the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. [11] They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death. **Revelation 12:10-11**

- Accusation, gossip
- Suspicion
- Anger
- Retaliation

### **3. Divine power - To Turn a situation**

On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. [5] We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. **2 Corinthians 10:4b-5**

- Demolish strongholds - '*houses made of thoughts*'
- Demolish arguments - Internal or arguments others are presenting
- We make our thoughts and speech obedient to Christ
  - Our thinking in agreement to Christs perspective
  - Our words in agreement with what the Lord is saying
  - Help me see what you see, to feel what you feel, to say what you say!
- Power of Holy Speech - Our words are powerful
- Power of prayer - personal prayer, asking the lord for help
- Power of agreement - coming in agreement with another
- Power of Praise - Psalm 8, praise silences the enemy
- Power of Godly community - standing with others and giving them courage

### **Conclusion**

- Do you recognise the battle?
- How are you responding to it?
- Will you turn the battle at the gate?

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armour of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 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.

- Therefore put on the full armour 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 and
- the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.
- And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.
- With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

**Ephesians 6.10-18**