

Let God Fight Your Battle

Carl H. Stevens Jr. is pastor of Greater Grace World Outreach located in Baltimore, Maryland. Pastor Stevens is also chancellor of Maryland Bible College & Seminary and host of the international Christian radio program "The Grace Hour." This booklet was created from a message preached by Pastor Stevens.

Pastor Stevens can be seen weekly on cable television stations throughout the United States. Call us for information regarding programming in your area.

All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction 5

Chapter 1 7

STAND STILL AND WATCH GOD DELIVER

Chapter 2 11

LOVING AS WE ARE LOVED

Chapter 3 15

WAITING WITH CONFIDENCE

CONCLUSION 19

INTRODUCTION

There is something about our human nature that is always defensive and ready to fight. We get into situations where cannot see the way out, and we struggle and struggle to find some way to win. Sometimes we enjoy momentary victories, but the effort of our flesh leaves us exhausted and spent.

The battles we face as Christians are those that God wants to fight for us. It is part of His process to humble us and to bring us to the place where we depend solely on Him and not on ourselves. The Cross represents Christ's complete and total victory over Satan and sin. God wants us to understand and walk in the power of the exchanged life found in His resurrection.

Because we have been reconciled to God through the Blood of Christ, we no longer have to depend on human effort in any area of our lives. As you will see in this booklet, our chief need is to reckon ourselves dead and ineffective,

looking to Jesus as the Author and Finisher of our faith. With this mental attitude, we will learn to recognize that every one of our battles belongs to the Lord.

Chapter One

STAND STILL AND WATCH GOD DELIVER

“And he said, Hearken ye, all Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem, and thou king Jehoshaphat, Thus saith the LORD unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God’s.

“To morrow go ye down against them: behold, they come up by the cliff of Ziz; and ye shall find them at the end of the brook, before the wilderness of Jeruel.

“Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the LORD with you, O Judah and Jerusalem: fear not, nor be dismayed; to morrow go out against them: for the LORD will be with you” (2 Chronicles 20:15-17).

There is a misconception for some about being reconciled to God. No one should become a doormat for someone else. People must be re-

sponsible and accountable for their behavior and their actions. Yet, being reconciled to God means that I take a responsible position for an exchanged life with Jesus Christ through the Cross. When God says, "Be reconciled to Me," He is saying that we are to accept our exchanged life from God and be reconciled to His promises, to His provision, to His power.

Within the realm of being reconciled to God, I love to consider the situation of Jehoshaphat in 2 Chronicles. Imagine facing a battle where it seems as if there is not one thing we can do.

God's instruction is this: "Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the LORD with you" (2 Chronicles 20:17a). I love that. This is not a call to passivity, irresponsibility, or subjectivity. This is encouragement from the Lord. I co-labor with God, but He fights the battle. It is not mine to fight.

Many of you could go back over your lives and think of times when you could honestly say, "Boy, when it came right down to the ultimate moment, I saw the deliverance of God."

Why should we be concerned? It is not our battle, and we cannot fight it. We must be responsible, we must do what is right (as far as we

know from God), and then we must be still.

Go Forward into a Peaceable Habitation

“Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth” (Psalm 46:10).

“And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever.

“And my people shall dwell in a peaceable habitation, and in sure dwellings, and in quiet resting places” (Isaiah 32:17-18).

In Exodus 14, Israel appeared to be trapped, up against the Red Sea with the army of Egypt in close pursuit. God told them to stand still and see the deliverance of the Lord. God was ready to fight for them. After the sea was parted, Israel had to go forward to claim victory. The chariots and soldiers of Egypt were swamped behind them as Israel reached the other side.

The key was in going forward.

David ran straight at Goliath, in 1 Samuel 17. The giant came with a spear and a sword, but David came at him in the name of the Lord. David knew that the battle was the Lord’s and the giant was slain.

I think one of the most difficult things I have

had to learn is to let God have the battles. Have you ever had that problem? Sooner or later, we become so exhausted from fighting in our own strength. At last, we have no chance and no other choice but to say to God, "You had better take this, because I'm exhausted from trying to do my part."

We don't need to fight our battles. We do the best we can in being responsible, then we stand still and see God's deliverance.

Chapter Two

LOVING AS WE ARE LOVED

“And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

“To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation” (2 Corinthians 5:18-19).

Often I think of how incredible God has been to our ministry. Throughout these years, we have seen full houses and overflow crowds at all of our services—Sunday nights and Wednesday nights included.

We have done nothing to deserve such success. Sinners have been made to be saints through Calvary. Having been reconciled through the Blood of the Cross, we are made members of the Body of Jesus Christ (Colossians 1:20). He made peace for us through His Blood, then He

placed us in His body by the Cross.

We are reconciled to God by simply trusting Him with all our heart. It is so easy to trust Him and to lean not on our own understanding. If we will choose to acknowledge Him in all of our ways, he shall direct our paths (Proverbs 3:5-7).

Oh, Father, I am so grateful for this verse! I could hear it over and over again. I am so thankful for what You have promised to us for just trusting You. *You* will direct our paths.

Words of Reconciliation

So many times when I have faced a counseling session, I have prayed like this: "God, this session will be worthless unless You give me a word of reconciliation and a ministry of reconciliation motivated by Your love, amplified by Your grace, ministering Your mercy, and responding with Your wisdom."

Because I have been reconciled to God through the Holy Spirit, I understand that sometimes we need to express tough love. Those of you who have raised families and reared up children know that this is true. A mom and a dad have to express tough love because that tough love produces the discipline that releases the soul to grow and to be established in re-

sponsibility.

“Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ’s stead, be ye reconciled to God.

“For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him” (2 Corinthians 5:20-21).

He who knew no sin, became sin for us. In other words, Jesus Christ did not take our blame, but He did take our guilt. He became sin so that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him. It is a great thing that we are reconciled to God by the fact that He took our guilt upon Himself.

Tender Hearts

“This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you” (John 15:12).

“Wherefore receive ye one another, as Christ also received us to the glory of God” (Romans 15:7).

I am so grateful that God doesn’t have a single record or charge against us. Because I am reconciled to Him, I should love others as He has loved me. There are times, I realize, when I am not careful to have the same love for another that God has for me. This is a battle I have to

give to Him. I have to let Him show me that since I am reconciled to Him, then I have to forgive others and be tender, because God, for Christ's sake, forgave me (Ephesians 4:32).

It is overwhelming for me to think of how God has forgiven me. It is a precious privilege to respond to that forgiveness by giving Him the battle within myself and then letting Him teach me to forgive and be tender hearted.

"A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity" (Proverbs 17:17).

I am very sensitive on this point. A friend loves at *all* times. Does this mean we always agree? No. Does it mean that we don't make people accountable? It does not. What it means is this: In our hearts we have a mental attitude of love, even in moments of disagreement.

To love at all times requires having a ministry of reconciliation. It takes believers who are willing to always give God their battles. It takes people who are always ready to express words of reconciliation.

Chapter Three

WAITING WITH CONFIDENCE

“Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding.

“He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.

“Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall:

“But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint” (Isaiah 40:28-31).

In letting God fight our battles, it is very important that we learn how to wait upon the Lord. Waiting on God often means trusting Him when times are desperate, when the battles keep coming one after another.

You know the situations I am talking about. It is in those times when you sometimes catch yourself saying, "What is it, God? Are You deaf to my cries? I did not come to you as a perfect person. Why are You taking Your time?"

God's answer would probably go something like this: "I am teaching you to wait upon Me. And, while you are waiting, I am teaching you to trust Me."

The battle here is one of maintaining our confidence in God and His promises. Hebrews 10:35 says, "Cast not away your confidence." We cannot afford to let our confidence leave us. After we have done the will of God the best we know how, we still have need of patience so that we can receive the promises.

The Work of Patience

God is working patience in us, and this is the fruit of the Holy Spirit. As we wait upon Him in our battles, the mystery of His patience will be worked into our hearts so that we reflect the nature of God. This is the nature that holds back judgment upon America and the world.

Let us not cast away our confidence, for God longs to train us and teach us to stand still and wait upon Him.

We need to be reconciled to God in the fact that we give thanks to Him in everything. We need to be reconciled to God for what we communicate in the morning, in the afternoon, and in the evening. We need to be reconciled in the language of thanksgiving. God wants to give us a very special language—a language of the heart, a language of the tongue.

Wait upon the Lord, and learn how to be thankful.

The Battle of Prayer

One of the great areas of battle is prayer. God wants us to be reconciled to Him in our attitude of prayer. I cannot begin to tell you how much God loves our prayers.

Recently I talked on the phone with a businessman who hasn't been saved very long. But, I can tell you that he knows how to talk with God. Just talking with this man is so edifying to me.

"Every morning I talk with God as I go to work," he said. "I had to let a couple of employees go, so I was asking God to send in some new ones. Just like that, God did it."

What a sweet conversation I had with this man. He had such a confession of faith. He is a man who knows Who to give his battles to. He

knows how to come before the Lord.

“Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need” (Hebrews 4:16).

Reconciliation takes place in the holy place, at the Mercy Seat (see Leviticus 6:30). It is a supernatural transaction. Reconciliation is not natural; it is supernatural. It does away with all enmity and hostility and puts fellowship and friendship in their place.

This reconciliation is so unique because it leaves our soul in peace as it makes every battle the Lord's.

CONCLUSION

I am so thankful that our ministry has been reconciled to God in giving. We also have been reconciled to God in the area of the Great Commission. The best we know how, we are going into all the world and preaching the Gospel to every creature.

Indeed, there are different parts to play in fulfilling this Commission. Some are called to stay here, giving and serving in our Jerusalem. They possess a missionary emphasis in their work here, praying and giving support to help those going to Judea, Samaria, and the uttermost parts of the earth.

Having an understanding of reconciliation prompts us to give all of our battles to the Lord. This releases us to worship Him, knowing that in every situation He will triumph.

It feels so good to be able to raise our hands and praise Him with all of our hearts. We can be so peaceful and possess such confidence because

we are not afraid. There is no reason for us to be dismayed. The battle is not ours. The battle is the Lord's (1 Samuel 17:47).