

**LET  
GOD  
ARISE!**

*The Battle Belongs to the Lord  
Prayer Guide #3  
Rev. Dr. Don L. Davis*



**The Call of God**  
1 Samuel 17.45-47

**A Charge to Keep I Have**

*Charles Wesley and Lowell Mason*

A charge to keep I have,  
A God to glorify,  
A never-dying soul to save,  
And fit it for the sky.

To serve the present age,  
My calling to fulfill;  
O, may it all my pow'rs engage  
To do my Master's will!

Arm me with watchful care  
As in Thy sight to live,  
And now Thy servant, Lord, prepare  
A strict account to give!

Help me to watch and pray,  
And still on Thee rely,  
O let me not my trust betray,  
But press to realms on high.

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**Rev. Dr. Don L. Davis,**  
*(Ph.D., U of Iowa) is the  
Director of World  
Impact's Urban Ministry  
Institute. He also serves  
as World Impact's Vice  
President of Leadership  
Development.*

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**Yahweh God ultimately strengthens and fulfills the call of his own**

Judg. 16.28-30 - Then Samson called to the Lord and said, “O Lord GOD, please remember me and please strengthen me only this once, O God, that I may be avenged on the Philistines for my two eyes.” [29] And Samson grasped the two middle pillars on which the house rested, and he leaned his weight against them, his right hand on the one and his left hand on the other. [30] And Samson said, “Let me die with the Philistines.” Then he bowed with all his strength, and the house fell upon the lords and upon all the people who were in it. So the dead whom he killed at his death were more than those whom he had killed during his life.

**The called of God affirm that the battle is the Lord’s, who alone determines the outcome of the battle**

1 Sam. 17.45-47 - Then David said to the Philistine, “You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. [46] This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head. And I will give the dead bodies of the host of the Philistines this day to the birds of the air and to the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, [47] and that all this assembly may know that the Lord saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the Lord's, and he will give you into our hand.”

Ps. 18.28-32 - For it is you who light my lamp; the Lord my God lightens my darkness. [29] For by you I can run against a troop, and by my God I can leap over a wall. [30] This God—his way is perfect; the word of the Lord proves true; he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him. [31] For who is God, but the Lord? And who is a rock, except our God?— [32] the God who equipped me with strength and made my way blameless.

**The Lord knows no limits in his fight on behalf of his own**

1 Sam. 14.6 - Jonathan said to the young man who carried his armor, “Come, let us go over to the garrison of these uncircumcised. It may be that



*Unless otherwise noted, all Scriptures are taken from the English Standard Version (ESV)*

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the Lord will work for us, for nothing can hinder the Lord from saving by many or by few.”

2 Chron. 20.15-17 - And he said, “Listen, all Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem and King Jehoshaphat: Thus says the Lord to you, ‘Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed at this great horde, for the battle is not yours but God’s. [16] Tomorrow go down against them. Behold, they will come up by the ascent of Ziz. You will find them at the end of the valley, east of the wilderness of Jeruel. [17] You will not need to fight in this battle. Stand firm, hold your position, and see the salvation of the Lord on your behalf, O Judah and Jerusalem.’ Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed. Tomorrow go out against them, and the Lord will be with you.”

Ps. 46.11 - The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.  
*Selah*

Isa. 9.7 - Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Zech. 4.6 - Then he said to me, “This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of hosts.”

Rom. 8.31 - What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

Rom. 8.37 - No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.



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**God calls whomever he wishes to accomplish whatever he desires**

1 Sam. 16.6-11 - When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the Lord’s anointed is before him.” [7] But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.” [8] Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” [9] Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” [10] And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen these.” [11] Then Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and get him, for we will not sit down till he comes here.”

2 Chron. 14.11 - And Asa cried to the Lord his God, “O Lord, there is none like you to help, between the mighty and the weak. Help us, O Lord our God, for we rely on you, and in your name we have come against this multitude. O Lord, you are our God; let not man prevail against you.”

Ezek. 37.11-14 - Then he said to me, “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are clean cut off.’ [12] Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. [13] And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. [14] And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the Lord; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the Lord.”



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Hos. 1.7 - But I will have mercy on the house of Judah, and I will save them by the Lord their God. I will not save them by bow or by sword or by war or by horses or by horsemen.

Zech. 9.13-15 - For I have bent Judah as my bow; I have made Ephraim its arrow. I will stir up your sons, O Zion, against your sons, O Greece, and wield you like a warrior's sword. [14] Then the Lord will appear over them, and his arrow will go forth like lightning; the Lord God will sound the trumpet and will march forth in the whirlwinds of the south. [15] The Lord of hosts will protect them, and they shall devour, and tread down the sling stones, and they shall drink and roar as if drunk with wine, and be full like a bowl, drenched like the corners of the altar.

1 Cor. 2.4-5 - and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, [5] that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

**God does not depend on their strength and wisdom for the victory**

1 Cor. 1.26-29 - For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. [27] But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; [28] God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, [29] so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.

Ps. 33.16-17 - The king is not saved by his great army; a warrior is not delivered by his great strength. [17] The war horse is a false hope for salvation, and by its great might it cannot rescue.



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Ps. 44.6-7 - For not in my bow do I trust, nor can my sword save me. [7]  
But you have saved us from our foes and have put to shame those who hate us.

Prov. 21.30-31 - No wisdom, no understanding, no counsel can avail against the Lord. [31] The horse is made ready for the day of battle, but the victory belongs to the Lord.

**The called of God inquire of the Lord and obey his voice in the battle**

1 Sam. 23.2 - Therefore David inquired of the Lord, “Shall I go and attack these Philistines?” And the Lord said to David, “Go and attack the Philistines and save Keilah.”

1 Sam. 30.8 - And David inquired of the Lord, “Shall I pursue after this band? Shall I overtake them?” He answered him, “Pursue, for you shall surely overtake and shall surely rescue.”

2 Sam. 5.19-20 - And David inquired of the Lord, “Shall I go up against the Philistines? Will you give them into my hand?” And the Lord said to David, “Go up, for I will certainly give the Philistines into your hand.” [20] And David came to Baal-perazim, and David defeated them there. And he said, “The Lord has burst through my enemies before me like a bursting flood.” Therefore the name of that place is called Baal-perazim.

2 Sam. 5.25 - And David did as the Lord commanded him, and struck down the Philistines from Geba to Gezer.

Ps. 144.1 - Blessed be the Lord, my rock, who trains my hands for war, and my fingers for battle; [2] he is my steadfast love and my fortress, my stronghold and my deliverer, my shield and he in whom I take refuge, who subdues peoples under me.



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Ps. 144.9-10 - I will sing a new song to you, O God; upon a ten-stringed harp I will play to you, [10] who gives victory to kings, who rescues David his servant from the cruel sword.

### **God's call ensures the victory**

Eph. 6.10-13 - Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. [11] Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. [12] For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. [13] Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.

2 Chron. 20.15-17 - And he said, "Listen, all Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem and King Jehoshaphat: Thus says the Lord to you, 'Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed at this great horde, for the battle is not yours but God's. [16] Tomorrow go down against them. Behold, they will come up by the ascent of Ziz. You will find them at the end of the valley, east of the wilderness of Jeruel. [17] You will not need to fight in this battle. Stand firm, hold your position, and see the salvation of the Lord on your behalf, O Judah and Jerusalem.' Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed. Tomorrow go out against them, and the Lord will be with you."

2 Chron. 32.7-8 - "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or dismayed before the king of Assyria and all the horde that is with him, for there are more with us than with him. [8] With him is an arm of flesh, but with us is the Lord our God, to help us and to fight our battles." And the people took confidence from the words of Hezekiah king of Judah.

### **God fights on behalf of his person and his people**

Deut. 20.1 - When you go out to war against your enemies, and see horses and chariots and an army larger than your own, you shall not be afraid of



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them, for the Lord your God is with you, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.

Deut. 20.4 - For the Lord your God is he who goes with you to fight for you against your enemies, to give you the victory.

Josh. 10.42 - And Joshua captured all these kings and their land at one time, because the Lord God of Israel fought for Israel.

2 Chron. 20.15 - And he said, "Listen, all Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem and King Jehoshaphat: Thus says the Lord to you, 'Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed at this great horde, for the battle is not yours but God's.'"

**Let us, then, stand firm on God's promise to help in time of trouble**

Ps. 46.11 - The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.  
Selah

Ps. 62.7-8 - On God rests my salvation and my glory; my mighty rock, my refuge is God. [8] Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us. *Selah*

Ps. 91.1-8 - He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. [2] I will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." [3] For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence. [4] He will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler. [5] You will not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day, [6] nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness, nor the destruction that wastes at noonday. [7] A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you. [8] You will only look with your eyes and see the recompense of the wicked.



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Ps. 142.5 - I cry to you, O Lord; I say, “You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.”

Prov. 14.26 - In the fear of the Lord one has strong confidence, and his children will have a refuge.

Prov. 18.10 - The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous man runs into it and is safe.

Gen. 22.14 - So Abraham called the name of that place, “The Lord will provide”; as it is said to this day, “On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided.”

Deut. 4.7 - For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is to us, whenever we call upon him?

2 Sam. 22.17-20 - He sent from on high, he took me; he drew me out of many waters. [18] He rescued me from my strong enemy, from those who hated me, for they were too mighty for me. [19] They confronted me in the day of my calamity, but the Lord was my support. [20] He brought me out into a broad place; he rescued me, because he delighted in me.

Ps. 145.18 - The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. ■

IN A fascinating account in the book *Words We Live By*, Brian Burrell talks about Dennis Lee Curtis, an armed robber arrested in 1992 in Rapid City, South Dakota. As one who had reflected long and hard on his craft, Curtis apparently had worked for some time developing clear guidelines and principles that he would strive to keep as he went about doing his particular form of theft and crime. When he was captured, the police found his list of



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principles in his wallet, a folded sheet of paper which outlined for Burrell his unique thievery code:

1. *I will not kill anyone unless I have to.*
2. *I will take cash and food stamps—no checks.*
3. *I will rob only at night.*
4. *I will not wear a mask.*
5. *I will not rob mini-marts or 7-Eleven stores.*
6. *If I get chased by cops on foot, I will get away. If chased by vehicle, I will not put the lives of innocent civilians on the line.*
7. *I will rob only seven months out of the year.*
8. *I will enjoy robbing from the rich to give to the poor.*

~ (Brian Burrell. *Words We Live By*. S&S Trade, 1997, p. 181).

This kind of twisted morality, this flawed thinking, may strike us as laughable or weird, and of course, it is. Nevertheless, this same kind of flawed logic underlies much thinking today about the standards we set for ourselves in our endeavors. Mr. Curtis was deceived into thinking that he could engage in the wrong business if he had the right principles. Many today, in striving to represent God, are engaged in the right business while they employ the wrong principles.

While we may make fun of Mr. Curtis's weird sense of standards, don't we make the same strange application of standards when it comes to God's call and our task?

How many of us have been taught from early on in our Christian life that God's call is dependent on our strength, wisdom, preparation, and ability? How many times have you personally overlooked God's anointed because they did not seem to look right, talk right, or come from the proper background? How often have we been impressed based on outward features



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and not inward unction? How easy has it been for us to ignore the “wallflower” types in order to affirm that “like-able” standing before us? In the end, what we think isn’t really what’s most important.

God’s standards count; ours don’t.

As those trusting God for revival and transformation of the cities, the heart and soul of our spiritual endeavor must be rooted in God’s ability to renew the unreliable (Samson), to elect the overlooked (David), and utilize the unimpressive (Joshua). Everything we read in Scripture reveals that God elects his own to represent his interests in whatever he decides. He consults no odds-makers, researches no resumes, and is influenced by no reference applications. He deliberately chooses the weak, the broken, the little ones to shame the strong, the stout, and the big shots:

*1 Cor. 1.26-29 - For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. [27] But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; [28] God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, [29] so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.*

Paul’s exhortation here is prime for the urban poor of America and the world today. Among them are few powerful, wise by human standards, or any of noble background or pedigree. Yet, God elected them to represent his Kingdom in order to “bring to nothing things that are.” God elects the nobodies in order to show that the excellency of the power is not in human beings, but in his sovereign working and victory.

God alone can save and heal, and he alone makes his call of any person efficacious and true. In the end, his standards alone count; ours don’t.



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We see this truth outlined in story after story in the Hebrew Scriptures and the Christian New Testament. Who cannot affirm this lesson as it is displayed in bold relief in the narratives of the children of Israel, in the call of Samson and David, and in countless others who, although on the surface seemed small and unimpressive, yet, through the power of God, subdued nations, won unbelievable victories, and accomplished God's will with honor and glory? One would have to deliberately turn a jaundiced eye away from the plain truth of Scripture to deny that God elects the small in order that his glory might be seen writ large through his acts of intervention and victory.

The simple truth of God's story reverberates through numberless episodes in the lives of his saints. God calls his own to represent his interest in the fight, and he fights for his own to ensure the victory. This occurs in his own time and in his own way.

God's standards count; ours don't.

This principle, verified daily in the personal lives of his people, is precisely the reason why we can have confidence in the city's rescue and redemption, in spite of the apparently impossible odds against its transformation.

Is God intimidated by the broken families, senseless violence, and wanton oppression that interfere with our efforts to evangelize and disciple in the city? Does God fear any prospect of resistance or refusal to operate according to his direction and will? Has God ever backed away from a confrontation with anything or anyone who defied his will or rebelled at his authority?

No. Never. Nada. If Scriptures tells us anything, it should tell us that our God does not lose, cannot be mocked, and, in the end, all things will occur in harmony with his wishes and will. Our LORD is lord!



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God's standards count; ours don't.

With this month, we start the observance of the season of Lent in the Church Year. The Lenten season is that forty-day period which starts on Ash Wednesday and ends on Thursday of Holy Week. It calls the faithful community to reflect on Jesus' suffering, crucifixion, and death. Following our Lord in his preparation for his Passion, we prepare ourselves on the way of the Cross for full obedience to God. The season of Lent is, therefore, as one commentator put it, a season of "preparation, accompaniment, and journey." As followers of Jesus of Nazareth, the Church finds its life in his sacrifice on the Cross, his victory over evil, chaos, sin, and death, and his restoration of all things through his resurrection, his ascension, and soon return.

Jesus is the Champion of God, he whose humble obedience and unconditional availability to God culminated in his death on the Cross and his substitutionary sacrifice as well as his defeat of the powers and principalities who have stood against us since the Fall. From the Garden, God has been waging war against those powers and beings that seek to destroy his creation and ravage his universe. Through the Cross, he has overcome the dragon, destroyed death, put evil down forever, and laid the foundation for the restoration of creation. Now through the Church, this victory is proclaimed and embodied in the lives of folk like you and me.

It's not our standards that matter; God calls whomever he wills to contribute in whatever he wishes.

This month, let's remind our eternal and faithful God of his victory in Christ, of his call of the broken and beaten, and his working through the small and the nothings. Let's plead with him to raise up a generation of Samsons, Deborahs, Marys, and Davids for the city today, and ask for courage to cling to his promise, even in the wake of troubles galore. His call



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and gifts are irrevocable; he doesn't take them back or change his mind (Rom. 11.29).

God will never call anyone to represent his interests without supplying them the opportunity, ability, and provision to accomplish his will. This is the ground of our faith, and surety of our victory in him.

God's standards count; ours don't. ■

### The Season of Lent: Responding to the Call of God

*1 Cor. 1.26-29 - For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. [27] But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; [28] God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, [29] so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.*

### Biblical Principle of the Month

As intercessors for the cities of the world, let us remind ourselves during this season of Lent that our God works through those who are unconditionally available to him. In the same way that our Lord Jesus humbled himself on his journey to the Cross, so we too must humble ourselves before him, committing ourselves to his will, yielding to the prompting of his Spirit, and allowing him to elect and use whomever he wishes for whatever task he assigns. God still chooses those who are small, weak, and nothing in this world in order to work the purposes of his own will. Let us submit in prayer to him this month, pleading with him to raise up a generation who will represent Christ and his Kingdom in the neediest cities of America and the world. We can be confident he will do so, for the battle is the Lord's.



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*1 Sam. 17.45-47 - Then David said to the Philistine, “You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. [46] This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head. And I will give the dead bodies of the host of the Philistines this day to the birds of the air and to the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, [47] and that all this assembly may know that the Lord saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the Lord’s, and he will give you into our hand.”*

*Ps. 18.28-32 - For it is you who light my lamp; the Lord my God lightens my darkness. [29] For by you I can run against a troop, and by my God I can leap over a wall. [30] This God—his way is perfect; the word of the Lord proves true; he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him. [31] For who is God, but the Lord? And who is a rock, except our God?— [32] the God who equipped me with strength and made my way blameless.*



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