

**LET
GOD
ARISE!**

*The Battle Belongs to the Lord
Prayer Guide #11
Rev. Dr. Don L. Davis*



The Church Militant
Matthew 16.15-19

Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus

George Duffield

Stand up, stand up for Jesus, Ye soldiers of the cross;
Lift high His royal banner, it must not suffer loss:
From vic-t'ry unto vic-t'ry His army shall He lead,
Till ev'ry foe is vanquished, and Christ is Lord indeed.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus, the trumpet call obey;
Forth to the mighty conflict, in this His glorious day:
"Ye that are men now serve Him" against unnumbered foes;
Let courage rise with danger, and strength to strength oppose.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus, stand in His strength alone;
The arm of flesh will fail you, Ye dare not trust your own:
Put on the gospel armor, each piece put on with prayer;
Where duty calls, or danger, be never wanting there.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus, the strife will not be long;
This day the noise of battle, the next, the victor's song:
To Him that overcometh, a crown of life shall be:
He with the King of glory shall reign eternally.

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The Redeemed are children of light and children of the day

1 Thess. 5.5-10 - For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. [6] So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. [7] For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. [8] But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. [9] For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, [10] who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him.

The battle belongs to the Lord

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.”

2 Sam. 22.33-35 - This God is my strong refuge and has made my way blameless.[34] He made my feet like the feet of a deer and set me secure on the heights. [35] He trains my hands for war, so that my arms can bend a bow of bronze.

2 Chron. 32.8 - 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.

Ps. 3.8 - Salvation belongs to the Lord; your blessing be on your people!
Selah



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

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The Lord is our Rock and our Deliverer

Psalm 18:2 The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

Ps. 20.5-7 - May we shout for joy over your salvation, and in the name of our God set up our banners! May the Lord fulfill all your petitions! [6] Now I know that the Lord saves his anointed; he will answer him from his holy heaven with the saving might of his right hand. [7] Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God.

Ps. 118.10-11 - All nations surrounded me; in the name of the Lord I cut them off! [11] They surrounded me, surrounded me on every side; in the name of the Lord I cut them off!

Ps. 124.8-125.1 - Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth. [125:1] Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever.

Animosity and division lie between the seed of the serpent and the seed of the woman

Gen. 3.15 - I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.

Ps. 68.18 - You ascended on high, leading a host of captives in your train and receiving gifts among men, even among the rebellious, that the Lord God may dwell there.

Isa. 53.12 - Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.



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Satan's domain divided against itself cannot stand

Matt. 12.24-30 - But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, "It is only by Beelzebul, the prince of demons, that this man casts out demons." [25]

Knowing their thoughts, he said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and no city or house divided against itself will stand. [26] And if Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand? [27] And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. [28] But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. [29] Or how can someone enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? Then indeed he may plunder his house. [30] Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters."

Christ Jesus has won the victory over Satan and his minions

Luke 10.18 - And he said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven."

John 12.31 - Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out.

Eph. 4.8 - Therefore it says, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men."

Heb. 2.14 - Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil.

Rev. 12.9 - And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world— he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.



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

Col. 1.13 - He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son.

Col. 2.15 - He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

2 Cor. 3.5 - Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God, [6] who has made us competent to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

2 Cor. 10.4 - For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds.

Phil. 4.13 - I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

The Lord can save by many or by few; his weaponry is stronger than ours

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 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



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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

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?

1 Pet. 3.22 - who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

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

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.

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.

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.



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Our God is God both of the hills and the valleys; none can withstand him

Dan. 4.34-35 - At the end of the days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High, and praised and honored him who lives forever, for his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation; [35] all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, “What have you done?”

1 Kings 20.27-29 - And the people of Israel were mustered and were provisioned and went against them. The people of Israel encamped before them like two little flocks of goats, but the Syrians filled the country. [28] And a man of God came near and said to the king of Israel, “Thus says the Lord, ‘Because the Syrians have said, “The Lord is a god of the hills but he is not a god of the valleys,” therefore I will give all this great multitude into your hand, and you shall know that I am the Lord.’” [29] And they encamped opposite one another seven days. Then on the seventh day the battle was joined. And the people of Israel struck down of the Syrians 100,000 foot soldiers in one day.

2 Chron. 14.9-13 - Zerah the Ethiopian came out against them with an army of a million men and 300 chariots, and came as far as Mareshah. [10] And Asa went out to meet him, and they drew up their lines of battle in the Valley of Zephathah at Mareshah. [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.” [12] So the Lord defeated the Ethiopians before Asa and before Judah, and the Ethiopians fled. [13] Asa and the people who were with him pursued them as far as Gerar, and the Ethiopians fell until none



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remained alive, for they were broken before the Lord and his army. The men of Judah carried away very much spoil.

2 Chron. 20.12 - O our God, will you not execute judgment on them? For we are powerless against this great horde that is coming against us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you.

Ps. 44.3 - For not by their own sword did they win the land, nor did their own arm save them, but your right hand and your arm, and the light of your face, for you delighted in them.

The Church during this age is the Church Militant, called to combat in Christ's name

Eph. 6.10-18 - 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. [14] Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, [15] and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. [16] In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; [17] and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, [18] praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints.

We are to strive, struggle, persevere in combat against the enemy

Luke 13.24 - Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able.



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1 Cor. 9.25-27 - Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. [26] So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. [27] But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

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.

John 12.31 - Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out.

John 14.30 - I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on me.

Acts 26.18 - to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.

Rom. 8.37-39 - No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. [38] For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, [39] nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2 Cor. 4.4 - In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.



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We are called to fight, using the weapons of Christ's warfare

Heb. 12.1-2 - Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, [2] looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

James 4.7-8 - Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. [8] Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

1 Pet. 5.8-11 - Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. [9] Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. [10] And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. [11] To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

1 John 3.8-10 - Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. [9] No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God. [10] By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.

Eph. 4.27 - And give no opportunity to the devil.



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2 Cor. 2.10-11 - Anyone whom you forgive, I also forgive. What I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, has been for your sake in the presence of Christ, [11] so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs.

We overcome the enemy through the Blood of Jesus Christ

Rev. 12.9-11 - And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. [10] And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. [11] And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.”

John 16.33 - I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.

Rom. 8.33-37 - Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. [34] Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. [35] Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? [36] As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.” [37] No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

Rom. 16.20 - The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.



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1 Cor. 15.57 - But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Cor. 10.3-5 - For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. [4] For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments [5] and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ.

2 Tim. 4.7-8 - I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. [8] Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

Heb. 2.14-15 - Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, [15] and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.

1 John 4.4 - Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

1 John 5.5 - Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? ■

THE PLAIN truth of our time is that the universe is at war, and the stakes are the souls of humankind.

In a fascinating and important book, *St. Paul's Cosmic War Myth: A Military Version of the Gospel*, Peter W. Macky shows persuasively that the Hebrew tradition pictured and depicted God as the Man of war, the



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heavenly warrior who serves as the Champion of his people Israel. Taking on the foes of humankind, our God has opposed those powers that have plagued humankind from the tragic fall of the first human pair in the Garden. The Fall's horrible Curse, with its ensuing effect of corruption and death, made its entrance into the domain of the earth through the voluntary rebellion of Adam and Eve, and the deceptive lies of the serpent, the devil. As a result of humankind's disobedience and moral failure, all of the children of Adam experience the results of the Fall, including alienation from God, malice and division among one another, and ultimately, physical and spiritual death.

The heart of the cosmic drama in the midst of Scripture is this: in an act of covenantal faithfulness and unmerited favor and lovingkindness, our God promises to send a seed, the seed of the woman, who alone would be qualified to crush the head of the serpent, to rescind the effects of the fall and its curse, to restore creation to its Edenic glory, and to reveal the Father's love to his universe. We know this "seed" to be none other than the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the so-called son of Joseph of Galilee. Yes, the humble son of the carpenter, Jesus of Nazareth, is in fact the seed of the Abrahamic promise (Gen. 12.1-3) and the fulfillment of the Davidic covenant (2 Sam. 7.4-17). On the Cross of Calvary, Jesus paid the price for our redemption, dying in our place as our Redeemer, and absorbing the full effect of the tragic rebellion. It was there on the Cross that Satan and his minions were exposed and destroyed, with all punishment, judgment, and vengeance for sin was paid in full (Col. 2.15). His resurrection and ascension are proof positive that the Father received Jesus' atonement as full and satisfactory payment for our moral corruption, and reveal the marvelous extent of his victory over the powers which all our lives long have held us in bondage (Heb. 2.14; Col. 1.13; 1 John 3.8).

Having defeated the devil on the Cross through his shed blood, now our risen Lord has given to his Church the high call to stand up for him, as the



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hymn suggests, soldiers of the Cross who proclaim and prophesy deliverance to the captives of the devil worldwide, offering peace with God and release from the powers through faith in Jesus Christ! As the slain Lamb and risen Lord, Jesus now possesses all authority in heaven and earth (Matt. 28.18), and has commanded his Church to go make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and teaching them all things he commanded his apostles (cf. Matt. 28.19-20). He has promised to be with us till the very end of the age as we carry out his commission of reconciliation, hope, and grace.

From the sending of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, Jesus has outfitted his people with the presence of God and the weaponry to engage and defeat the enemy. The Gospel of Christ is the very power of God, able to save to the uttermost anyone who repents and believes, whether Jew or Greek, bond or free, male or female, rich or poor. Through the shared authority of the risen Christ, the Church has been given the high privilege and calling to share the Good News of victory and freedom. To us is granted the ministry of reconciliation:

2 Cor. 5.18-21 - All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; [19] that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. [20] Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. [21] For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

So, God makes his appeal to the world concerning Christ through us! Here is the necessity of the Church in today's world, carried over until the very end of the age. Jesus told Peter that he would build his Church on the Rock, and that not even the gates of hell could defeat it:



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Matt. 16.18-19 - And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. [19] I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

This is powerful imagery, for it shows a militant, aggressive, engaging company on the move, storming even hell itself to affect the rescue of those whom the devil has held in bondage. The truth of Jesus Christ sets free (cf. John 8.31-32), and he who indwells the Church is greater than he who indwells the world system (1 John 4.4).

This vision of a marching, aggressive, militant company under the command of Christ is one which desperately needs to be recovered today. The hymn, “Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus!” by George Duffield captures the clarion call to which all disciples of the 21st century would do well to heed and to receive:

*Stand up, stand up for Jesus, Ye soldiers of the cross;
Lift high His royal banner, it must not suffer loss:
From vic-t’ry unto vic-t’ry His army shall He lead,
Till ev’ry foe is vanquished, and Christ is Lord indeed.*

*Stand up, stand up for Jesus, the trumpet call obey;
Forth to the mighty conflict, in this His glorious day:
“Ye that are men now serve Him” against unnumbered foes;
Let courage rise with danger, and strength to strength oppose.*

*Stand up, stand up for Jesus, stand in His strength alone;
The arm of flesh will fail you, Ye dare not trust your own:
Put on the gospel armor, each piece put on with prayer;
Where duty calls, or danger, be never wanting there.*



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*Stand up, stand up for Jesus, the strife will not be long;
This day the noise of battle, the next, the victor's song:
To Him that overcometh, a crown of life shall be:
He with the King of glory shall reign eternally.*

The stanzas of this classic hymn speak to the challenge today. We must lift up his royal banner, obey his trumpet call, standing alone in his strength, fortified with the armor of the Lord. We cannot shirk the most dangerous or needy fields, but never be wanting when engaging the enemy wherever precious souls and lives are at stake. We must not fear the difficulty of the strife, for although today is the battle's noise, soon we will experience the victor's celebration. The promise is certain: the one who overcomes will receive the crown of life and reign forever with the Captain of our salvation.

There remains today no greater need than a new generation of spiritual warriors who are willing, in sacrifice and obedience, to go and strive for the souls of men and women and boys and girls, especially in the unreached cities of America and the world. Let God Arise! is a clarion call to "all hands on deck," so to speak, a call to gather every true soldier and true platoon (local church) of Jesus Christ to pray, to give, to organize, to evangelize, to maneuver, to collaborate, and to fight in order to advance the Reign of God in Christ into every unreached neighborhood and home in our nation. Such a fight demands a warfare consciousness, a mindset, a vision that coincides with the biblical vision Macky describes in his book, *St. Paul's Cosmic War Myth*. We must accept the fact that the universe is at war, that God's reign is at stake, that Jesus Christ has secured the victory, and that we, as his ambassadors and soldiers, are called to share with the lost the stirring truth that the powers have been defeated at the Cross.

Make no mistake. Even as the Church Militant, we do not win the victory, we announce and embody it. Only Christ Jesus, the risen and ascended Lord, can secure the victory over the powers and consummate God's plan of



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salvation. Nevertheless, we do overcome the dragon through the weapons received from Christ, through the Holy Spirit, and the Blood of Jesus, and the word of our testimony (Rev. 12.9-11; Eph. 6.11-18). Because he lives, and since he has destroyed the works of the devil (1 John 3.8), our mission is doable.

This month, as we pray for the cities of America and the world, let us embrace our task as soldiers of the Cross. As we move steadily to the end of this Season after Pentecost, let us remind ourselves that the next season of the Church Year and the plan of God is *Advent: the coming of the risen Lord Jesus Christ!* The numbers of the lost are vast, the workers are few, the stakes are high, and the time is short. We must recruit the best and brightest to join us in the warfare over the souls of humankind, and trust the Holy Spirit to empower us to complete the task, as God leads.

Let's reaffirm with faith and confidence that *the universe is at war, and the stakes are the souls of humankind.* What an amazing time for those who know and love the Lord to stand up for Jesus and engage the foe as the Church Militant.

Until the Captain calls us home, let us watch, fight, and pray, knowing that, soon and very soon, we will see our Captain and King, who will consummate the fight, once and for all. To him alone be the glory! Amen. ■

The Season after Pentecost: The Church Militant

Matt. 16.17-19 - And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. [18] And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. [19] I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."



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Biblical Principle of the Month

During this Season after Pentecost, we must reaffirm our identity as soldiers of the Cross, members of the Church Militant. Through the commission of the Captain of our salvation, the Lord Jesus Christ, we have been called to proclaim and prophesy deliverance to the captives in his name to the ends of the earth. Entrusted with the high call of lifting up his royal banner and obeying his trumpet call, we must stand alone in his strength, fortified by the weaponry of the armor of the Lord.

As those who abandoned “civilian life,” we must go with commitment and courage to the most dangerous or needy fields. Let us never shirk in engaging the enemy and seeking to rescue from the fire, as it were, those precious souls and lives that Christ has purchased through his blood. Furthermore, let us not fear the noise and privation of the struggle, knowing that “today, the noise of battle, the next, the victor’s song!” God’s promise to overcoming warriors is clear: those who overcome receive the crown of life and will reign forever with Christ. Let us yield to the Spirit, take up the armor, and engage the enemy, for Christ’s sake.

2 Cor. 10.3-5 - For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. [4] For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments [5] and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ.

James 4.7-8 - Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. [8] Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

1 Pet. 5.8-11 - Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. [9] Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.



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