

TRAIN US FOR BATTLE

(No. 1198 – 10/26/20 – DR Zoom Meeting)

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Pastor Tom’s message last week (We can’t have faith in a God we don’t know!)
1. **Ps. 9:9-10:** *⁹The LORD is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble. ¹⁰Those who know Your name will trust in You, for You, LORD, have never forsaken those who seek You.*
 2. This is not head knowledge or Bible school learning—it is personal revelation & experience (**Ps. 34:8**):
Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him.
 3. **John 17:3:** *Now **this is eternal life:** that they may **know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent.***
 4. **Phil. 3:7-11:** *⁷But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the **surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord,** for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. ¹⁰**I want to know Christ** and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death, ¹¹and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.*
- B. Standing on who God is
1. During Sherine’s hospitalization, God spoke to me: “Having done all, **STAND!**” (Eph. 6:13). While praying, God reminded me that He *IS* Jehovah-Rapha—the Lord who heals. Healing is not just what He *does*, it is *WHO HE IS*—and HE CANNOT DENY HIMSELF (2 Tim. 2:13).
 2. God then took me to the story of David & Goliath (1 Sam. 17). For 40 days and nights, Goliath “came forward every morning and evening and **took his stand,**” shouting &

taunting Israel & defying the God of the armies of Israel. David took his stand against Goliath & God gave him a great victory.

II. WAR IN HEAVEN

- A. Paul, after writing to the Ephesians about God's eternal, predestined plan for the church, salvation by grace through faith, the mystery of Jews & Gentiles becoming one Body in Christ, the Bride of Christ—a glorious church without spot or wrinkle, he finishes the final chapter with these words (**Eph. 6:10-18**):

¹⁰**Finally**, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. ¹¹Put on the full armor of God so that you can **take your STAND** against the devil's schemes. ¹²For our struggle [we wrestle – KJV] 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**. ¹³Therefore put on the full armor 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**. ¹⁴**STAND firm** then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸And 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.

- B. We are in a cosmic battle between light & darkness, good & evil, God & Satan—this is NOT a carnal or worldly battle—it is a spiritual battle, and the **war is in heaven (Rev. 12:1-12)**:

¹A great and wondrous sign appeared **in heaven**: a **woman** clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head. ²She was pregnant and cried out in pain as she was about to give birth. ³Then another sign appeared **in heaven**: an **enormous red dragon** with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on his heads. ⁴His tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth. The **dragon stood in front of the woman** who was about

to give birth, so **that he might devour her child** the moment it was born. ⁵She gave birth to a son, a male child, who will rule all the nations with an iron scepter. And her child was snatched up to God and to His throne.

⁶The woman fled into the desert to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for 1,260 days. ⁷And there was **war in heaven**. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. ⁸But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. ⁹The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.

¹⁰Then 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 Christ. For the **accuser of our brothers**, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. ¹¹**They overcame 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. ¹²Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, because the **devil has gone down to you!** He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short.”

C. NOTE: Many Christians are so carnal- & worldly-minded that they are clueless about the real spiritual battle IN HEAVEN!

D. **1 Tim. 6:12: Fight the good fight of faith.**

III. KNOW GOD, KNOW YOUR ENEMY, KNOW YOUR WEAPONS

A. Satan [“adversary”] resists & opposes all that God is, says, and does; whatever God is, the devil is the opposite. For example:

God is	Satan is
Good	Evil
Light	Darkness
Love	Hate
Truth	Lies
Peace	Strife, confusion

- B. This is why it is so important to know who God is. God revealed Himself to Moses as *I AM* (Yahweh = Jehovah) at the burning bush (**Ex. 3:13-14**):

¹³*Moses said to God, “Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what shall I tell them?”*

¹⁴*God said to Moses, “**I AM WHO I AM.** This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘**I AM** has sent me to you.’”*

- C. Throughout the Old Testament, God revealed various aspects of His character through different compound names of Jehovah:

1. *Jireh* (Provider) – Gen. 22:14
2. *Rapha* (Healer) – Ex. 15:26
3. *Nissi* (Banner of Victory) – Ex. 17:15
4. *Shalom* (Peace) – Judges 6:24
5. *Shammah* (Presence) – Ezek. 48:35

- D. Jesus made numerous “I AM” declarations (John 6:35 ; 8:12; 10:7,9,11,14; 11:25; 14:6; 15:1,5, but the greatest revelation that He brought was that God is our **FATHER**:

1. **Mat. 6:6-14:** ⁶*But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to **your Father**, who is unseen. Then **your Father**, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you...* ⁸*Do not be like them, for **your Father** knows what you need before you ask Him.* ⁹*This, then, is how you should pray: **Our Father** in heaven, hallowed be Your name...* ¹⁴*For if you forgive men when they sin against you, **your heavenly Father** will also forgive you.*

2. **Mat. 7:11:** *If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, **how much more will your Father** in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!*

3. Tom’s message – the prodigal didn’t really know his father

- E. God cannot change or deny His own character

1. **2 Tim. 2:13 (NKJV):** *If we are faithless, He remains faithful; **He cannot deny Himself.***

2. **Mal. 3:6:** *I the LORD do not change.*

3. **James 1:17:** *Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.*
 4. **Heb. 6:18:** *It is impossible for God to lie.*
 5. **Heb. 13:8:** *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.*
- F. We also need to know our enemy—where he is, what his tactics & weapons are, etc.
1. **2 Cor. 2:11:** *In order that **Satan** might not outwit us. For we are **not unaware of his schemes**.*
 2. **Eph. 6:11:** *Take your stand against the **devil’s schemes**.*
 3. Jesus came to “destroy the **works of the devil**” (1 John 3:8)—what are his works?
 - a) lies, deception, spiritual blindness (John 8:44; 2 Cor. 4:4; 11:14; 2 Thess. 2:9; Rev. 12:9)—to make people doubt the Word of God & call God a liar (Gen. 3:1 – “did God *really* say?”)
 - b) accuses/condemns God’s people (Job 1-2; Rev 12:10)
 - c) tries to sift/separate us like useless chaff = cause to stumble, fall away from Christ (Lk. 22:31; 2 Tim. 4:7)
 - d) temptation, sin, worldliness (Mat. 4:1-11; 1 Cor. 7:5; 2 Cor. 4:4; Eph. 2:2; Acts 5:3; 1 John 3:8-10)
 - e) kill, steal, destroy (John 8:44; Heb. 2:14; 1 Pet. 5:8; Rev. 2:10; Job 1-2)
 - f) afflict, oppress, imprison, torment (Lk. 13:16; Acts 10:38; 2 Cor. 12:7; 2 Tim. 2:26)
 - g) hinder, resist ministry (Lk. 8:12; 1 Thess. 2:18)
- G. We need to know our weapons & how to use them effectively/skillfully
1. We’re fighting *spiritual* enemies so we need *spiritual* weapons with divine power (**2 Cor. 10:3-5**):

*³For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. ⁴The **weapons we fight with** are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they **have divine power to demolish strongholds**. ⁵We 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. **Zech. 4:6-7** (NKJV): ⁶*So he answered and 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.* ⁷*‘Who are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain! And he shall bring forth the capstone with shouts of “Grace, grace to it!”’”*
3. **Eph. 6:14-18** - belt of truth, breastplate of righteousness, feet fitted with the gospel, shield of faith, helmet of salvation, sword of the Spirit (Word of God), & prayer
4. David knew he had spiritual weapons (faith, the name of the Lord, God’s power, etc.) to defeat Goliath, & he was skilled/experienced in using them (1 Sam. 17)
 - a) **1 Sam. 17:34-40**: ³⁴*But David said to Saul, “... When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, ³⁵I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. ³⁶Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. ³⁷**The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.**” Saul said to David, “Go, and the LORD be with you.”*
³⁸*Then Saul dressed David in his own tunic. He put a coat of armor on him and a bronze helmet on his head. ³⁹David fastened on his sword over the tunic and tried walking around, because he was not used to them. “I cannot go in these,” he said to Saul, “because **I am not used to** [“proved, practiced” KJV, RVR60] **them.**” So he took them off. ⁴⁰Then he took his staff in his hand, chose five smooth stones from the stream, put them in the pouch of his shepherd’s bag and, with his sling in his hand, approached the Philistine.*
 - b) **Ps. 144:1**: *Praise be to **the LORD** my Rock, **who trains my hands for war, my fingers for battle.***

- c) **2 Sam. 17:8-10** [Hushai to Absalom concerning his father David]: ⁸*You know your father and his men; they are **fighters, and as fierce as a wild bear robbed of her cubs.** Besides, your father is an **experienced fighter**; he will not spend the night with the troops. ⁹*Even now, he is hidden in a cave or some other place. If he should attack your troops first, whoever hears about it will say, ‘There has been a slaughter among the troops who follow Absalom.’* ¹⁰*Then even the bravest soldier, whose heart is like the heart of a lion, will melt with fear, for all Israel knows that **your father is a fighter and that those with him are brave.****
5. We need trained warriors like David’s mighty men (2 Sam. 23:8-23) who are experienced & skilled in the use of spiritual weapons:
- a) **Judges 3:1-2**: ¹*These are the nations the LORD left to test all those Israelites who had not experienced any of the wars in Canaan* ²*(He did this only **to teach warfare** to the descendants of the Israelites who had not had previous **battle experience**).*
- b) **Judges 20:16**: *Among all these soldiers there were seven hundred chosen men who were left-handed, each of whom **could sling a stone at a hair and not miss.***
- c) **1 Chron. 5:18**: *The Reubenites, the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh had 44,760 men ready for military service—**able-bodied men who could handle shield and sword, who could use a bow, and who were trained for battle.***

IV. HAVING DONE ALL, STAND

- A. In Eph. 6:10-18, Paul repeats four times, “STAND!”
- B. Once we have done all we can do, we stand in faith, looking to the Lord to fight the battle and give us the victory
1. **1 Sam. 17:46-47**: ⁴⁶*This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.* ⁴⁷*Then all this assembly shall know that the LORD*

*does not save with sword and spear; for **the battle is the LORD's**, and He will give you into our hands.”*

2. **2 Sam. 23:8-12:** ⁸*These are the names of David's mighty men: Josheb-Basshebeth, a Tahkemonite, was chief of the Three; he raised his spear against eight hundred men, whom he killed in one encounter. ⁹Next to him was Eleazar son of Dodai the Ahohite. As one of the three mighty men, he was with David when they taunted the Philistines gathered at Pas Dammim for battle. Then the men of Israel retreated, ¹⁰but **he stood his ground** and struck down the Philistines till his hand grew tired and froze to the sword. **The LORD brought about a great victory** that day. The troops returned to Eleazar, but only to strip the dead. ¹¹Next to him was Shammah son of Agee the Hararite. When the Philistines banded together at a place where there was a field full of lentils, Israel's troops fled from them. ¹²But **Shammah took his stand in the middle of the field**. He defended it and struck the Philistines down, and the LORD brought about a great victory. [**Benaiah!** (see vv.20-23)]*
3. **Ex. 14:13-14:** ¹³*Moses answered the people, “Do not be afraid. **Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today**. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. ¹⁴**The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still.**”*
4. **2 Chron. 20:15-17:** ¹⁵*He said: “Listen, King Jehoshaphat and all who live in Judah and Jerusalem! This is what the LORD says to you: ‘**Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God's**. ¹⁶Tomorrow march down against them. They will be climbing up by the Pass of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the gorge in the Desert of Jeruel. ¹⁷You will not have to fight this battle. Take up your positions; **stand firm and see the deliverance the LORD will give you, O Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Go out to face them tomorrow, and the LORD will be with you.**”*

V. CONCLUSION

The Lord is with us fighting HIS battles! The Great I AM is faithful and unchanging. Our Father has given us mighty weapons and we are more than conquerors through Christ who loved us! Stand firm!