

2 Timothy 2:3-4

You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.

We say that we want to be Warriors or Soldiers of Jesus Christ and wear the Armor of God. But are we really standing and fighting, or are we acting like cowards and running, or maybe just standing there, doing nothing, even though we may have gone through the motions of putting on the Armor of God?

In a battle when you are against your opponent, there is a forward and backward movement, but never a retreat or just standing there and taking the hits, but rather defending yourself and fighting back.

Yet the enemy has lied to the church, telling us that we are unloving and judgmental and uncaring if we speak out against what others think is right or okay to do, and sad to say, the church has believed the lies, because we just stand there and do nothing while the world around us gets further and further from the Lord, doing what they think is right in their own eyes, and dissing the things of God.

It reminds me of Israel in the Old Testament where it says that.

† **Judges 21:25** *In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.*

But we as a Church have a King, **King Jesus**. And you may even get excited when you read those two words “**KING JESUS!**” So if Jesus is our King, and He is, then how should we, His subjects, be living? Jesus is coming back after the seven-year tribulation to rule and reign on this earth, and we are coming back with Him, (If you are a believer). What if we started to actually live like He was here right now and were obedient to Him now as we will be when He is ruling on this earth, doing what the Psalm tells us to do on behalf of those who can't fight or are too weak to fight.

† **Psalm 82:3-4** *Defend the poor and fatherless; Do justice to the afflicted and needy. Deliver the poor and needy; Free them from the hand of the wicked.*

† **Psalm 82:2-4 (MSG)** *"Enough! You've corrupted justice long enough, you've let the wicked get away with murder. You're here to defend the defenseless, to make sure that underdogs get a fair break; Your job is to stand up for the powerless, and prosecute all those who exploit them."*

Now we know that we have a voice in November when the elections come up. But is that how the bible taught us to fight these spiritual battles, with political means and elections?

† **Ephesians 6:12** *For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.*

This is in the middle of Paul talking about the Armor of God. Yet how often are we using the things of the flesh, to fight against the things of this world, to fight those spiritual battles?

I remember way back in the 90's, there was a song by the Christian group named, "Petra", and one of the songs they sung said, "Get on your knees and fight like a man." Referring to the spiritual battle we are all in. And as Christians, we know that to be on our knees is to be in prayer.

So, knowing that, think once again about the Armor of God, and in the verse right after each piece of armor is mentioned where Paul says.

† **Ephesians 6:18** *praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints--*

Yes, we are to put on the Armor of God, but we are to wear it and use it with prayer, which means we are not fighting by our own strength, but by the power of the Holy Spirit in us! So let's ask the Lord to fill us with His Holy Spirit, and let's fight the battles like Jesus is ruling and reigning right now, because **HE IS!!!**

† **1 Corinthians 2:4-5 (NLT2)** *And my message and my preaching were very plain. Rather than using clever and persuasive speeches, I relied only on the power of the Holy Spirit. I did this so you would trust not in human wisdom but in the power of God.*

† **2 Timothy 1:14 (NLT2)** *Through the power of the Holy Spirit who lives within us, carefully guard the precious truth that has been entrusted to you.*

† **1 Chronicles 5:20a (NLT2)** *They cried out to God during the battle, and he answered their prayer because they trusted in him.*