

The Power Is In The Preparation

God's Word, the Christian Bible, and all past human history unite to teach us that battles are always won before the armies take to the field. The critical time for any army is the time spent in preparation, maybe weeks or months before the battle.

The critical time for a singer is not the tense moment when they step out to face a waiting audience. If the song has not been successfully sung before that time, it will not be a success at the moment of public performance.

It took David only a few moments to dispose of Goliath, but he had already beaten the giant long before in the person of the lion and the bear, [1 Samuel 17:1-51].

Jesus Christ stood silent in the presence of Pilate and for our sake went calmly to die in anguish on the cross, because He had suffered the pains the night before in Gethsemane praying to the Father. **There was a direct relationship between the two experiences, [Matthew 26:36-44; Matthew 27:11-14]. One served as a preparation for the other.**

The converse of this is true also.

Battles are never lost on the day they are fought. They are lost the weeks or months before the event, which was the result of how well and how serious the weeks of preparation.

If we were wise enough, we could predict without fail the outcome of any battle, both physical and spiritual.

1 Peter 5:8-11 [New King James] *“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you. To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.”*

This is an onslaught that can come on us any time and preparation is essential if we are to survive.

1 Peter 5:6-7 [New King James] *“Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.”*

A humble attitude is the starting point of this preparation, for it is **only** with the power of the Holy Spirit that we can win this battle, [1 John 4:1-4]. The Holy Spirit in us, as a true Christian, is greater than the spirit in the world, Satan, [1 John 5:19; Revelation 12:9].

The humble attitude we have before the Triune God will make available to us the protection needed to face Satan.

Ephesians 6:10-18 [New King James] *“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 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. Therefore take up the whole armour of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;*

praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints,”

Each part of this armour is linked to our faith in the Word of God, the Christian Bible, and the promises we find in it.

This armour is modelled on that of a Roman soldier who would put it on first thing in the morning and wear it all day.

[Please download and study the article on this website with the title *'The Armour Of God'* listed under main heading *'Satan'*.]

Preparation is vital, if we meet our enemy Satan and the temptations he will use to seek to destroy us without constant preparation of study and meditation on God's Word linked with thankful prayer, the outcome of our falling into sin will already be decided, we can only lose the battle.

Proverbs 6:6-11 [New King James] *“Go to the ant, you sluggard! Consider her ways and be wise, which, having no captain, overseer or ruler, provides her supplies in the summer, and gathers her food in the harvest. How long will you slumber, O sluggard? When will you rise from your sleep? A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep, so shall your poverty come on you like a prowler, and your need like an armed man.”*

The Creator God has given us in His physical creation a very humble and small example for us to follow. Preparation is the key to the ant's survival.

Take full advantage of every day to prepare for any spiritual battles we will be forced to face in the future. Victory can **only** be ours if we are well prepared.