

Let

Us Press

the Devil Back



Brother R. L. Mullen

God Has an Army

God will give His people the victory if they call on His name. He is mighty to deliver and strong to help. Saint, He is on your side, and He is more than all that can be against you. So, be of good courage, and the Lord will strengthen your heart. If you are trusting God for healing or for a job, stay right in there and keep trusting Him; He will see you through. If you have unanswered prayers, God can answer your petitions. Just hold on and have patience. Do not say, "Lord, answer now or I'll quit and go back into the world." God's people are like an army on the battlefield. As a Christian, you are in a hot battle, and the devil does not like it when he is losing. He hates it when you are happy and likes for you to go on feelings, not faith. He does not

want you to go very far for the Lord; he wants you to hold back a little.

The songs of Zion will encourage you, and the prayers of the saints will put you on higher ground. We need to help one another. I like to compare it to being on a football team. When someone is carrying the ball, others are running interference (they are praying, asking God to make a way so the one with the ball can go through and win the goal). Satan has an army, and God has an army. In Old Testament times the "ites" were always trying to fight against Israel. Israel would get through with one battle, and another battle would come up. Thank God, the devil is a defeated enemy. You can have the victory through the Lord Jesus Christ.

I do not know much about being in a literal army, but I believe that the Church of God is like an army in

some measure. I have heard people say, "We want to spearhead the enemy." In other words, they wanted to gain some ground on the enemy. The Christian should be gaining a little ground. You cannot go on feelings, but you have to step out on faith. God can do great things for you if you will trust Him. We have a strong battle going, but the old devil can be put over the hill. God is strong and mighty; He is mighty in battle and strong in promoting His great cause.

We, as the children of God, have to put pressure on the devil. He puts pressure on us. Sometimes I get so disgusted with the old fellow that I feel like kicking him. Saint, you can get angry with the devil. When he oversteps his bounds and goes too far, I say, "You dirty old devil, you have nothing worthwhile to sell. Get out of here!" I rebuke him, and he

has to leave. God wants you to have great victory. Ask God to help you to be a better soldier. He will help you if you stand on His promises. The devil does not like the promises of God. He is a mean, old devil, but God is mighty.

There are great rewards in the army of the Lord. There are great battles, but there are great victories. You may say, "I don't know whether this battle will ever be won." Friend, hold on to God and do not give in. Remember that your unsaved loved ones are watching you. Sometimes the most unlikely people will get saved. They may not seem interested, but they are watching you. No doubt, I looked that way before I was saved, yet God saved me. I had not planned to get saved when I went to a revival meeting the night I got saved. (By the way, the devil does not like revivals.) I had no desire to go inside where the meeting was being held, but I did not want to sit outside alone. The boy who was with me coaxed me to go in, and I came out saved. So, you see, the fellow you can hardly get to church may be the one who gets saved.

Some people get saved the first time they go to the house of God. They do not fool around. They want to go all the way with God, and they want to get saved quickly. God supplies their needs. They might not have been to church for years and years, and when they come it is a surprise to the saints. No doubt, the saints had prayed for me. The arrows of prayer and the sword of the Spirit convicted me. It made me angry, but when God gave me salvation, everything was new. In a moment of time, God changed me completely.

Claim the Promises of God

I want to walk in the light. When you walk in the light, then you can claim the promises of God and defeat the enemy. When you do God's will, you can ask Him what you will, and it shall be done. John 15:7

says, "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." God has greater power than the devil has. You are in a battle, and the old devil does not get discouraged easily. He puts pressure on the church. However, if you start running away from light because of that pressure, he will follow you and get you down and tromp on you, spiritually speaking. He will even try to get you to commit suicide; He has no mercy.

When you get old, he will say, "You are not good for anything. Why don't you quit praying? That old idea of going to Heaven is hogwash." Also, he will tell you, "You are too old to go to revivals anymore" or "You are too old to preach God's Word." He does not care if you do something wrong. If I were not preaching, I would be doing things that would be ten times harder on me. I would go all out for something. The devil does not care how hard he uses you. It is when you use yourself for God that he says, "You need to be careful and take it easy." Concerning God's work, God says, "Do it with all your heart, and I will be with you." You can put Satan and his power under your feet. After David killed Goliath, he probably stood and said, "By the grace of God, I have conquered him." That account is in the Old Testament, but today you can also be on top of situations. You have to fight against all the powers of the enemy, but God can help you to win every battle.

God's people do not put pressure on the devil. He will either chase you or you will chase him away. He will try to get you out of the camp of God, but you have to stand firmly. This battle against Satan is similar to being on a football team: you have to be offensive and defensive, but you have to be strong in the offensive and keep him on the run. I heard about a fellow who was once a prize fighter, and he was quite successful. He said he did not watch the other fellow's hands,

but he looked his opponent right in the eye and bluffed him. He said, "If I can bluff that man, I can win." That is the way the devil works. If he can bluff you, he will defeat you. He knows that he cannot whip you if God is with you, but he will try to bluff you. I once had a little dog that seldom got in a fight, but occasionally it chased the biggest dog in town. As long as that dog would run, my dog would chase it. Yet, if the big dog stopped, my dog would stop and look around as though nothing had happened.

The devil is a bluffer, and he will tell you that he can do things that he cannot do. Also, he will tell you that you cannot do things that God knows you can do. He is very persuasive. He will put pressure on you and try to prove to you that he is right. However, God is the One who is right. The Scripture says in Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." God does not look at the muscles in a man's legs or arms; that is not what makes one a good man. It takes something more than human strength: God wants His power to work through you. He encouraged me with these thoughts. He said, "No matter what your age is, the power of God within you is what helps you to preach."

Be Courageous and Full of Faith

One can be young and good looking, but unless he has God in his heart, he is spiritually dead. You may put your collar on backward and have long titles after your name, but without God you are nothing. On the other hand, you may look like an old hayseed, but if you have God, you can live victoriously for Him and defeat the devil. The outward appearance is what men look at, but God looks upon the heart.

God's Word says, "Greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world." The Lord can take away timidity and defeat. With God's help you can conquer the enemy. You do

not have to be afraid to go in the name of the Lord. Do not go on what you feel, but go on what faith in God can do for you.

Child of God, you are a child of faith, and you should have more faith. The devil will try to push you back. When that happens, do not turn back the least bit, but go forward. If you take ground spiritually along some line, someone is watching, and he or she might become courageous and push the devil back. Thus, the work of God goes forward. Then someone else may see him and become encouraged. That person may say, "If he gained the victory, I can gain the victory." Seeing others overcome the enemy is encouraging. On the other hand, if you are cowardly in spiritual things and run from the battle, the devil will defeat you and others will be discouraged. Someone is watching your courage. Serve God with all your heart, and when staying on the battlefield becomes difficult, God will be right there to help you. You must either stand and go forward or you will lose ground.

God's people need to increase in power and victories for God. Saint, has God ever shown you that you need to watch what you say? You have to be spiritual to control your tongue. God's people should keep still when God tells them to, but when He tells them to say something, they should say it. As a Christian, you can have a powerful testimony for God if you let the Lord have His way. You can win the victory through your testimony, through the blood of the Lamb, and through the power of God.

God's army is marching forward. You may not gain ground quickly, but do not lose any ground and do not run. Hold your ground and stand fast. When you see a chance to move up spiritually in any area of your life, move up and be a good soldier for God. You have a post to watch and a position to fill.

The United States army is quite strict about many things. The officers in charge do not let the soldiers

go home any time they want to go. There are reasons for having such strict rules. An army officer once told me, "If all the soldiers do not follow the rules, it may cost someone his life." The same is true in the spiritual realm. If you are not at your post of duty to serve God and pray, it will cause souls to be lost eternally. However, by being workers together and taking our places in this army, we all can gain the victory.

God Gives Sufficient Grace

We read in Romans 14:4, "Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand." God wants His people to stand; He can enable each of us to stand. His grace is sufficient, but you need to grow in grace. How much grace do you have? You ought to have more grace at the end of today than you had at the start. Attending revival meetings will help you to grow in grace. I thank God for the marvelous, wonderful grace of God; it is a reality! God gives more grace and more power to the humble. In the Old Testament day when there were shouts in the camp, people knew that God was moving among the Israelites. Today the devil knows when the church has a revival, because he is run over the hill and shut down for a while. Do not surrender to the enemy; just keep marching forward.

We all can move up in this Christian life. One area in which we can move up is divine healing. Saint, you will not necessarily get healed as soon as you have been prayed for. It is wonderful when ones are healed instantly, but sometimes we may be tested severely. God has not always moved on me as fast as I wanted Him to move.

Perhaps you have cancer, and the outcome does not look good. Having cancer has a tendency to bother a person and cause one to worry. I am reminded of a story about a little boy who had a toothache. Someone prayed for him and

said, "Don't you know that God is going to take it away?"

"Yes," he said, "but He is slow about it." You may think that God is slow, and you may say that you do not have enough patience to wait. Your attitude may be, "If God doesn't heal this condition today, tomorrow I'm going to do something else." Are you going down to "Egypt" for help? Are you looking for a man to help? God can do better than man. He is a great God!

Are you going to ask God to help you to be careful in your life and be watchful of the enemy? Fighting against the enemy of your soul is treacherous business. You have to watch. Sometimes you might have to lose a little sleep. Be watchful and ask God to protect your life.

Friend, are you going backward spiritually? Do not do that! Are you going to stand? Sometimes that is all you can do. At times in my spiritual life, I could not advance; I just had to stand. Though I have been a Christian for many years, I still have room to advance. There is much room to have faith and do things in a powerful way for God. There is much to learn about being a Christian soldier. You must get that old sword sharp and let the Word of God dwell in you richly, because it is powerful. When the enemy comes against the Word of God, he has to back off. When Jesus met the devil, He said, "It is written ..." That is the way God helps you. As you go into the Word of God, it is sharp, and you win the battle through the sword of the Spirit.

Revelation 6:17 reads, "For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?" God's people must endure hardships for the Lord, but there are great rewards for serving God. One reward is eternal life. You can talk about your pension plan, your hospitalization benefits, and the benefits of being a soldier in the United States Army, but those benefits cannot compare with the benefits of living for God. The Scripture says, "Great is your

reward in Heaven." If you serve God all the days of your life, you will go home to live with Him. God has a home for all the faithful who have been in the battle.

Be Faithful Unto Death

When I see Babylon rage, I know there is victory over the devil, the dragon, the beast, and the false prophet. The church is marching right on. A true prophet has so much more power than a false prophet. God's people have something real; salvation is real. It saves you from all your sins, and you can have a home in Heaven forever. Revelation 2:10 says, "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." What more could you ask for? God is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him and follow Him, and He is always good on payday. He never shortchanges anyone. We get more than we deserve. If you gave your life, it would not be too much. I have read about people who have worked so hard that they gave their lives for God. Friend, you are not going to lose by doing that.

Child of God, you need to grow in grace and knowledge. Do not be short on the grace of God. Stand in the liberty that you have already attained. There is work to serving God, but there is also much enjoyment and accomplishment. When you see a person delivered from the powers of the devil and come over to God's side, it is a great victory. It makes this life worth living.

I am so glad someone preached when I was unsaved. I am so glad they held that six-week revival meeting. I went to the meeting on a Sunday night because I did not have any place else to go. The dances were closed down, and the Sunday afternoon ball game was over. I had been drinking beer, and I had spilled it all over my clothes. I was in bad shape, but the Lord picked me up. I was saved because some one had a revival meeting and the saints were fasting and praying. The

preacher looked me right square in the eyes and said, "You fellows who have been out drinking just a little bit think you are controlling it, but you are worse off than a drunkard. More people will follow you." I thought the women had been telling him about me. I thought to myself, "It makes me sore to think that those old women in the church would tell the preacher about me." The more that preacher said, the angrier I became. However, I got under greater conviction, and thank God, I got saved that night.

It pays to serve the Lord. I want to tell you, putting God first is worthwhile. That revival was worth it for me. The saints worked hard to put up a big tent and have revival for six weeks, and as a result, I was saved.

Stand in the Holy Place

Matthew 24:15 reads, "When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation...." That is the spiritual condition of our world today. There are many towns where you cannot hear the Truth preached. Many places could have a true pastor and a work of God, but no one is interested. There is a spiritual famine in the land.

Again, Matthew 24:15 says, "When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet [when we see these things occur in the last days, what should we do?], stand in the holy place." What does that mean? Get in the holy Church of God, stand for holiness, and stand for godly standards. Do not be a fanatic, but be holy, be sincere, and be filled with God's Holy Spirit. That will make you what you ought to be.

The Holy Spirit does not make people fanatics or formal; that is the work of the devil. The Holy Spirit is not to blame for hypocrites either. To put on something that you do not have is deceitful and of the devil. God has better things for people. He can make you so that you will not be

deceitful or formal. Again, the Holy Spirit can make you what you ought to be.

God is marching His army with orders, and the orders are to go forward and take a stand against the devil, saying, "In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, get out of here, Satan. Depart!" The early church did that. The seventy that went out came back and said, "The devils are subject to us." Why? The devils were subject to them because they took a stand against the enemy. Saint, do not run; stand in the holy place. There is protection in God. No matter how the devil howls and growls and shoots off his firecrackers, God has bigger ammunition than he has. Though the devil may be shooting firecrackers and scorching you, through Christ you have bigger ammunition to shoot at him. Praise God, when you say, "Thus saith the Lord," it wipes out the enemy, but you have to fight the good fight of faith. The devil will not run if you are just bluffing. Do not be like the fellows who tried to cast out the devils and could not. The devils said, "We know Paul, and we know Jesus, but who are you?" You cannot do anything in yourself. The devil knows when you mean business.

There are places to go forward and become more diligent in this spiritual battle. Be happy about what you do for the Lord; do not pity yourself. Old self-pity bothers many Christian people. In reality, you have not done anything to be babied about. You may pity yourself because you did not get to sing as much as someone else, play the piano quite as much, or testify. Too many get sour and slump back. They quit fighting, quit praying, and quit testifying. That is terrible! Saint, you need to keep sweet and stay full of joy.

Preacher, you must learn to sit down sometimes and let someone else preach. Do not say, "I am the best, and if they don't want me, I will go someplace where they will." You have to learn to stay in your place in the army of the Lord. Stand

perfect and complete in all the will of God and go forward in Him.

The Way to Have Victory

Wavering faith does not get an answer from God. Also, giving up or putting God on a time schedule will not get an answer from Him. If you will be patient, God will give you the victory and bless you. I think of the fellows who carry the football on the football field. They make that line tight. Two or three fellows will group together to keep the opponents away from the ball. Church of God, we need to stand together. Let us get together and pray about our problems. Let us not have any differences or any separation in our love for one another. We need to be together in love and in agreement in prayer. The Bible has much to say about agreement in prayer.

Husband, wife, you have things in your home, such as raising your children, that you need to be in agreement about. Pray together for the will of God. When the children get sick in the night, if you have been arguing with your companion and separated in your love for each other, you cannot pray the prayer of faith. A couple can pray for their infant child, and God can heal the child without calling the preacher. You are heirs together, and you need to love each other so that your prayers will not be hindered. The devil likes to see people separate. Some couples divorce over little things. The devil is looking for a place to wedge in and destroy your power. Division and quarreling are the work of the devil. There is much power in agreement among the ministers and with the husband and wife in the home. Unity is beautiful, and being in one accord in one place is powerful. On the Day of Pentecost it was said that they were in one accord in one place. Some may say, "No church is like that" or "No home is like that"; but some are, and where there is unity, there is power. I heard a husband and wife praying

when I was just a young fellow going out with their daughter. I heard them praying in the bedroom and wondered if they were praying about me. It got hold of me. There was something about their voices in prayer that I knew they were not arguing or grumbling. They were on their knees about midnight praying. They were agreeing in prayer for someone. I could not hear exactly what they said, but I knew they were praying.

Having someone in the place of duty is wonderful, watching unto prayer. The Lord wants you to take time to pray and put your whole heart in it. That is worth something! It will boost you over the hardest hill. Prayer will take you over the steepest climb the devil can put in your way and give you the victory. You cannot have victory any other way!

Saint, you need to stand for God. He stands for you. He is with you in the battle. Do not be ashamed of the Gospel. God will go forward with you, and you can go forward in the things of God. God's people need to have more courage, faith, and patience. Some people say, "My patience is so short," and I would not doubt that it is. We are living in a pushy world. Everything has to be done in a hurry. Your patience will run out unless you get a fresh supply of grace daily.

How is your patience? People have heard of the patience of Job, but have they heard about yours? There are dangers in getting too impatient. Christians need patience. It is not becoming to be impatient. By being more patient you can learn many things, you can win victories, and you can be a better example.

We all need improvement and more of the grace of God. The old devil is mean, and he is the cause of all sorrow and sin. He troubles nations, causes brothers to kill brothers, and causes young couples that are sweetly married to separate. Marriage has so many beautiful things about it, but if sin comes in and couples begin to cuss at each

other and talk mean to each other, love just vanishes. If the devil comes in, the one he or she loved above all others will be hated. Before Cain killed his brother Abel, he had brotherly love, but he let Satan come in. Friend, do not let the devil come in and destroy relationships. Let us defeat the old devil. If you have a need, take it to God in prayer and He will give you the victory.

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