

The Art of Spiritual Warfare Part 10 of 10: Peter Walks on Water; How to Approach War (Presented in 2016)

The following text is based on a message from Corner Fringe Ministries that was presented by Daniel Joseph. The original presentation can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dg2M5NRPvIs>

***Portions of the video message have been edited to present a written document. All the Scripture verses are from the New King James Version unless otherwise noted and are in the red text. Therefore, it is recommended that this document is printed in color. The Hebrew is to be read from right to left.**

Today we are going to be looking at two different stories. One story is out of the Old Testament and one out of the New Testament. The first story we're going to look at today is in the Gospel of Matthew chapter fourteen. There are 5000 people that need to be fed, and all the disciples can find to feed the people are five loaves and two fishes. Yeshua performs this beautiful miracle, and He creates enough food from the two fishes and five loaves to feed the entire crowd. When the disciples took up the leftovers, there were twelve basketfuls left.

The Gospel of John tells the same story but adds more to it. The people of Israel had been waiting for their Messiah, and we are told that this miracle was so monumental that the men were going to come to Yeshua, take Him by force, and make Him King over Israel. The story doesn't end there. After Yeshua was done preaching and teaching to the crowds, He called His disciples over and instructed them to go ahead of Him by crossing the Sea of Galilee by boat. He then returns to the people and sends them home. After this, Yeshua retreats and begins to pray to His Father.

Here is where the story gets interesting. This is what we read in Matthew 14:25-26—**Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. ²⁶ And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out.** When you go to the Greek on the words cried out, we get the words *πάζω krazō*. These words mean screamed. You've got twelve men in a boat screaming like little girls.

You have to put that in context. If you get twelve men together, there is strength in numbers. We become very manly and are not easily intimidated. So if someone were to come walking up to us, provided they're not holding a gun or sword, there would be little intimidation. However, we are told these twelve men are in the boat screaming. The verse says that they were crying out—**for fear.**

Continuing in Matthew 14:27—**²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid."** I think we can be certain of this; the disciples never imagined or could have conceived this event. It was inconceivable to them that this is how they would run into Yeshua. At the very least, Yeshua would have caught up to them in another boat. This was abnormal. The disciples had never heard or read about anything like this.

I want you to think about that statement because the disciples grew up hearing the stories about their ancestors. They knew the mighty hand of the Living God came to Egypt, took them out of Egypt, and brought them across the Red Sea on dry ground by parting the sea. They also knew about Elijah who

went over the Jordan River on dry ground. They've heard these things, but the thing they are witnessing they have never heard of. They are trying to get their minds wrapped around what they are seeing. So you know what happened? The LORD did a new thing. People had not witnessed this before. When I go to Scripture, and I see the LORD doing a new thing, it is terrifying.

Go to Numbers 16 where you will find the account of the Korah rebellion. What does Moses tell the men? Numbers 16:29-30—²⁹ *If these men die naturally like all men, or if they are visited by the common fate of all men, then the LORD has not sent me.* ³⁰ *But if the LORD creates a new thing, and the earth opens its mouth and swallows them up with all that belongs to them, and they go down alive into the pit, then you will understand that these men have rejected the LORD* (emphasis added). What happened? The earth opened its mouth and swallowed these men and their households whole. How did the people respond? They cried out and ran for fear because they had seen the mighty hand of God moving.

This is the same thing that is going on with the Apostles. They are experiencing this same type of fear. They don't know what to make out of this situation other than to be scared to death.

Remember what Yeshua has said in Matthew 14:27—*Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid.* As we continue, we're going to find the Apostle Peter response to Yeshua in Matthew 14:28—*And Peter answered Him and said, "LORD, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water."*

That sounds crazy! That is not the natural thing to say if you had just seen Yeshua walking on water. You would say to the LORD, "Yeshua, come into the boat and be with us. You come into the boat, and we will go do ministry." This, however, is not Peter's response. His response is—*command me to come to You on the water.*

I want you to pay close attention to what is unfolding here. This is the faith. Peter looked out and saw Yeshua out on the water, and the logic and reasoning of Peter's heart tell him, "I need to go there. Where ever Yeshua is, that is where I am going." That is the type of heart we need to have. We need to be like Peter. We need to have the kind of heart to say, "No matter what circumstance, I don't care about the laws of nature, I want to go to Yeshua." Peter doesn't even consider the laws of nature. He doesn't think about the fact that normally if he were to get out of the boat, he was going to sink unless he knows how to swim. He is going to go to the bottom and drown. However, he fixes his eyes on the LORD. That is where he wants to be.

What Peter is doing here is deeply profound and spiritual. It is representative of how every one of us needs to live our lives. We need to live a faith that is not confined to the laws of nature or intimidated by the circumstances.

So how does Yeshua respond to Peter's request to walk on water? Matthew 14:29—²⁹ *So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus.*

Try to wrap your mind around this. Peter is walking on water. It is one thing to see Yeshua walking on water, but now to have Peter get out of the boat and start walking on water is insane. It makes me think of John 14:12—*he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do.* Yeshua doesn't just say, "Well, if there are specific men that believe in me. " He says—*he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also.* And this is exactly what we see with Peter. If

we believe in Yeshua, we should be doing the works He did. You want to talk about faith. Peter had the faith.

I want to point out the obvious here. You will notice none of the other Apostles got out of the boat. Nobody else said, "Command us to come to you." We can only imagine what they were thinking. They were probably thinking, "Let's see how this goes for Peter first."

Do you know why Peter, to this day, is the most influential man that has ever lived on planet earth? Do you want to know why the LORD used him to raise the dead? Do you want to know why people were running just to fall into his shadow in order to be healed? This is why: Peter's heart was melted for Yeshua the Messiah. All Peter cared about was being with Him. No matter what the cost; no matter where Yeshua was it didn't matter. Peter wanted to go there.

This is exactly what we are called to. We are called to be Peters. We are called to walk on water. When we boil this all down, we are called to get out of the boat and start walking on water.

I want to take this a step further. How did this whole event begin? Peter said—**command me to come to You on the water** (Matthew 14:28). So ultimately, this is why Peter walked on the water. Peter walked in the commandment of Yeshua. My point is this, when you walk according to the commandments of the LORD, you will walk on water. You will walk according to the Spirit, the power of God, when you are walking in His commandments.

Let me take you to James because he understood that power. James 1:21—**Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.** Think about that statement for a second. It is so powerful for you to walk in the commandments of God. We are told it will save your soul. It doesn't get more powerful than that. Obeying the commandments is walking on water. That is getting out of the boat. That is moving against the laws of nature. The laws of nature tell us that the sinful flesh results in death, but there is so much power when we walk in His righteousness. That power and righteousness can save the soul.

Notice how James says—**receive with meekness the implanted word** (James 1:21). That is a reference to the new covenant found in Jeremiah 31:31-34. The prophecy is that God will write His Torah on their hearts. They will keep His commandments, and— **No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them** (Jeremiah 31:34). That's how powerful this is.

Look at Psalm 119:9—**How can a young man cleanse his way?** This is repentance. This is about revival. This is spiritual warfare. Continuing in—Psalm 119:9-10—**By taking heed according to Your word.** ¹⁰ **With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments!** ¹¹ **Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You!** That's power and revival. That is what we need to be crying out for.

Psalm 119:50—**This is my comfort in my affliction, for Your word has given me life.** The power of Yeshua's commandments produces life. This is how crucial it is that you walk according to the commandments of Yeshua. You need to walk as Peter walked on water because when you start to walk on water, it will have a powerful impact on everyone around you.

Look at what James says in James 5:19-20—¹⁹ Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, ²⁰ let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins. There is no greater power than a man turning a brother back to Yeshua and walking in His commandments. Doing this had the power to save.

I'm telling you right now it is time for us to get out of the boat. We have to get out of our comfort zone. You need to get out of the flesh and out of the world. You need to walk on water in the commandments of Yeshua and not be moved by the world.

Getting back to our story in Matthew. Peter gets out of the boat. He begins to walk to Yeshua according to the commandment of Yeshua. Continuing in Matthew 14:30—**But when he (Peter) saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink.**

Here's where we get into the warfare. I want you to understand something; this story is a prototype of the faith. It's representative of how we are to walk in the faith. Let me explain what I mean by this. When Peter called to Yeshua that he wanted to come to Him on the water, this was done in faith. Peter professed Yeshua, got out of the boat, and started walking in the commandment of Yeshua.

The same thing happens to us. We call on Yeshua and accept Him. We commit our lives to Him. We then get out of the boat and start walking toward Him. What happens then? Exactly what happened to Peter? The waves of life, the trials, the tribulations, and the temptations rise in a very violent and vicious manner against us. That is precisely what happened to Peter.

What happens when these waves of life start crashing down upon us? Does it not begin to make you start to sink? It affects you. I don't believe anyone has experienced this differently. Every one of us has struggled with this. Every single one of us struggles with particular deep-rooted fears that mess with your walk with the LORD. These fears begin to make you sink into the abyss. Peter wasn't the only one who had this struggle, and neither are we. King David talks about this too,

I want to circle back and address this fear because of our story and how important it is today. I want you to know just because you have fears it doesn't mean you're sinning. I want to take you to the words of King David. I really love David's writings. When you need encouragement, what book in the Bible do you go to? Most of us would agree that we go to the book of Psalms for encouragement and strength. What we don't realize, often, is the vulnerability David is offering to us is actually through the Holy Spirit. He offers this amazing comfort and brings reality out in the open.

Look at these beautiful words David speaks in Psalm 55:1-5—¹ Give ear to my prayer, O God, and do not hide Yourself from my supplication. ² Attend to me, and hear me; I am restless in my complaint, and moan noisily, ³ Because of the voice of the enemy, Because of the oppression of the wicked; For they bring down trouble upon me, and in wrath they hate me. ⁴ My heart is severely pained within me, and the terrors of death have fallen upon me. ⁵ Fearfulness and trembling have come upon me, and horror has overwhelmed me.

I think he's trying to tell us he's scared. You pick up on—**my heart is severely pained, and the terrors of death have fallen upon me. Fearfulness and trembling have come upon me, and horror has overwhelmed me.** I call that being scared to death. David has been vulnerable by opening up to us and showing us the fear that he has to cope with. It is horrifying, crippling, and debilitating.

We can look at 2 Samuel where we find the imagery of waves being utilized. This is the same imagery that Peter is up against in the story we are looking at. We will call them the waves of death. Listen to what it says in 2 Samuel 22:5—**When the waves of death surrounded me, the floods of ungodliness made me afraid. ⁶ The sorrows of Sheol surrounded me; the snares of death confronted me.**

When we look at all these verses, what we find David doing is revealing the pinnacle, the height, and the precipice of spiritual warfare. When we start talking about reaching the point that the waves of death are crashing over us, and there's no strength left within us, you are at the precipice of spiritual warfare. It's the defining moment where you find out who you are and what you believe. That is the defining moment.

What do we do when we are confronted with the terrors of warfare and the circumstances beyond our strength and capability? What do we do when we can't handle these things? David tells us in 2 Samuel 22:7—**In my distress, I called upon the LORD, and cried out to my God; He heard my voice from His temple, and my cry entered His ears.** So what does David do when he is fearful and trembling, and the waves of death are crashing upon him? He cries out to the LORD. That is what faith looks like. Faith is knowing that you are going to go to the LORD, and He is going to hear you.

So David calls upon the LORD. Does David fear beyond this? When he is wallowing in fear, does David give in to the fear to the point where it controls him? The answer to that is he does not.

Let's go back to a passage we looked at last week. Again, I'm beating home the point here to teach you how to go to war. I am teaching you how to respond to fear. 1 Chronicles 5:20—**And they were helped against them, and the Hagarites were delivered into their hand and all who were with them, for they cried out to God in the battle. He heeded their prayer because they put their trust in Him.**

Over and over again we find this to be the mantra in Scripture. This is what we are called to do. Do you know how to cry out to the LORD? Do you know how to drop to your knees in your prayer closet and cry to Him? If you don't know how to do that, you are not equipped to go to war. You are not equipped to handle it because this is what has to happen. All the righteous men of God I see in Scripture are leaning upon God. Their faith is totally in God. When Peter, David, or whoever needed help because they couldn't handle it on their own, they leaned on the LORD.

In World War 2, there was a famous general by the name of George S. Patton who went by the more subtle name of Old Blood and Guts. He was driven and tenacious. He was considered by many historians to be the most successful general in U.S. history. This guy knew war and how to win. He spent his life in warfare. In World War 1, he led battalions; in World War 2, he led his soldiers.

Patton makes a statement in which he assesses soldiers in war. **Battle is the most magnificent competition in which a human being can indulge. It brings out all that is best; it removes all that is base. All men are afraid in battle.** This is a guy that went through war himself in World War 1 and World War 2. What he was saying is everyone, no matter what rank, is afraid in battle. Fear is a reality.

He is going to go on and divide the sheep from the goats because he's going to tell us there are only two types of soldiers—**The coward is the one who lets his fear overcome his sense of duty. Duty is the essence of manhood** (George Patton, General for U.S. Army).

That is the truth for us as believers in Yeshua. In this age, all men fear in battle. The coward is going to let the fear control him to the point he will not fulfill his duty and orders. He will get himself killed.

The other soldier is fearful, but his eyes are on duty. That sense of duty to overcome should be the same for us. We should want to walk in the commandments of God and please Him. We should want to be like Peter. We should want to be with Yeshua. This desire will overcome fear.

Going back to our story. You are about to see what kind of man Peter is. You are going to see how he responded to the waves of death that are crashing upon him. We are going back to Matthew 14:30—**But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "LORD, save me!"**

Isn't that interesting? Study the Tanakh. Look at all these righteous men, the Kings of Israel, who are crying out when they are terrified because they're on the brink of destruction from their enemies. What do they do? They cry out for the LORD. What does Peter do as he is sinking? He cries out to the LORD. What does this tell me? It tells me he is following war protocol. He is following the training manual by which he was taught from a very young age. That training manual is all the stories in the Torah, and now I see Peter's faith in action; he's following war protocol.

Well, how did this work for him? Was he a success, or was there a failure? Well, we go to the next verse in Matthew 14:31—**And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him.** Peter cried out, and immediately there is a response.

This reminds me of the prayer we covered in Daniel where Daniel kneeled down, and he cried out to God asking God for forgiveness and help. The angel Gabriel shows up and essentially says, "From the beginning of your supplication, your words were heard." What exactly was going on here with Peter? He's about to die, and he does what all righteous men before him have done. He cries out to the LORD—**And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"** (Matthew 14:31).

I have read the commentaries about this story, and many will tell you that this story is exposing Peter as a failure. They will tell you that Peter failed the test; he did not succeed. I am wondering what story they're reading. Have they read the entire story? The story is about victory and how we gain victory. It is not about failure or defeat.

These people like to take Yeshua's comment—**O you of little faith**—and use it to declare Peter as a failure. I want to address that. The last time I checked, Yeshua told us that if we had faith as little as a mustard seed, we could move mountains. So when Yeshua follows up Peter's cry with—**Why did you doubt?**—the statement is looked at in the exact opposite of having faith. However, the reality is that this statement is words of encouragement.

At this point, you might say, "What are you talking about?" Well, I've read the Tanakh. Over and over again what does the LORD keep reminding Israel about? Time after time, knowing they needed to be reminded, He tells them, "I will never leave you or forsake you." Again at the end of Matthew Yeshua says—**I am with you always, even to the end of the age** (Matthew 28:20). Why does He keep doing this? Because we need to hear it. We are weak. We are in the flesh, and the LORD knows this.

When you look at the story in its totality, it is a story of faith. It is a story of tribulation and testing, but it's a story of how to persevere and gain victory. That is a huge component people are missing. And if there is any question to this, let's just consider what happens next in Matthew 14:32-33—³² **And when they [Peter and Yeshua] got into the boat, the wind ceased.** ³³ **Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God."**

I want to point out the obvious; Yeshua is in the middle of the sea, and Peter went out to him. How do you think they got back to the boat? Yeshua grabbed Peter by the hand, and together Yeshua and Peter walked on water back to the boat. I'm going to say this; if that's failure, I want to be a failure. If walking on water while holding the hand of Yeshua is failing, sign me up to be a failure.

When we read stories like this, we are supposed to learn from these things and get equipped. When we see stories like Peter or others in Scripture, we need to start to apply these principles. It is not just that there's something that we need to take away from the story, there's a calling for every one of us. That calling is that every one of us is to be great. We are all called to do great things.

If we are children of God, we are heirs of the Most High God. We are His offspring. That is special, and the expectation is if we believe in Him and the things He has done, we will do also the same things. Amen?

How many of you actually believe that? I'm going to tell you if you don't believe you're called to greatness and called to do great things, you will never do great things. You will do nothing. And then it also begs the question, how well do you know your Messiah? How well do you know Yeshua? When you are truly walking with Yeshua with your whole heart, and you are walking in His commandments, you are going to walk on water.

I love what Daniel says in Daniel 11:32—**Those who do wickedly against the covenant he shall corrupt with flattery; but the people who know their God shall be strong and carry out great exploits.** This is the expectation. Do you know Yeshua? Those who know Yeshua will carry out great feats. You will do great things for the Kingdom of God. That's what we're called to do.

I want to move on to my second story. I want to take it to 2 Chronicles where we will again find a great example of how to fight a war. But more specifically, I'm taking you to this passage to show you the proper way to approach war. So in 2 Chronicles 20:1, we read—**It happened after this that the people of Moab with the people of Ammon, and others with them besides the Ammonites, came to battle against Jehoshaphat.** Remember that Jehoshaphat is a righteous and holy King. This is a man who fears God and seeks after Him.

Moving to 2 Chronicles 20:2—**Then some came and told Jehoshaphat, saying, "A great multitude is coming against you from beyond the sea, from Syria; and they are in Hazazon Tamar" (which is En Gedi).** How do you like to wake up one day and have your friends come and tell you, "Just so you know, there's a huge multitude coming, and they're coming to kill you? They're coming to destroy you." There are just some things you wish people would not say to you. Right? But here is the issue; there is a massive multitude coming after Jehoshaphat, and they are coming for blood. They are coming to destroy him.

Well, as we get into 2 Chronicles 20:3, we read the following—**And Jehoshaphat feared.** Isn't that interesting? We see in Scripture righteous man after righteous man after righteous man dealing with fear.

Continuing in 2 Chronicles 20:3-4—**and set himself to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. ⁴So Judah gathered together to ask help from the LORD, and from all the cities of Judah they came to seek the LORD.**

How does Jehoshaphat's respond to the fear and these waves of death that just literally overcame his heart? What does he do? He does what all righteous men are called to do. He humbles himself before the mighty hand of God, and he prays to the LORD. He cries out to the Living God. I didn't put the prayer up, but Jehoshaphat starts to go through the prayer reminding God of who He is. It is one of the most powerful ways you can pray; remind the LORD of his beautiful attributes and His loving kindness.

You can also do as Jehoshaphat did when he reminded God of His power. As he gets to the end of his prayer, there's something he mentions. This is something that would be good to add to your prayers when you're in a predicament. This is what he says in 2 Chronicles 20:12—**O our God, will You not judge them? For we have no power against this great multitude.** Do you realize what he just said? Jehoshaphat heard what was coming and realized that they could not win the war.

Likewise, there is not a person in this room who has the power to win the war apart from Yeshua. The demonic hosts of wickedness are too powerful. Your flesh in and of itself because of the fall of man is too powerful. You need Yeshua. That is the only way you can win.

Continuing in 2 Chronicles 20:12—**For we have no power against this great multitude that is coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are upon You.** How many of you can relate to this scenario? Do you feel you don't have the strength to deal with the predicament you are in? On top of that, you don't know what to do? You believe you are a smart person until you get into a pickle, then you realize that you don't know what to do. This is war. Now is the time to go to your prayer closet, drop to your knees, and cry out to the LORD. Now is the time to fast, and now is the time to get your brothers and sisters around you to start to pray for you. That is how Jehoshaphat is dealing with this situation.

So Jehoshaphat goes through this prayer. What happens when he prays? The LORD responds through the prophet Jahaziel, and listen to what the LORD says—**And he said, "Listen, all you of Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem, and you, King Jehoshaphat! Thus says the LORD to you: 'Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude (2 Chronicles 20:15).** This kind of sounds exactly like what Yeshua told Peter. It sounds like the story we get told over and over and over again. That is the LORD telling us—**I will be with you always low even to the end of the age, and I will never leave you or forsake you.** It is the same stuff. The LORD doesn't change. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Jahaziel finishes by saying—**for the battle is not yours, but God's (2 Chronicles 20:15).** Remember the last lesson how we talked about not fighting battles that are not yours? We want to fight for His name and His glory. We fight against sin and the world in the flesh. We are fighting the LORD's battles to bring glory to Yeshua. Yeshua did not come to pay the price in vain. These are our battles to fight. We fight against the demonic hosts of wickedness.

We will move ahead to 2 Chronicles 20:17-19—¹⁷ You will not need to fight in this battle. Position yourselves, stand still and see the salvation of the LORD, who is with you, O Judah and Jerusalem! Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them, for the LORD is with you." ¹⁸ And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem bowed before the LORD, worshiping the LORD. ¹⁹ Then the Levites, from the children of the Kohathites and of the children of the Korahites stood up to praise the LORD God of Israel with voices loud and high.

We are going to learn something about worship today. We are to lift up our voices loud and high. We do not serve a dead God. We do not serve gods of stone and wood. When we come into this building, come prepared to worship with all your strength, with all your heart, with all your mind, and with loud voices. Get excited. Yeshua has risen from the dead. You have hope.

We don't want to be a church where people come in and think that we serve a dead God. There are people who look like it is painful to worship. Then they remember they have a grocery list to put together and start looking around for their phone. I'm going to tell you that's not worship. That is not someone who understands the power and the Holiness of God. God is to be revered in the assembly of the saints. When we come in here, there is to be fear and trembling because of the Holiness of God, yet we are to rejoice with joy because the victory is ours. We have to start looking and acting like we are men and women of victory.

Going on to 2 Chronicles 20:20—So they rose early in the morning and went out into the Wilderness of Tekoa; and as they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Hear me, O Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem: Believe in the LORD your God, and you shall be established. If we believe in Yeshua, and we put our faith and trust in Him, we will be established. We will not be moved. That is powerful!

Finishing 2 Chronicles 20:20—believe His prophets. So believe in God, and you'll be established; and also believe in His prophets. What is being said here is precisely what we read all over Scripture. It is the structure of the faith—And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ (Revelation 12:17). The first thing it says is we need to believe in our God and also believe in the prophets. What are the prophets? The prophets spoke by the Word of the LORD. It is the Word of God.

I want to remind you of something. Peter told us—for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:21). They speak the Words of God. So this reference to believe the prophets is an instruction to believe the LORD's Word. Let me remind you that the Torah is also the prophets. Moses was a prophet. We're told that the Word of the LORD is proven, tried, steadfast, and sure. If the LORD has spoken it, you can expect it to happen. Isaiah 55:11—So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it. This is the confidence and hope that we have.

Now as we continue, we're going to get to the reason I took you to this passage. This is something that is critical for us to implement in our daily lives. 2 Chronicles 20:21—And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed those who should sing to the LORD, and who should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army and were saying: "Praise the LORD, for His mercy endures forever."

So let me get this straight. You put the singers in front of the army when it is the army that is equipped to destroy. What does this tell you about the power of worship? It tells you worship has the ability to break down strong holds.

That is something I have witnessed and experienced. When you give yourself to worshipping the King of Glory by opening your mouth and declaring the praise of God, and you just lose yourself of your worries and various thoughts in your head, it will destroy the demonic strongholds against you. It will destroy the bondages, afflictions, and the addictions. The things you are dealing with will start to come down. Do you remember the story of Jericho? They were told that on the seventh day they were to blow the shofar and shout. They were shouting to the LORD and singing His praises. They were proclaiming who He is, and the walls of Jericho fell.

That is what needs to start happening in this building. We want the Spirit of God to move. It is time to lift up our voices. Look at what Psalm 100:1 says—**Make a joyful shout to the LORD, all you lands!** That's a command. The LORD is telling us to do this. Why? Because there's power in proclaiming the praises of our God. It will rip down the demonic strongholds. This is what we need.

The verse goes on—**Serve the LORD with gladness; come before His presence with singing** (Psalm 100:2). Why did Jehoshaphat put the singers first? We were just given that answer in Psalm 100:2—**come before His presence with singing**. If the battle is the LORD's, I want the LORD to show up.

Why are you here in this building today? Are you here to be intellectually stimulated? Or are you here to meet with Yeshua? You need to decide. As for me and my house, the reason I come here, and I do what I do, is because I want to press in and experience the LORD. I don't want to merely read about Him. We need to have that experience of the power of the Holy Spirit moving in this place.

Psalm 100:3-4—³ **Know that the LORD, He is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.** ⁴ **Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.**

I'm going to offer some advice. When you're getting afflicted, and the waves of death are crashing down, start declaring with your mouth the praises of God. Do that and see what happens. I love this practice. It is a go to for me. When I am driving my car, and things are happening, I'm going to open my mouth and declare the praises of my God. I am going to declare my faith in my God that He is able to take care of all that is happening and able to take care of me.

He's able to take care of your families. This is where many of you men need to rise and do this for your families. We need to proclaim the praises of the Living God.

I want to show you how this works by finishing the story we started today. 2 Chronicles 20:22—**Now when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushes against the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; and they were defeated.**

This is Scripture. Do you believe Scripture? Do you believe it's true? Is not the Word of the LORD proven? Put the singers first. Put the praise first and watch what happens. Watch the enemy's fall.

Moving to Ephesians. I want to bring all of what we talked about to the finest point and bring it full circle. Paul tells us in Ephesians 6:14-17—¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; ¹⁶ above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. ¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.

In Paul's mind, this is what it takes to win the war. This is what it takes to fight the battle. It takes all of these things.

I want to point out the obvious for a second. Every single one of these things is talking about Yeshua. Let's go through the list. The belt of truth. Who is the truth? Yeshua. John 14:6—I am the way, the truth, and the life.

What about righteousness? How does Paul utilize the term righteousness? Read Romans 3:21—But now the righteousness of God [Yeshua] apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets.

Shod your feet with the gospel of peace. Have you read Romans 10:15? That verse is the other time that he utilizes this actual quote, "the gospel peace." It is explicitly in the context of the resurrection of Yeshua. The gospel of peace is the gospel of Yeshua.

Look at the shield of faith. Faith in what? Faith in Yeshua. Right?

What about the helmet of salvation? What does the name Yeshua mean? It means salvation. Read Acts 4:12—Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

The Word of God. What is Paul telling us? John 1:14—And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

It is Yeshua, Yeshua, and Yeshua. Paul tells us in Romans 13:14 to—put on the LORD Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts. You want to go to war and win? You are going to have to put on the LORD Yeshua and—make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.

I want to close today by showing you a video. I watched this a couple of years ago. This video is all about spiritual warfare. Pay close attention because there is a story unfolding. This video is clearly anointed because it shows the reality of what the demons are doing and all these different effects that they are having upon our lives. When the video gets to the end, it shows you the power of Yeshua. You need to experience this.

The video can be seen at

<https://video.search.yahoo.com/search/video?fr=mcafee&p=lifehouse+everything#id=5&vid=bdd53816b3dcf11665521feb3108ade1&action=view>