

How To Face Struggle Part 2

“1 After these things, and the establishment thereof, Sennacherib king of Assyria came, and entered into Judah, and encamped against the fenced cities, and thought to win them for himself. 2 And when Hezekiah saw that Sennacherib was come, and that he was purposed to fight against Jerusalem, 3 He took counsel with his princes and his mighty men to stop the waters of the fountains which were without the city: and they did help him. 4 So there was gathered much people together, who stopped all the fountains, and the brook that ran through the midst of the land, saying, Why should the kings of Assyria come, and find much water? 5 Also he strengthened himself, and built up all the wall that was broken, and raised it up to the towers, and another wall without, and repaired Millo in the city of David, and made darts and shields in abundance.” (2 Chronicles 32:1-5 KJV)

Struggles can come and invade our lives with sudden onset and without any previous notice or expectations. Struggles or troubles in life should not be taken as something unusual or abnormal had happened. Struggles or troubles we can't avoid, but how we face them and how we can overcome, this what we will be going to learn from the Word of God.

King Hezekiah was a righteous king; he did what was right and just. He motivated and directed the people to follow God and obey His decrees and they responded to that in doing the following: They removed and smashed the sacred stones and cut down the Asherah poles. They destroyed the high places and the altars throughout Judah and Benjamin and in Ephraim and Manasseh. So they removed all the idols and the places of idol worship from all these places.

After all that obedient act that was done faithfully they were attacked by the enemy: *“1 After these things, and the establishment thereof, Sennacherib king of Assyria came, and entered into Judah, and encamped against the fenced cities, and thought to win them for himself.” (2 Chronicles 32:1 KJV)* That was a devil attack against the people of God to discourage them and to stop them from obeying and following the Lord.

In studying the Scripture we can learn certain facts that teach us how to face a struggle that comes suddenly in our lives. Yes God will fight the battle, but we have certain rule we need to do:

1. Discern and evaluate the coming danger: *“2 And when Hezekiah saw that Sennacherib was come, and that he was purposed to fight against Jerusalem,” (2 Chronicles 32:2 KJV)* King Hezekiah discerned and saw the danger. **The same for you, you need to be alert in the spirit and see things clearly, evaluate the dangers and respond appropriately to them.**

2. Consult appropriate Godly people of what you are about to do: King Hezekiah, *“3 He took counsel with his princes and his mighty men to stop the waters of the fountains which were without the city: and they did help him.” (2 Chronicles 32:3 KJV)* God had placed you in the church, and the church is the family of God, therefore when you see and discern a coming struggle ask advice and counsel from the leaders and the elders of the church who will help you and support you to take the right decision and the right steps.

3. Be good steward of what you have, redirect your resources, and don't allow the devil to use them against you: King Hezekiah blocked the water from all the fountains, *“4 So there was gathered much people together, who stopped all the fountains, and the brook that ran through the midst of the land, saying, Why should the kings of Assyria come, and find much water?” (2 Chronicles 32:4 KJV)* **See and check your life! Is your resources can be used to serve the devil? Is your life, time, talents, money and possession can be used by your enemy; that they will get relief while you will be harmed? If that is true then you need to redirect these resources away from the enemy and toward your side and the people of God, the church. Be wise and swift in doing that. You need not to feed the devil that working to harm you.**

4. Unity is needed: *“4 So there was gathered much people together,” (2 Chronicles 32:4 KJV)* In facing a struggle we as a church needs to be united so we can direct all what we have in the right direction to face and combat the struggle.

5. Help can be received from the body of Christ: *“4 So there was gathered much people together, who stopped all the fountains, and the brook that ran through the midst of the land,” (2 Chronicles 32:4 KJV)* God had placed us in His church that is His body in order that we will not be alone in facing struggles. Also God call us to be in His body to be ready to help those who face a struggle as the Word of God admonishes us, *“2 Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.” (Galatians 6:2 KJV)*

6. Work hard to rebuild your life to live in safety: When King Hezekiah was faced with that big army danger he did the following: *“5 Also he strengthened himself, and built up all the wall that was broken, and raised it up to the towers, and another wall without, and repaired Millo in the city of David, and made darts and shields in abundance.” (2 Chronicles 32:5 KJV)* **Threats and dangers are good opportunities for us to see what are the footholds of the devil in our lives that he may use to penetrate and cause harm; the Word of God tells us, “27 Neither give place to the devil.” (Ephesians 4:27 KJV) Small mistakes and small sins as you say, they are big and spacious opportunities for the devil to enter and destroy your life. Therefore be alert and repent.**

7. Be alert and quick in response to deal with sins in your life: *“5 Also he strengthened himself, and built up all the wall that was broken,” (2 Chronicles 32:5 KJV)* *** Big forest fire can start from small spark. Lies, few worldly friends, small amount of wine, few cigarettes, anxiety, anger, unforgiveness, small money you steal, etc, are the things that need to be cut from your life and that is how you repair and rebuild yourself. * Work hard with God and allow the Holy Spirit to have you fully and get repented of all these sins and instead cultivate the fruit of the Holy Spirit that God wants to see in your life.**

8. Reinforce useful protective measures in your life: King Hezekiah did the following: *“and another wall without, and repaired Millo in the city of David,” (2 Chronicles 32:5 KJV)* **You have to stop sin but that is not enough, for in addition to that there are things good you need to do in your life to be protected. The Bible tells us the following, “17 Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.” (James 4:17 KJV)** There are things you need to abide with so the devil will not be able to penetrate you. King Hezekiah faced the invasion by the following: He, *“made darts and shields in abundance.” (2 Chronicles 32:5 KJV)* **The following are some of the weapons that add reinforcement and protection into your life: Reading the Bible, a life of prayer, kneeling down at the feet of God, fasting, regularly be**

in the church, be with the right and Godly people, tithe your income regularly, serve God with all your resources, etc; these are weapons that God gives to you to protect you and to put you in the right atmosphere and the healthy circumstances that will help you in facing struggles.

9. Get encouraged and encourage the people with you with these words, “but with us is the LORD our God to help us, and to fight our battles”: King Hezekiah did the same when he faced that threat, “**6 And he set captains of war over the people, and gathered them together to him in the street of the gate of the city, and spake comfortably to them, saying, 7 Be strong and courageous, be not afraid nor dismayed for the king of Assyria, nor for all the multitude that is with him: for there be more with us than with him: 8 With him is an arm of flesh; but with us is the LORD our God to help us, and to fight our battles. And the people rested themselves upon the words of Hezekiah king of Judah.**” (2 Chronicles 32:6-8 KJV) The arm of the flesh is what the nations boast of with what they have from money, weapons, treasure, armies, etc. **But we have more than what they have; we have the Holy Spirit; God Almighty is with us, “4 Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. 5 They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them. 6 We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.” (1 John 4:4-6 KJV)** That encouragement was so important to lift up the faith of the people and motivate them to remain true to the faith. **As long as you did not do anything wrong take courage and trust God for deliverance. The Lord will uphold you with His grace; He will neither leave you nor forsake you. “7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.” (2 Timothy 1:7 KJV)**

10. Don’t believe the lies of the devil: During any spiritual attack against you the devil will use lies and ways to frighten you and makes you afraid so you will lose the battle. During the attack against Jerusalem Sennacherib king of Assyria sent his officers with a message to intimidate the people in order to capture the city as we can read here, “**9 After this did Sennacherib king of Assyria send his servants to Jerusalem, (but he himself laid siege against Lachish, and all his power with him,) unto Hezekiah king of Judah, and unto all Judah that were at Jerusalem, saying, 10 Thus saith Sennacherib king of Assyria, Whereon do ye trust, that ye abide in the siege in Jerusalem? 11 Doth not Hezekiah persuade you to give over yourselves to die by famine and by thirst, saying, The LORD our God shall deliver us out of the hand of the king of Assyria? 12 Hath not the same Hezekiah taken away his high places and his altars, and commanded Judah and Jerusalem, saying, Ye shall worship before one altar, and burn incense upon it? 13 Know ye not what I and my fathers have done unto all the people of other lands? were the gods of the nations of those lands any ways able to deliver their lands out of mine hand? 14 Who was there among all the gods of those nations that my fathers utterly destroyed, that could deliver his people out of mine hand, that your God should be able to deliver you out of mine hand? 15 Now therefore let not Hezekiah deceive you, nor persuade you on this manner, neither yet believe him: for no god of any nation or kingdom was able to deliver his people out of mine hand, and out of the hand of my fathers: how much less shall your God deliver you out of mine hand? 16 And his servants spake yet more against the LORD God, and against his servant Hezekiah. 17 He wrote also letters to rail on the LORD God of Israel, and to speak against him, saying, As the gods of the nations of other lands have not delivered their people out of mine hand, so shall not the God of Hezekiah deliver his people out of mine hand. 18 Then they cried with a loud voice in the Jews’ speech unto the people of Jerusalem that were on the wall, to affright**

them, and to trouble them; that they might take the city. 19 And they spake against the God of Jerusalem, as against the gods of the people of the earth, which were the work of the hands of man.” (2 Chronicles 32:9-19 KJV) You may hear lot of things that try to discourage you and daunt you down. But how you will face these lies? By knowing and relying on the promises of God. That is why you need to read the Bible and study the Word of God, to enable you and make you ready to face the enemy with the good promises of God. **“20 For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.” (2 Corinthians 1:20 KJV)** As we read and keep the Word of God hidden in our hearts then we can be able to stand against the schemes of the enemy. **No matter what is going on around you still you need to trust God who can do things more than what you think or imagine.**

11. Have faith in God: The Word of God admonish us the following, **“5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. 6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.” (Proverbs 3:5-6 KJV)** Faith in God and in His mighty power is so essential for each and every spiritual battle, **“16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.” (Ephesians 6:16 KJV)** The enemy will use the psychological war trying to deceive you so you will loss the battle, therefore faith is essential to pass through and overcome any struggle.

12. Cry out to God in prayer: **“20 And for this cause Hezekiah the king, and the prophet Isaiah the son of Amoz, prayed and cried to heaven. 21 And the LORD sent an angel, which cut off all the mighty men of valour, and the leaders and captains in the camp of the king of Assyria. So he returned with shame of face to his own land. And when he was come into the house of his god, they that came forth of his own bowels slew him there with the sword.” (2 Chronicles 32:20-21 KJV)** Prayer had great impact on all the struggles that we might pass through. After all, God is the final crucial factor to settle every battle with the enemy. God would do miracles to save you and deliver you from the enemy. One angel of God annihilated all the fighting men and the leaders and officers of the great army of the enemy. God will do the same for you to deliver you from your struggles and troubles. **“22 Thus the LORD saved Hezekiah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem from the hand of Sennacherib the king of Assyria, and from the hand of all other, and guided them on every side. 23 And many brought gifts unto the LORD to Jerusalem, and presents to Hezekiah king of Judah: so that he was magnified in the sight of all nations from thenceforth.” (2 Chronicles 32:22-23 KJV)** God saved King Hezekiah and Jerusalem from the coming threat, as well as He took care of them on every side. And they were honored and highly regarded by other nations around them. **The Lord will do the same for you as you fully trust Him, trusting His Word and walking in His ways.**

My Dear and Beloved: Sit with the Lord and meditate on the message and see how you can apply the message practically into your life and be blessed in reviewing the following points in facing struggles:

- 1. Discern and evaluate the coming danger.**
- 2. Consult appropriate Godly people of what you are about to do.**
- 3. Be good steward of what you have, redirect your resources, and don’t allow the devil to use them against you.**
- 4. Unity is needed.**
- 5. Help can be received from the body of Christ.**

6. *Work hard to rebuild your life to live in safety.*
7. *Be alert and quick in response to deal with sins in your life.*
8. *Reinforce useful protective measures in your life.*
9. *Get encouraged and encourage the people with you with these words, “but with us is the LORD our God to help us, and to fight our battles”.*
10. *Don’t believe the lies of the devil.*
11. *Have faith in God.*
12. *Cry out to God in prayer.*

Let us pray ...

My Prayer: *Father God in Heaven, I come before you in Jesus name who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for all the blessings that you had bestowed in my life. Lord thank you for your encouraging and clear Word to me and thank you for reminding me of your ways so I will know how to face struggles in my life.*

Confess and renounce your sins to God. Confess and renounce your lack of faith and trust in God. Confess and renounce your lack of wisdom and discernment. Confess and renounce your lack of working and cooperating in unity with others in dealing with struggles and the works of the devil. Confess and renounce your bad stewardship and non handling your resources in a correct way. Confess Renounce your selfishness and non willingness neither to face struggle nor to suffer for others. Confess and renounce your non willingness to help those who are in troubles and those who are in need. Renounce the sin of the lack of cooperation, and the non willingness to serve and to contribute to the needs of the church. Confess and renounce your non willingness to open your life and ask advices from the church. Confess and renounce your lack of prayers and reading of God’s Word. Confess and renounce your worldliness and your love for material things. Confess and renounce your yoke with non believers, having many friends and wasting your time on News, Media, and games. Lord forgive me, I repent and renounce the following sins _____.

Lord give me wisdom and take my anxiety away so I can think peacefully how I can face any struggle coming in my life. Lord give me the sound mind and increase my faith so that I can stand firm in faith in facing the current struggle _____ in my life. Lord help me to deal with the following enemies _____ and the troubles that they are causing in my life. Lord uphold me with your grace and grant me the victory over my enemies. This is my prayer in Jesus’ name, Amen.

Lord thank you for all the brethren and the sisters who committed their lives to you and the principles that we learned in this message. Lord refill them with the Holy Spirit and give them the spiritual gifts that they need to go and serve you. Lord protect them and guide them, and continue to provide their needs so they will continue to serve you.

Lord bless us as a church, protect us and fight the battle for us and fulfill all what you promised in wiping away all the works of the devil that is coming against us. We come against all the works of the devil and rebuke it in the name of Jesus. Lord we ask you to help us to handle the following enemy _____ and the struggle that he is causing. Lord go before us and level mountains and enable us to deal with struggles and challenges. Lord refill us again with the Holy Spirit and give us the spiritual gifts to go and evangelize and

make disciples and train new workers to plant new Bible studies and new congregations for the church. Lord let more people to be water baptized and receive the Holy Spirit baptism. Lord let the vision that you give to your church, ‘Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God’ to be fulfilled. Lord prepare us for your coming that when you come we are ready to go with you. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

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