

# TAKE UP THY SWORD †

A newsletter with hope and encouragement from the Holy Bible

*For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword... (Hebrews 4:16)*

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## Comfort in Chaos

*Blessed be God...the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God (2 Corinthians 1:3-4).*

I can wrap myself in the multicolored comforter on my bed each night and feel warm and cozy. But when it seems like some aspect of my life is in disarray or out of control, only my Comforter can truly soothe me! In John 14:17, Jesus said that the Spirit of God dwells with us and is in us. But He also told the disciples in Acts 1:8 that “ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you.” If you need rest from your worries, just remember this promise:

*But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you... Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid (John 14:26-27).*

As human beings, it’s only natural for us to want to lessen the pain in our souls by trying to appease our flesh. Instead of first running to God, we run to the mall, liquor store, hotel, or worse. Speaking from experience, I can boldly say that these “pleasures of sin” (Heb 11:25) are only temporary bandages that cannot cure what really ails us. We must believe what Paul wrote in the scriptures:

*Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, [will] Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work (2 Thess 2:16-17).*

Being Christian does not exempt us from life’s hardships. So when we receive “the bread of adversity, and the water of affliction” (Isa 30:20), just hold onto His Word:

IF YOU LOSE YOUR...	REMEMBER THAT...
loved one	to be absent from the body [is] to be present with the Lord (2 Cor 5:8)
job	God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus (Phil 4:19)
health	with His stripes we are healed (Isa 53:5)
relationship	[God] will never leave thee, nor forsake thee (Heb 13:5)
faith	all things are possible to him that believeth (Mark 9:23)

It’s hard to fight when you don’t have much strength or can’t figure out how to defeat your opponent. Sometimes we don’t even know why we’re in a particular battle, but God “knoweth all things” (1 John 3:20). Let’s see how He fought for the children of Israel in Second Chronicles 20:

*Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the Lord with you... (2 Chron 20:17).*

When the Moabites and the Ammonites came to make war against King Jehoshaphat, he had no one else to turn to but the Lord. He was afraid, so he “set himself to seek the Lord, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah” (20:3). As Jehoshaphat prayed with the whole congregation, he reminded God who He was, what He was capable of, and what He had promised them. In verse 12 he said, “We have no might against this great company that cometh against us; neither know we what to do: but our eyes are upon Thee.” The Lord heard their prayer and let His Spirit come upon Jahaziel. This young man prophesied their victory and said, “Be not afraid nor dismayed... for the battle is not yours, but God’s” (20:15). They were given instructions to simply show up at the battlefield; so they worshipped and praised God in advance because they knew He’d be with them. The next day, they “went forth into the wilderness” (20:20), “began to sing and to praise” (20:22), and the Lord caused their foes to destroy each other! The Israelites stepped over the dead bodies for three days, gathering the abundance of jewels/riches — spoils of war. So they returned home “with joy; for the Lord had made them to rejoice over their enemies” (20:27).

Although we may feel hopeless and alone sometimes, God says, “I will not leave you comfortless” (John 14:18)!

**THUS SAITH THE LORD, “When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned...” (Isa 43:2).**

**PRAYER:** *Remember the word unto thy servant, upon which thou has caused me to hope. This is my comfort in my affliction: for thy word hath quickened me (Ps 119:49-50).*

**“... Be encouraged in the law of the Lord” (2 Chron 31:4):**

Deuteronomy 26:7; 2 Chronicles 33:12-13; Psalm 23:1-4, 94:17-19; Matthew 9:22, 11:28-30; Romans 5:3-5, 8:35-39; 1 Corinthians 10:13; 2 Timothy 1:7-8; 1 Peter 5:6-10