

How You Invite God to Fight for You

(Part 1)

¹ So the men of Kiriath Jearim came and took up the ark of the LORD. They took it to Abinadab's house on the hill and consecrated Eleazar his son to guard the ark of the LORD.² It was a long time, twenty years in all, that the ark remained at Kiriath Jearim, and all the people of Israel mourned and sought after the LORD.³ And Samuel said to the whole house of Israel, "If you are returning to the LORD with all your hearts, then rid yourselves of the foreign gods and the Ashoreths and commit yourselves to the LORD and serve him only, and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines."⁴ So the Israelites put away their Baals and Ashoreths, and served the LORD only.⁵ Then Samuel said, "Assemble all Israel at Mizpah and I will intercede with the LORD for you."⁶ When they had assembled at Mizpah, they drew water and poured it out before the LORD. On that day they fasted and there they confessed, "We have sinned against the LORD." And Samuel was leader of Israel at Mizpah.⁷ When the Philistines heard that Israel had assembled at Mizpah, the rulers of the Philistines came up to attack them. And when the Israelites heard of it, they were afraid because of the Philistines.⁸ They said to Samuel, "Do not stop crying out to the LORD our God for us, that he may rescue us from the hand of the Philistines."⁹ Then Samuel took a suckling lamb and offered it up as a whole burnt offering to the LORD. He cried out to the LORD on Israel's behalf, and the LORD answered him.¹⁰ While Samuel was sacrificing the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to engage Israel in battle. But that day the LORD thundered with loud thunder against the Philistines and threw them into such a panic that they were routed before the Israelites.¹¹ The men of Israel rushed out of Mizpah and pursued the Philistines, slaughtering them along the way to a point below Beth Car.¹² Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen. He named it Ebenezer, saying, "Thus far has the LORD helped us."¹³ So the Philistines were subdued and did not invade Israelite territory again. Throughout Samuel's lifetime, the hand of the LORD was against the Philistines.¹⁴ The towns from Ekron to Gath that the Philistines had captured from Israel were restored to her, and Israel delivered the neighboring territory from the power of the Philistines. And there was peace between Israel and the Amorites.¹⁵ Samuel continued as judge over Israel all the days of his life.¹⁶ From year to year he went on a circuit from Bethel to Gilgal to Mizpah, judging Israel in all those places.¹⁷ But he always went back to Ramah, where his home was, and there he also judged Israel. And he built an altar there to the LORD." (1 Samuel 7:1-17)

Life is not easy, and at certain aspects it is becoming so hard and difficult to manage. And to live, there are in front of us two options. Either you live by your own ways, but you need to fight and struggle with out the help of God, or you live according to God's ways and in such a manner you are inviting God to fight for you. It is so far better, more effective and more fruitful, the life is, when you trust God and obey him that He is the Master, the Redeemer and the protector of your life. God had sent His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ who died on the cross for our sins, who was buried and rose from the dead on the third day to give us eternal life and life to full. As Jesus is the Master over your life, then you can be assured and ensured person from what is surrounding you, both now and forever more. God's favour and His presence will be with you and Himself will fight the enemy as you obey Him and follow His Word as the following:-

1- Giving Your life and your heart in Full trust in God: As we read in the above Scripture, the Ark of God, that represent the presence of God was in a house and the

people were going there to seek the Lord and His help and aid. Samuel was the minister there in the house of the Lord and directed the people in the way of the Lord. He put a clear proposal in front of the people: "**If you are returning to the LORD with all your hearts, then rid yourselves of the foreign gods and the Ashoreths and commit yourselves to the LORD and serve him only, and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines.**" What he was telling them is this: If you really returning to the LORD, then show that by throwing all the idols in your life in whatever form; pictures of saints, human figures, animal, etc. And remove idols from your hearts like the idols of pride, greed, or lust. Those all you may run after and become your gods. By throwing all these idols you are dedicating your life to serve God wholeheartedly. People or men figure that you are serving, and the labour that you spend on your ambition is of no benefit to you. In the day of the battle when you have a problem they will not be the one to help you, but they will be the one to pull you down.

2- Unity in mind and thought: Samuel called the people to assemble and he started to pray for them. Unity is important and there is power when we come united with what God had said and promised in His Word. There is power in prayer when people come together united as Jesus said, "^{d9}Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven.²⁰For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them." (Matthew 18:19-20)

3- Pure heart and clean motive: "And they drew water and poured it out before the LORD." The water is clear and transparent, and God wants us to be like water transparent and our hearts are in pure motive with Him. As they pour out the water before the Lord, God wants us to pour our lives for Him like a drink offering. Then in this way we will find Him acting in our behalf. Purity in heart is essential for the mighty work of The Holy Spirit.

4- Confessions of sins: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9) Before you expect God would work for your behalf you need to repent from your sins, and acknowledge that your suffering is due to your disobedience to His Word and commands. You need to confess the Lordship of the Lord Jesus Christ over your life. As you confess your sins you need to make it clear with Him that you will not go back to sin again.

5- Crying to God: "They said to Samuel, "Do not stop crying out to the LORD our God for us, that He may rescue us from the hand of the Philistines." As the enemy coming near to us to attack us we should remember our Father Who is in Heaven, He is waiting for us to pray and to cry to Him to rescue us. Crying to men will not bring good result, God only can help us.

My Dear and Beloved: Have faith in God and trust Him wholeheartedly. Commit your life, body, soul and spirit to Him and walk in His ways. Do not put your trust on people or on any figure; truly they cannot help you. If you have kept anything, like a man figure or material capital as an alliance to help you in times of trouble, then be assured that the thing that you trust in, it will be the very same thing that it will pull you down. Therefore be earnest and repent as you agree to pray.

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins, who was buried but rose from the dead on the third day to give me eternal life. Lord I repent and I confess to you my sins _____, Lord I pour out my life to you with clean and pure heart and motive in Your presence. Lord I cry out to you, save me and deliver me from my troubles. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.