



Lights and Perfection, Inc.

Go and make disciples!

E-votional 33

Exodus 14:14 (NIV),

"The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still."

Life is a battle, but God leads us to victory through the Bible!

Some people have this crazy idea that when someone becomes a Christian that life becomes roses and butterflies, that is a very wrong view on how life is when you take up your cross to follow Christ. Luke 9:23 (NIV),

Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me."

The first part of this that I see is *"if anyone wishes to come after Me."* When I read this it is telling me that Jesus is not going to just chase us down until we say ok you win. No, He is saying it's your choice if you want to walk this road with me if so ask Me. Next is *"he must deny himself daily and take up his cross daily."* When you choose to follow Christ a lot of habits and things you like to do must change if it is not pleasing to God. Even things like watching tv or other hobbies, It's not just things that are obviously sin but things that God might be saying "I want more of your time." To follow someone is easy because you can see them right, well Christ says to follow Him. But we can't see Him. When we can't see Him, that is where you have to dig into His word and press into Him and desire to know who He is. Following Him is then life long.

I have just recently gone through a struggle with a job situation for a little over a year and a half now. I kept trying to bring correction in my own way but it wasn't working, instead, I was starting to display some very non-Christian characteristics and my anxiety was getting the best of me. Then one day I came across Exodus 14:14 (NIV)

"The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still."

Ok, so this seems pretty simple right! WRONG! It took me about 6 months to

learn to trust in God. I was to give the battle to Him no matter what. If I saw something wrong going on and I called it out and it would not get addressed it would burn me up and I wanted to shake the boss and the person doing it. So to help me learn this God led me to read the book of Esther. Now I am not the brightest bulb, but God revealed to me that Haman hung himself on his own gallows before I ever got to the end. Now Esther knew of Haman's plan but had to trust God and overcome her own fears and struggles. She had to be still until she was called for such a time as this.

So now I learned, first, the battle belongs to God. Second, Haman hung himself. This took me four months to learn. Third, I had to learn how I was to praise God in the battle. The Lord brought a song to me called Raise a Hallelujah. As I sang this song over and over for the next two months in the car, at home, and at work it was like a calmness started to replace my anxiety. I started to write on my own lab coat at work Exodus 14:14 so every day at work I would remember that the battle is the Lord's.

There was another song called No Longer a Slave to Fear and when singing it this time it hit me hard. It was as if God were saying, *"you've got to be brave, it will get more uncomfortable but I got this."*

The last lesson was in the book of Jonah. When God led me there I thought o-boy what will I learn here!?!? WHALE, let me tell you, lol. I put in for a transfer because things were getting worse. But I told God if I was not to transfer please send a whale to eat me up and that He did, He used manipulation from my boss and turned it into good. Now what I learned from Jonah was humility and compassion. Jonah was angry at God for saving the Ninevites and God told him what gives you the right to be mad? Then Jonah got mad about God taking away his shade and again God said what gives you the right? God's grace is for EVERYONE NOT JUST ME!

This took me one month to learn. That was the last lesson for this battle God wanted to teach me. When I learned these lessons through all the events that happened at work there was finally a meeting that was called to gather between me, my boss, and two other bosses. I was nervous while I was driving to the meeting and I just kept asking the Lord to keep my heart conditioned and to keep me brave. Lord, the battle is Yours so whatever comes of this meeting it is well with my soul. And the Lord fought the battle and held me close in His Righteous Right Hand, while He removed the mountains! Amen

God surely is faithful no matter what we are going through and no matter what crosses we are called to carry. However, much like the Apostle Paul was in and out of prison for the sake of the Gospel and was brought before kings and rulers

to testify to the grace of Jesus Christ so we too are called to amazing feats of faith that cannot be accomplished without the Presence and power of our Lord Jesus Christ. He is trying to accomplish great things through our simple and unrelenting obedience. Not my will but thine O Lord!

Maybe you have a situation that has taken all you have to bear it and has yet proved to make no sense at all. Take courage! Sometimes the Lord does not always disclose to us all the plans He has in His will to somehow work all things together for good. Rest assured however, He does have a plan, we have only to stand and see His salvation. Sometimes the road is rough and the adversity is ever-present. Just know that God is in control and has a plan to accomplish His will and not our own in this earth by your steadfastness and endurance. In short, commit your way to the Lord, trust in Him and He will surely act (Psalm 37:5).

We would love to pray for you this hour as well as the ones to come. We really love to encourage all followers of Jesus Christ to develop the faith that God has measured out to them. And with this, we say.

Father, surely the hour can at times seem unfruitful as we toil and labor in Your will. And at other times, it seems as if we are right there on the mountain with You. So Father, whether we are in the valley bearing up under immense pressure or are on the mountain top with You, give us the ability to just stand to see Your salvation. We need the sensitivity and ability to hear Your voice call out over the waves, "Be still my child and see what I will do," because without this we toil and strive in our own strength. We long to see You rise in victory over all oppression and difficulty in our lives so that You can accomplish Your purposes in the earth. These mountains don't stand a chance when You speak Father. We love You Lord and need Your power in us, in Jesus name.

In Christ's Love,
Chris and Jeanne
Lights and Perfection, Inc



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