

- ◆ **Prepare for battle daily: put on the armor of God as a daily exercise**

Ephesians 6:14-18

14 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, 15 and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. 16 In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. 18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

- ◆ **If you lose a battle, be quick to turn back to the Lord.**

Psalms 51:10-13 -

(From David's Psalm of repentance after committing adultery and murder)

10 Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
 11 Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.
 12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.
 13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will turn back to you.

Luke 22:31-32 NLT

31 "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift each of you like wheat. 32 But I have pleaded in prayer for you, Simon, that your faith should not fail. So when you have repented and turned to me again, strengthen your brothers."

Proverbs 24:16 NLT

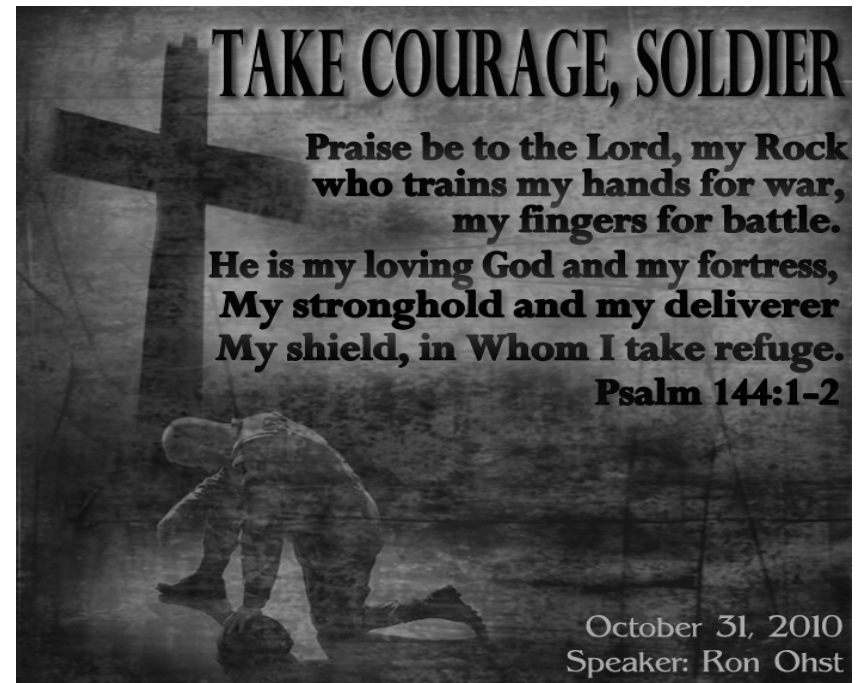
16 The godly may trip seven times, but they will get up again.

Micah 7:7-8

7 But as for me, I watch in hope for the Lord, I wait for God my Savior; my God will hear me.
 8 Do not gloat over me, my enemy! Though I have fallen, I will rise.
 Though I sit in darkness, the Lord will be my light.



by Him... through us... for Him



You will face many battles
 God will always give you enough Grace to make it through the battle, take courage.
 If you lose a battle, God is always ready to pick you up, turn you around, redeem the loss for your good and His Glory, and put you back in the fight.
 Take courage, soldier. You will face many battles, but your God will see you through to victory, and you will be able to say with the Psalmist,
*Praise be to the Lord my Rock, who trains my hands for war, my fingers for battle.
 He is my loving God and my fortress, my stronghold and my deliverer, my shield, in whom I take refuge*
 -Psalm 144:1-2

IF YOU ARE A FOLLOWER OF CHRIST YOU ARE A SOLDIER

- ◆ **You are a soldier because a battle is raging against you, for your destruction, and you must fight.**

1 Peter 5:8-9

8 Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 9 Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

Ephesians 6:10-14

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. 13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

- ◆ You are soldier in the arena where you answer God's call to service

2 Timothy 2:3-4

Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. 4 No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs — he wants to please his commanding officer.

1 Timothy 6:12-13

12 Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

IF YOU DON'T FEEL COURAGEOUS, YOU'RE NOT ALONE

1 Corinthians 1:26-28

26 Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. 27 But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.

- ◆ God seems almost to prefer calling people the rest of us would overlook.
- ◆ God can only use those who depend entirely on Him to accomplish His great work.

Judges 6:11-16

11 The angel of the Lord came and sat down under the oak in Ophrah that belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, where his son Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress to keep it from the Midianites. 12 When the angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon, he said, "**The Lord is with you, mighty warrior.**"

13 "But sir," Gideon replied, "if the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all his wonders that our fathers told us about when they said, 'Did not the Lord bring us up out of Egypt?' But now the Lord has abandoned us and put us into the hand of Midian."

14 The Lord turned to him and said, "Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian's hand. Am I not sending you?"

15 "But Lord," Gideon asked, "how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family."

16 The Lord answered, "**I will be with you**, and you will strike down all the Midianites together."

2 Corinthians 3:4-6

4 Such confidence as this is ours through Christ before God. 5 Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God. 6 He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant— not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

HOW TO TAKE COURAGE

Courage is not the absence of fear, but rather the judgment that something else is more important than fear. --Ambrose Redmoon

- ◆ Accept and embrace the battle that has been thrust upon you

2 Samuel 5:12

12 And **David knew that the Lord had established him as king** over Israel and had exalted his kingdom **for the sake of his people Israel.**

- ◆ The battles you face are under the Lord's sovereignty
- ◆ Take courage – the Lord has called you to win this battle for His Glory and for the sake of His people.

- ◆ Seek God with Diligence and Perseverance for guidance and strength in the battle

2 Samuel 5:17-19, 22-25

17 When the Philistines heard that David had been anointed king over Israel, they went up in full force to search for him, but David heard about it and went down to the stronghold. 18 Now the Philistines had come and spread out in the Valley of Rephaim; 19 so **David inquired of the Lord**, "Shall I go and attack the Philistines? Will you hand them over to me?"

The Lord answered him, "Go, for I will surely hand the Philistines over to you." ...22 Once more the Philistines came up and spread out in the Valley of Rephaim; 23 **so David inquired of the Lord**, and he answered, "Do not go straight up, but circle around behind them and attack them in front of the balsam trees. 24 As soon as you hear the sound of marching in the tops of the balsam trees, move quickly, because that will mean the Lord has gone out in front of you to strike the Philistine army." 25 So David did as the Lord commanded him, and he struck down the Philistines all the way from Gibeon to Gezer.

- ◆ Make worship your priority and battle cry

1 Chronicles 15-16 – King David's Priority of Worship and Prayer

- ◆ David Commissions over 700 people to bring God's Presence to the center of the Capital City with instruments and singing, rejoicing, dancing, and sacrifices of worship
- ◆ David commissions a permanent ministry of worshippers who worship and pray full time .