

Victory!

Are you a warrior? Have you been called to fight in God's army? If you're a Christian, you are and you have.

Life is full of battles- against the spiritual realm (Ephesians 6:12), battles against our own fleshly, worldly desires (Matthew 26:41); battles for holiness in Christ (Colossians 1:23) and even for God's Word to be proclaimed through the world (2 Timothy 4:17). Yes, we are called to battle. But let us not forget for whom we are fighting and how God equips and trains His army!

We are fighting in the strength of *El Elyon* (The God Most High), *Elohim* (The Creator) *El Shaddai* (*The All-Sufficient One*), King of Kings and Lord of Lords! These names of God give us just a small glance into His awesomeness. Because He is God, He is not only sovereign, all-powerful, but He is the victor! No one can thwart His plans. Because of Christ's death on the cross and His resurrection from the dead, **victory is secured** - "it is finished!" (John 19:30) All our sin- past, present and future has been paid for by the precious, all atoning blood of our dear Savior. Christians need to realize and believe fully who they are in Christ and walk out their faith clothed in the righteousness of Christ (Galatians 3:27).

Are we equipped for battle? Absolutely! God has given His children all they need to stand firm against the enemy (Ephesians 6: 13). We must put on the armor God provides for us *daily*- the belt of Truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the sandals of the Gospel of Peace, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God (Ephesians 6: 14 - 18).

Additionally, our preparedness and strength to do battle depends on our training and obedience to the commander's orders. Our commander-in-chief is God Almighty, who has given His laws to us for our protection, our preservation in Him and our victory for the King! Christian, do you spend time with God daily to be "trained" by Him? Do you drink from the Living Water (John 4:14) and feast at His banquet table (Revelation 19:9)? Do you commune with Him through praise and prayer, able to listen to His voice? Do you obey, radically, His commands and seek to do His Will and not your own?

No matter what battles come our way, we can confidently rest in the promise that we never fight alone - Christ fights for us (Nehemiah 4:20)! Let us never rely on our strength - it will certainly fail us. But in Christ, we can do all things through Him who strengthens us (Philippians 4:13), for He never leaves nor forsakes us (Joshua 1:5).

So let our battle cry be heard, near and far:

“Lead On, O King Eternal, The day of march has come;
Henceforth in fields of conquest Thy tents shall be our home.
Thro' days of preparation Thy grace has made us strong;

And now, O King Eternal, we lift our battle song.
Lead on, O King Eternal, we follow, not with fears;
For gladness breaks like morning wherever Thy face appears.
Thy cross is lifted over us; we journey in its light.
They crown awaits the conquest; Lead on, O God of might.”

(1st and 3rd stanzas of the hymn, *Lead On, O King Eternal* by Ernest W. Shurtleff)