

PROPHETIC
LEADERSHIP
GUIDE



**CHOOSING YOUR
WAR IN DAYS
OF INTENSE BATTLE.**

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We live in a day of intense battle, and it reaches every part of our lives. It affects our homes, our finances, our health, our calling, our relationships, and of course, our minds. Am certain that you already know that we are victorious or defeated by the attack of the enemy based on the condition of our attitude and mindset.

If we are careless or blind to how the enemy is attacking in this hour, we will be overwhelmed. Many already feel that they are under more pressure than they can carry on.

Any serious Christian today understands what it is to be attacked on every front, and this is nothing new yet, the reality feels very different and strange. Remembering God's word, Jehoshaphat stood before a vast army with his nation behind him and prayed, "We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you" (2 Chronicles 20:12, NRSV). The people of God have always met seasons like this one. If you feel pressed on every side, you are seen, you are heard, and what you cannot handle has not escaped the notice of the One who is in control.

Drawing Back to Hear

The first response to such a battle is to draw back, breathe, and ask what the Spirit of the Lord is saying. The way we engage, in strategy and in implementation, decides how we deal with what stands in front of us. Paul reminds us that we are not ignorant of the enemy's designs (2 Corinthians 2:11, NRSV), and we cannot counter a design we have not first stopped long enough to understand.

Advancing requires that we bring our minds to a place of rest and calm in the Lord. That is hard to do while the pressure is rising, and it is the very thing the pressure tries to prevent. Yet we must bring ourselves there first, to the place where we can hear God and know His direction and His intention. "Be still, and know that I am God!" (Psalm 46:10, NRSV). Strategy received in stillness carries an authority that strategy assembled in panic never has.

Knowing Which Wall Is Yours

Once we have heard Him, we need to know which wall to stand at in this season. Nehemiah rebuilt Jerusalem in sections, with each family placed before its own stretch of the wall, and the work was finished because each one held the post assigned to them. The builders who ran toward every alarm would have left their own sections open.

Your visionary assignment tells you where to stand. What God has called you to build shows you which battles belong to you and which ones you may leave to others. When Sanballat and Geshem invited Nehemiah to meet with them, he replied, "I am doing a great work and cannot come down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and come down to you?" (Nehemiah 6:3, NRSV). Some of what presses on you comes as an invitation to leave your post, and discernment sees the difference.

Refusing the Enemy's Segments

The enemy fights through structures. He cuts the mind into segments, placing fear in one, offense in another, and a flood of urgent demands in a third, until we carry more than any person can hold. A divided mind decides poorly, and he knows that the war is won in the places where decisions are made. We must not follow him into ground we are not able to handle, because that is where his strategy is built to defeat us. Nehemiah met the threat of attack by keeping the people together at the wall and reminding them, "Our God will fight for us" (Nehemiah 4:20, NRSV).

Fixing the Mind on the Word

Our salvation is protected as we remain in the Word of God. Let the Word guide you, and let it be the deciding factor in every choice this season puts before you. The way we decide, and the things we decide upon, determine whether we walk in defeat or in victory. Isaiah describes the promise attached to a fixed mind: "You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you!" (Isaiah 26:3, NLT). A mind with one center gives the enemy nothing to pull apart.

A mind fixed on the Lord also stays open to Him. At every juncture the Spirit of the Lord can impart direction into your heart, and He does so in the quiet of a settled mind. Ask Him at each turn what He is saying about this decision, this demand, and this wall.

Becoming Strong Enough to Help Others

Others are depending on the state of your mind. You can help them only when your own spiritual mind is sound, focused, and balanced, since no one can steady another person while swaying. Make the mind of Christ your priority: "Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 2:5, NRSV). We are transformed by the renewing of our minds (Romans 12:2), and the same Christ who "sustains all things by his powerful word" (Hebrews 1:3, NRSV) carries out that renewal in us.

Practical Ways to Keep Your Mind Stayed on the Lord

1. Keep up continual fellowship with God. This reaches beyond set times of prayer into an ongoing conversation through the day, in which we speak to Him about what we face, listen for His reply, and thank Him as things unfold. "Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him" (Psalm 62:8, NRSV). Paul gives the same instruction in short form: "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances" (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, NRSV). A mind that keeps talking to God has little room left for the enemy's voice.
2. Pray with others as well as alone. Jesus said, "if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven" (Matthew 18:19, NRSV). When Peter sat in prison, "the church prayed fervently to God for him" (Acts 12:5, NRSV), and the answer came while they were still praying. This season calls for the right people around us, believers who pray, who speak the Word, and who will stand with us when our own strength runs low. "Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools suffers harm" (Proverbs 13:20, NRSV). Look honestly at who surrounds you, and where the circle is thin, ask the Lord to bring you into fellowship with people of faith.
3. Make a deliberate decision to study the Word of God. Set apart a fixed time each day, open a physical Bible, and read it slowly. Where reading is difficult, because of work, travel, or tiredness, use the audio Bible and keep it playing in the car, in the kitchen, or on a walk. Christ cleanses His people "by the washing of water with the word" (Ephesians 5:26, NRSV), and the washing continues for as long as the Word keeps flowing into the mind. Let it run over your thoughts daily until the Scriptures are what you hear first when pressure arrives.
4. Take care of the body that carries the mind. Exercise, a long walk, and time outdoors steady the thoughts and release tension that builds up under strain. Sleep belongs here too: "It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives sleep to his beloved" (Psalm 127:2, NRSV). Elijah fled in exhaustion after a great victory, and God gave him sleep and food before He gave him further instruction (1 Kings 19:5-8). A tired body makes the mind easy prey, and rest is part of how we guard it.

5. Guard what enters the mind. Be deliberate about what you watch, read, and listen to, and about how much of the day's noise you allow to settle in you. Paul gives the standard: "whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things" (Philippians 4:8, NRSV). Anything that feeds fear, anger, or confusion needs to be cut back during a season like this one.
6. Worship and give thanks, especially when you feel least like it. Paul and Silas were beaten and locked in the inner cell, and at midnight they were "praying and singing hymns to God" (Acts 16:25, NRSV). Their praise opened a place for God to move. Thanksgiving carries the same promise: "in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6-7, NRSV). Peace guards the mind, and thanksgiving is the door through which it comes.
7. Bring your thoughts into the open before the Lord. When anxiety, accusation, or a troubling imagination presses in, name it to Him, place it under the authority of His Word, and let Him answer it. The mind we keep hidden becomes the enemy's workshop, and the mind we bring to God becomes a place where Christ rules.