

Defense against Defeat!

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A strong *Defense against Defeat* by our enemy the devil—who only wants to deceive and destroy us—is more important than it has ever been. People in the world search for help from someone, some agency, or some public defender to fight their legal battles. They pay huge sums to hire the services of a good lawyer or healthcare provider.

The believer in Christ, however, is privileged to ask for help from the *divine* power of Almighty God—through faith in the Atonement Blood of the cross. God has many names that describe *who* He is and *how* He can help us in our defense against defeat.

Our God is *Jehovah-Nissi—The-Lord-Is-My-Banner*—who *fights* our battles; *conquers* our enemies; and *delivers* us out of our troubles. A banner/pennant is a symbol of victory, therefore, *Jehovah-Nissi* means we *have* the victory through the divine power of God, since He is ready to *defend* us against defeat and to *fight* the battle for us.

Zacharias, father of John the Baptist, wrote Luke 1:68-71 “*Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people, And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David; As he spake by the*

mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began: That we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us.” God is our *defense against defeat*.

Zacharias went on Luke 1:74-75 “*That [God] would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear, In holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life.*”

After the Israelites left Egypt by divine power, Amalek came against them in Rephidim Exodus 17:8-16. When Moses held up a rod, *Israel* prevailed; when he let down the rod, *Amalek* prevailed; so, Aaron and Hur held up his arms and *Israel* won a decisive victory. It was not their swords, skill, or talent, but the divine power of God *defending* them from *defeat*.

Exodus 17:14-15 “*And the LORD said unto Moses, Write this for a memorial in a book, and rehearse it in the ears of Joshua: for I will utterly put out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven. And Moses built an altar, and called the name of it Jehovah-nissi.*”

God fought *for* them at the Red Sea when the waters came back over Egypt’s troops. Israel sang Exodus 15:3 “*Jehovah is a man of battle; Jehovah is His name.*” This victory at the Red Sea shows that God will *fight* for His people, and it reveals the *conditions* that enables Him to do the same for us—*whatever* the situation may be or *whoever* it may concern.

No one should desire to be a minister of the Gospel until God *calls* them *to* that position. Jesus did say Matthew 9:37 “*The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few;*” so if God has truly called someone to the ministry, He will open doors that no one can shut. They will be an instrument in the Lord’s hands.

God must fight every battle for us, or we will fail to accomplish anything. If personal plans and human power are used in Christian work, those

human ways and plans will just prove that the person was either *not ready* or *not called* by God to the work of ministry.

The first qualification for being an instrument for the Lord is to 1 Peter 5:5 “*Be clothed with humility, for ‘God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.’*” We must *first* be willing to take a *back seat* before any front seat, because Proverbs 15:33 “*Before honor is humility.*” 1 Peter 5:6 “*Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time.*”

It is good to know the *conditions* to meet, so we can have our spiritual, financial, and physical battles *fought* by God; our enemies *conquered* by God, and the victory *won* by God. In politics, there is a huge difference between a *defeated* and a *winning* candidate; and in sports, there is a big difference between those who have *lost* and those who have *won*.

There is also that huge difference between being *defeated* by the schemes of Satan and being *victorious* by the power of God. If we are *not* victorious, it may be that we have not *allowed* God to fight the battle! It is the believer’s privilege to *be* victorious, however—and it is *God* Who promises to *give* the victory. Everyone’s hope of Heaven depends on learning how to have God *defend* us against our enemy—the devil.

The *condition* to have God be our Defender is our *commitment* to Him—totally surrendering our *will* and *way* and *attitudes* to Him. If God is to fight the battle for us, we must *give* the battle *to* Him. He cannot fight *for* us until He has the battle *from* us.

We often think that it is difficult not to *do* something or not to *say* something to bring about change, but if our heart is totally committed to giving the situation to God, the victory is next. Our *doing* something or *saying* something shows that there is still some *rebellion* in our heart.

We want God to defend us against our enemies; to heal our body; and to supply the need of the moment in a scriptural way—but there can still be something deep in our heart that we will not let God have; some attitude we will not let go; or some issue we will not meet as His Word says.

The Christian life begins with repentance—but a true repentance means forsaking our old way forever. True repentance means we accept God's way and never go back. James 4:8 "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded"—by really repenting; forsaking sins; and making a commitment to only do God's will from that point—that purifies our heart!

In everyday situations, we have to meet conditions—like a railroad timetable to reach our destination; and we also have to meet the conditions of the divine plan of God in order to reach our destination of eternal life! It is not much use to begin unless we are willing to give our life totally to Him—Luke 6:46 "Why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?"

If we are enrolled in a school, but do not study; do not follow rules; and do not complete assignments, we would not accomplish much. But, if we follow the teaching of the Bible and apply the principles of trust on God, we would graduate from His school. We cannot call ourselves a Christian unless we "Do the things which" [Jesus says] Luke 6:46. If our life is truly surrendered to God, we Psalm 37:5 "Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass."

Whether the battle is spiritual, physical, financial, work issues, home problems, interactions with friends, or any place where the devil is making life unpleasant, we have the privilege of placing it into God's hands and leaving it there. The matter only gets worse when we try to win in

human strength. It can take a long time—forty years; forty days; or forty minutes—but that is up to us.

Moses had enemies when he was three months old. The law said that any Israelite male child born in Egypt had to be thrown in the river. To disobey meant death—and many Israelite mothers thought it better to lose the child than lose the family. Moses' parents were determined to trust God to save their child, so God defended them and kept the baby safe.

They committed their three-month-old baby to God, put him in a small ark, and placed it by the river's edge. It was putting that helpless infant into the care and protection of a merciful God—as anything could have happened. The baby could have been detected, drowned, or lost.

Egypt was in power at the time, so the head of that country, and the devil himself, were against that baby. Only God, as JEHOVAH-NISSI, The-Lord-Is-My-Banner, could defend for him. Humanly-speaking, it was a hopeless situation, but divinely-speaking, it was a sure-win situation. The baby had everything in his defense with the power of God in his favor. The fact that the whole world was against him meant nothing if Almighty God was defending him.

God fought this battle in a remarkable way—He had Moses' worst enemy and tool of the devil—Pharaoh, the king of Egypt—to actually adopt the child into his own home, pay Moses' own mother for taking care of him, and then have the boy educated under the system and protection of that powerful nation. God made "Even his enemies to be at peace with him" Proverbs 16:7, because the ways of the parents pleased the Lord.

Exodus 2:4 "His sister [Miriam] stood afar off, to wit what would be done to him. 5 And the daughter of Pharaoh came down to wash herself at the river; and her maidens walked along by the river's side; and when she saw the ark among the

flags, she sent her maid to fetch it. 6 And when she had opened it, she saw the child: and, behold, the babe wept. And she had compassion on him, and said, This is one of the Hebrews' children.

7 Then said his sister to Pharaoh's daughter, Shall I go and call to thee a nurse of the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for thee? 8 And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, Go. And the maid went and called the child's mother."

God was in control of the situation and protected the life of Moses, who would later lead the Israelites out of Egypt. It is amazing how God defended Moses and made his enemies into friends. God made everything turn out just opposite to the way we would have thought.

Exodus 2:9 "And Pharaoh's daughter said unto her, Take this child away, and nurse it for me, and I will give thee thy wages. And the woman took the child, and nursed it. 10 And the child grew, and she brought him unto Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. And she called his name Moses: and she said, Because I drew him out of the water."

Defense against Defeat! Hebrews 11:23 "It was by faith that Moses' parents hid him for three months. They saw that God had given them an unusual child, and they were not afraid of what the king might do."

The Lord was their Defender, and He later used Moses to deliver them from bondage; to give us the Law; to be a leader of His people; and to be an example of what God will do as our Defender when we trust Him in faith to do it. God—Jehovah-Nissi—Defends us against defeat; it is He who fights our battles; conquers our enemies; and delivers us out of trouble.

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