



CELL GUIDE 2016

Theme	God's People Ready for Battle
Topic	1 Chronicles 7:40 – The Battle
Speaker	SP Daniel Foo
Date	02 nd & 03 rd January 2016

Message Summary

Spiritual Objective: Knowing the Battle

The speaker sets the stage for a month-long theme of getting ourselves ready to face the battles of our times. (1 Chronicles 7:40) As spiritual fathers and mothers, as select choice men and women of character, as brave and mighty warriors of boldness and courage, and as outstanding leaders and disciple-makers.

In this message, the speaker first quickly establishes Four Battle Scenarios that show us that we are already in the midst of battle, before moving on to show us that underlying arenas and values in which we, as people of God, should be battling for.

Four Battle Scenarios

- 1) We are living in times of **increasing lawlessness** (Mt 24:12). Lawlessness as in how some give heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines (1 Tim 4:1), such as the atrocities committed by ISIS who give heed to their false beliefs. Lawlessness can also be seen in how men will be lovers of themselves and lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God (2 Tim 3:2-4).
- 2) Many believers will **be corrupted by the culture of the world** (2 Pet 1:4). In particular, as believers we need to keep ourselves uncorrupted from the world (Jm 1:27), and be wary of certain false doctrines and teachings such as:
 - Religion without Relationship with God
 - Forgiveness without Repentance
 - Discipleship without Denying the self-life
 - Heaven without Hell
- 3) Many will **dis-connect from the love of God** (Mt 24:12). Part of this dis-connect and leaving of our first love (Rev 2:4), comes about when we believe the lies of the devil, forgetting that God loves us (1 Jn 4:10) and that He has cleansed us from our sins (2 Pet 1:9). So let us encourage each other to come and connect with God. To fully participate in worship, to be fully present in the word, and to prayerfully come before the altar call. That we come to meet God, fully expecting to receive His love and to be filled with all the fullness of God (Eph 3:19).



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- 4) Many will **abandon their faith** in God (1 Tim 4:1). So we must be prepared for the trials that are to come and not be offended and turn away and hate one another (Mt 24:10), for without faith it is impossible to please God (Heb 11:6).

Four Battle Arenas

Even as we prepare for battle, it is essential that we do so with the knowledge that the victory has already been won. We are not fighting for victory, but rather fighting from the point of victory. And so we fight our battles in the confidence that Christ has already won the war.

- 1) **The Battle for Truth / Worldview:** This is a battle for our belief system. As our lives are the outcome of what, and who we believe, we must stand firm in the truth, have vibrant faith and be hot for God. This is our personal journey of discipleship, and the most important of the battles that are ongoing. It is the key battle upon which the other battles hinge.
 - a. **What is Truth:** Jesus is the truth, as He himself revealed (Jn 14:6). The Word is truth, as Jesus again revealed (Jn 17:17). Finally, it is the Spirit of Truth that will guide us into all truth (Jn 16:13). So we must wrestle with God to allow the Spirit of Truth to reveal personal truths to us through our meditations on the Word of Truth.
 - b. **Establishing Foundations of Truth:** To be fit for the battle for truth, we must have firmly established foundations of Truth. This happens as we develop Biblical Worldviews of Truth; as we seek to know the scriptures (Mt 22:29) and have the Word guide our path (Ps 119:105), continually asking ourselves the question, “What does the bible say about...?” It manifests in our understanding of right truth and right doctrine that will completely equip us for every good work for God (2 Tim 3:16-17).

This truth and right doctrine includes a right understanding of God and His attributes. That he is simultaneously loving, just and righteous. It includes a right understanding of what God has allowed (free will) and God has determined (laws and principles of this world). It includes a right understanding of scriptures.

- c. **Living Truth to build Faith Convictions:** However, knowledge of truth is just one step. From that knowledge, we must taste and experience truth (1 Pet 2:2-3). As we continually stand on the Word, and as we continually experience God coming through for us just as the Word has promised, we will grow in our Faith Convictions. As we grow in our Faith Convictions, we mature from carnal believers into spiritual believers. As spiritual believers, our lives and hope are built on the truth of God’s word as revealed to us by the Spirit of truth, and we will not be shaken by the facts of this world as presented to us by the culture of this world.



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As we come to know the truth, establish the truth, and live it out in our lives, we should also recognise that the opposition in this battle for truth/ worldviews is the Evil One, the World, as well as our own Self-Life. As we allow ourselves to be filled with the Word of truth and connected to the Spirit of truth, we will win this battle as we teach and admonish each other in the wisdom of the word, singing and praising in our hearts to the Lord (Col 3:16). This battle can only be won when we are filled with the **Word of God**.

- 2) **The Battle for the Souls of Men**: As we immerse ourselves in the Word, then will we be ready to preach the full gospel to every creature (Mk 16:15), showing them the peace and joy that comes from Christ (Jn 16:33), that they may live life abundant (Jn 10:10). Though this may at times feel like a thankless and futile task, we must not give up, because with God all things are possible, and because it is the love of Christ that compels us (2 Cor 5:14). This battle can only be won when we are filled with the **Love of God**.
- 3) **The Battle to tear down demonic strongholds**: As we battle for the souls of men, we know that our battles are not in the flesh, but against demonic strongholds, that we might bring to obedience of Christ every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God (2 Cor 10:3-5); that we might turn them from the power of Satan to God (Acts 26:18). When we submit to God, we will be filled with the Spirit, and when we resist the devil, he will flee from us (Jm 4:7). This battle can only be won when we are filled with the **Spirit of God**.
- 4) **The Battle in our own public square as salt and light**: As we are called to be salt and light to the world (Mt 5:13-16), we must therefore stand firm against decay and darkness, loving righteousness and hating lawlessness (Heb 1:9), and to be bold in doing so (Pr 28:1). This battle can only be won when we **love righteousness and hate wickedness**.

Bottom-Line

As we recognise the signs of the times, and the battle arenas that we are called to face, the question remains: Will we commit ourselves to fighting these battles?

- To contend for the Truth against the Evil One, the World, and our Self-Life.
- To share the full gospel for the sake of the souls of men.
- To tear down demonic strongholds and set men free.
- To be effective salt and light in the public square that we have been called to shine in.



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Questions

What are some of the battle scenarios you can personally identify with through your experiences?

(Fill In Answer Here)

How can one establish foundations of truth? What are some things that you are already doing and some others that you might want to do so as to establish a firmer foundation of truth for yourself? How can others help to encourage you or hold you accountable in your journey?

(Fill In Answer Here)

How can one live out the truths we know so as to grow faith convictions? What are some things that you are already doing and some others that you might want to do so as to grow faith convictions for yourself? How can others help to encourage you or hold you accountable in your journey?

(Fill In Answer Here)
