



## Are you experiencing one battle after another?

Does it seem like the moment you get relief in one area of your life then another hurdle crosses your path? You tithe at church and begin to sow into the kingdom, then your car breaks down. You believe God to start a business but then you find out your business partner has walked away with the investments you made together to launch the business.

In situations like this, what do we do? It seems we're taking one step forward and three steps back. This was David's experience in his own life. The setting in 1 Samuel 30 is David had just come back from battle only to face a bigger battle at hand. David and his men came to Ziklag only to find the city burned with fire and their wives and sons were taken captive (1 Sam 30: 2-3). Not only was the city burned with fire and their family's taken captive, but the ones who were with him turned on him and were wanting to stone him (1 Sam 30: 6).

Many times, we are in a battle the ones who should support us the most have become absent. This would have been a great opportunity to David to throw in the towel but watch what David does. The scriptures say that David began to encourage himself in the Lord (1 Sam 30:6). The Greek word for encourage is *châzaq* and means to strengthen. David made a decision to abort his surroundings and chose to plug into encouraging himself.

There are times our mother won't be there, our friends have abandoned us, and we are in a position of facing the battle on our own. Take a page from David's book and begin to encourage yourself. When the going gets tough, the child of God gets going. When the enemy wants to apply pressure we need to release joy and encourage ourselves. Remind yourself who you are in Christ and throw the Word at the enemy (Mt 4:4). Edify and build yourself up by praying in tongues (1 Cor 14:4, Jude 1:20).

Notice David strengthen himself in the Lord. David knew that he could not be strong independent of the Lord. Many of us are trying to fight a spiritual battle with carnal weapons. We need to walk in our identity in Christ and draw on fruit that has been deposited on the inside of us. We are not facing a battle alone, God is not just with us He is in us and to the degree we can strengthen ourselves with God's Word and walk in who are in Him, we will begin to see victory and the pile up method from the enemy will cease.