

Fighting Battles in Prayer

We probably all know what Ephesians 6:10-18 says about the armor of God, but just as a reminder, here's what it says leading up to the individual pieces of armor: *"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand."* (NIV)

I said previously that I was done talking about what Vicki and I went through leading up to her untimely passing, but I guess God wasn't quite done. I was laying in bed one night recently thanking the Lord yet again for how he got Vicki, our daughter Shelly and me through the daily battles we faced. During that trying time I would say to anyone who asked how we were doing, that by the grace of God and the prayers of the saints, we were doing as well as could be expected, dealing with whatever each day brought us to wrestle with.

As I was giving thanks this particular night, the Lord gave me a word picture I'd like to share, that really enlightened me as to what (in my opinion) "the prayers of the saints" actually means. I envisioned that we were moving across the "battlefield" of life when all of a sudden Vicki took a direct hit from the enemy, and went down. Our daughter Shelly rushed in to help, and her and I dropped down beside Vicki to see what we needed to do, and all the while, enemy fire continued to rain down on us.

I put out a distress call - I radioed for help (prayed), asking for reinforcements to come and help us in our time of need. Some people who heard the call weren't able right then to enter into the battle zone, so they shouted encouragement from the sidelines, which we really appreciated! On the other hand, many people were suited up and available, and they ran directly to front lines of the conflict to help us, as we ministered to Vicki.

What I pictured was these armor bearers standing with their backs to us, confronting and engaging the enemy so we could focus on the task at hand and not be distracted from what we were doing. This is what we do when we pray for one another and bear one another's burdens! We should always have our armor on in case we encounter a battle, or are called in to help others. Even when we aren't able to rush to the front lines, we can shout much needed encouragement to those engaged in the battle. Thank God for those warriors in God's mighty army who **are available**, and who are **willing to drop everything**, rushing to the front lines to engage the enemy, forming an impenetrable line of defense for those in need!

Take a stand! Pray for one another - it very well might be a life or death situation! Amen!