

## STANDING ON THE WRONG SIDE OF THE BATTLE

by Carter Conlon

Throughout history God's people have made tragic mistakes. They have moved away from living in a manner that brings honor and glory to the name of God, and at times have found themselves standing on the wrong side of the battle. Think Of David for a moment. David was chosen from among his brothers and set apart as the future king of Israel. To signify this, God sent Samuel to anoint him with oil, a type of the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

After receiving this anointing, there was a time when David made a decision in the flesh that resulted in his being on the wrong side of the battle.

We too can find ourselves on the wrong side of the battle; however, this message is meant to bring you hope. God did not abandon David and He will not abandon you, even if you have moved away from what He has called you to.

### ■ THE ANOINTING OF GOD

When you came to Christ, you may have been called out from your family and out of a past that did not glorify God. The anointing of His Spirit broke the cords of sin and bondage, and you were brought into the power of a brand-new life. God's anointing takes ordinary men and women like you and me and makes us extraordinary. The anointing takes us out of the natural and brings us into the supernatural, so that the name of Jesus Christ can be lifted up and those without Christ can see indisputable evidence of God in our lives. There is a desire in the heart of God that all would come to know Him, and come to understand

that we were created by Him and for Him. He wants us to know that we can be changed by the anointing of God for the glory of His name alone.

**As you get close to what God has destined for your life, the enemy comes against you with violent opposition.**

David, a shepherd, was given incredible victories, even in the infancy of his relationship with God. He was able to kill a lion and a bear as they attempted to devour the flock. Think of him standing as a young boy against Goliath, a trained soldier, while the king and all of his army stood trembling. Here comes David, this young worshiper, anointed by God, called out from among others, going into the valley to fight this giant. He had a faith and a confidence in God, who had given him supernatural ability. He knew that it was not by might, nor by power, but by the Spirit of God that victories are won for His name. God gave this young man incredible victories when he walked in faith.

Similarly, when you first came to Christ you experienced great victories. Think of the strongholds in your life you were powerless to turn from, that were suddenly defeated through a supernatural victory, no less victorious than the battles won by David. God put a new song in your heart reminiscent of the sweet songs He gave to David long ago.

It was with this favor and anointing of God that David was first brought into the king's palace to minister to Saul. David enjoyed this sweet presence of God until a difficulty arose which he had not foreseen.

### ■ VIOLENT OPPOSITION

When God has determined to do something through your life, the devil does not just roll over and let it happen. You may go along seemingly unopposed; however, as you get close to what God has destined for your life, the enemy comes against you with violent opposition. This is when many move away from living in a manner that brings honor and glory to His name, and that is exactly what happened to David.

Once a friend to David, Saul, moved by a spirit of jealousy, suddenly turned against David and fiercely opposed him. As David found himself pursued by Saul, not knowing what to do, he formed his own plan of escape. This is one of the first evidences that David was beginning to take things into his own hands. We see David's unbelief as he said in his heart, "*I shall now perish one day by the hand of Saul: there is nothing better for me than that I should speedily escape into the land of the Philistines; and Saul shall despair of me, to seek me any more in any coast of Israel: so shall I escape out of his hand*" (1 Samuel 27:1).

### ■ MOVING TO THE WRONG SIDE

Instead of trusting in God as he had done in the past, David now charted a pathway out of his own reasoning. He said, "I'm going to die one day at the hand of Saul, so I'm just going to

go where things are more positive.” David had now moved from the king’s palace into the enemy camp.

Let’s look further: *“Now the Philistines gathered together all their armies to Aphek: and the Israelites pitched by a fountain which is in Jezreel. And the lords of the Philistines passed on by hundreds, and by thousands: but David and his men passed on in the rearward with Achish”* (1 Samuel 29:1–2). Achish was a Philistine king and here we see David and his men marching behind him. This is amazing. Years after killing Goliath, the Philistine giant, where he was fighting on the right side of the battle, here is David fighting with the Philistines on the wrong side.

**Are you associating with the wrong people and fighting for the wrong cause?**

In the same way, you see a lot of people leaving what is really dead religion and going into what they think is positive. Into what they think is going to bring them to their desired end, not knowing it’s going to lead them to the wrong side of the battle.

#### ■ DAVID AT THE REAR OF THE PHILISTINE ARMY

Even though David had brought incredible victory to Israel, he was now marching with approximately 600 men at the rear of the Philistine army, the one place where you read in the beginning of Samuel that you would never ever think David would be found. He was about to cross over into Israel and fight against the armies of God.

Do you ever find yourself in such a place, on the wrong side of an argument? But even though you know it is wrong, you are so proud and stubborn that you march forward

in your stubbornness? You know you have been cornered and people have rightly put their finger on something in you, but you will not admit you are walking in the flesh. You are not really yielded to the will of God in that particular moment of your life.

David found himself on the wrong side of the battle because he faced a difficulty which he could not have foreseen. Violent opposition came against him. He found himself in a camp under the fleshly leadership of Saul, who was even moving toward witchcraft.

Are you now standing on the wrong side of the battle, associating with the wrong people and fighting for the wrong cause? I believe many of God’s people are on the wrong side of the battle, sitting under wrong ministries. They find themselves on the wrong side of the battle because they stopped seeking God and reading the Bible. Something has gotten into their heart and they are being led, like David, by human reasoning. Now here they are at the rear of the Philistine army, as it were.

Think of the number of truly called and anointed people today who want God, but they have found themselves under spiritual leadership of the flesh, leadership that is not seeking the kingdom of God. They do not know what to do, so they go into places where the messages are easy on the ears, where it is proclaimed that being a Christian means to have power, be successful, and achieve greatness in your life.

The truth of the matter is you are called to follow Christ and take up your cross. This way all of humanity may come to know there is a God who died for them. The reality is that our lives are not our own, and there is suffering and difficulty in this walk with Christ. We were bought with a price. We are not to come to God to ask Him to procure some great destiny for

us. Just think. How does this fit with scripture? The early apostles all died for what they believed. John went to prison, and Paul said, “I bear in my body the marks of Jesus Christ.”

#### ■ DAVID BECOMES CRUEL AND DECEPTIVE

As David continued to travel the pathway he had chosen living in enemy territory, he became deceptive and cruel. He had to convince Achish, the Philistine king, that he was now on his side. He told him that he was fighting against Judah and her allies but, in fact, he was killing the enemies of Israel when he went out every day. Scripture says he killed everybody, including the women and children, so no word could get back to the Philistine king. Now he was in a battle that was a lose–lose situation. Even if he rebelled against the Philistine king, Saul would still want to kill him.

Recently I was thinking of all the divorce courts in our nation, where even Christian couples sit on opposite sides of the table, fighting against what they should be fighting for. They have lost faith, having charted a wrong course. Violent opposition from the devil came into their home and instead of fighting for what truly typifies the relationship of Christ and His church; they are on the opposite sides of the battle. If they were on the right side of the battle, they would have had a victory through faith in Christ, but instead they have charted a plan they think will bring them relief.

I think of those who fear for their financial future. In spite of God’s promises, they form plans, just like David did, to cheat individuals, to cheat in business, to cheat the government on their income tax, and to even cheat God by refusing to tithe or give to His work. Fear leads them into the Philistine camp, causing them to sit under the theology that God’s purpose is to make them rich.



There are those who fear their ambitions will not be realized. They are afraid they will not get the promotion, or make it to the top of the corporate ladder. They start laughing at the dirty jokes and become partakers of gossip in the work environment. They even nervously poke fun at other Christians who are standing for God in the workplace, school or colleges. They are on the wrong side of the battle.

### ■ GETTING BACK ON THE RIGHT SIDE

If you are a true child of God, what will God do to correct you and get you headed in the right direction again? I believe God is going to do something in this generation. Scripture shows us the pattern of how God deals with His children: *“Now all these things happened unto them for examples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come”* (1 Corinthians 10:11).

I do not know what David is thinking as he is marching with Achish, the king of Gath. Maybe in his heart he is saying, “God, what have I done? Where am I going? I know this is not right. How did I get here? How did my thinking get so twisted?” Remember, this David walking among hundreds of men ready to do battle against Saul, at one time would not even touch Saul as the anointed of God. Maybe this was the first time David had pondered, even prayed, how he was going to get back on the right side.

This is when God came to his rescue by causing the Philistine princes to question David’s presence among them: *“Then said the princes of the Philistines, What do these Hebrews here? And Achish said unto the princes of the Philistines, Is not this David, the servant of Saul the king of Israel, which hath been with me these days, or these years, and I have found no fault in him since he fell unto me unto this day? And the princes of the Philistines were wroth with him; and the princes of the Philistines said unto*

*him, Make this fellow return, that he may go again to his place which thou hast appointed him, and let him not go down with us to battle, lest in the battle he be an adversary to us”* (1 Samuel 29:3–4a).

In the same way, those of you who have moved away from following God might come to the realization that you are on the wrong side of the battle and need His intervention. God may cause your new, so-called friends to suddenly no longer trust you and ultimately reject you. He will put it in their hearts to question how you got into their circle. Suddenly, all your new friends, new plans, opinions and ideas you formed in the flesh, simply leave you standing alone. This is exactly what happened with David—he was rejected.

There is a moment that a realization comes into the heart of the truly called and anointed man or woman of God: “I do not belong here! This place is a misrepresentation of God. This is not what the cross is about. This is not what the ministry of Christ is about. I do not belong here and I do not want to be here. I am going where there are people who want to walk with God. I am going back to the right side of the battle.” Jesus said it Himself: *“Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man’s sake”* (Luke 6:22).

### ■ RETURNING THROUGH PRAYER AND THE WORD

After David had been dismissed by the Philistine army, we see, *“and his men came to the city, and, behold, it was burned with fire; and their wives, and their sons, and their daughters, were taken captives. Then David and the people that were with him lifted up their voice and wept, until they had no more power to weep”* (1 Samuel 30:3–4). David saw that while he was fighting on the wrong side of the battle, the enemy had been

given access to the most precious things in his life and he wept. When you are pursuing the wrong thing, or even have a faulty perspective of what it means to be a Christian, the devil will come in the back door to devour your home from right underneath you.

David was brought to a place where he could rely only on the Lord. This is exactly what God will do in His mercy. This is how He gets people out of captivity. He will bring you into a problem that is too big for human reasoning, a problem where God is your only hope. David had lost his wives, children, and possessions, as had the men following him, and now they even wanted to kill him. Scripture tells us that David encouraged himself in the Lord. *“And David said to Abiathar the priest, Ahimelech’s son, I pray thee, bring me hither the ephod. And Abiathar brought thither the ephod to David”* (1 Samuel 30:7). The ephod was the garment they wore when they were seeking God.

You see, David went back to the point of his departure and began to pray. He asked God, *“Shall I pursue after this troop?”* And the word of the Lord to him was, *“Pursue: for thou shalt surely overtake them, and without fail recover all”* (1 Samuel 30:8). God did not want David sitting around nursing his wounds. From this point on, God was leading David against an enemy that was seemingly much stronger than he was. This is where David’s strength had always been, walking with a holy trust and a boldness in his God. One more time, he went into the camp and scattered the enemy. This time he does not lose a son, a daughter, he does not lose a thing. He spoils the powers of darkness. David was becoming the man God had called him to be—king of Israel. He was to be a man who brought the ark, representing God’s presence, back into the very center of the heart of God’s people.

The prayer closet is where the battle is won. You, too, may have reached a

point where you find yourself on the wrong side of the battle and all you can do is get your encouragement from God. You do this by going back to the prayer closet and the Word of God, asking him to speak to you again. God wants you to pray, and He will speak to your heart. He wants to restore what the enemy has taken away.

**Even if you have made mistakes, do not give up. Do not quit fighting the fight of faith.**

**■ GET ON THE RIGHT SIDE AND FIGHT BACK!**

Beloved, it is time to rise up as a church. It's time to lay hold of the promises of God, such as Paul gave to the Philippian jailer: believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, and your house. Believe that no weapon formed against you will prosper. You will condemn every tongue that rises against you in judgment. This is the heritage of the servants of God. I see prison doors opening, and the captives who sat on the wrong side of the battle coming out again in the glory of Almighty God!

Get back on the right side of the battle, and fight back. Get in the prayer closet and fight back, fight for your families, fight for your homes, fight for your future. Church of Jesus Christ, fight back in this generation; stand up and get into the Word again. Fight back! The battle is already won.

Even if you have made mistakes, do not give up. Do not quit fighting the fight of faith. No power of hell or evil can ever be victorious over

the church of Jesus Christ. You will not be prevailed against. The devil has no right to your home; he has no right to your life; he has no right to your future or provision.

David said in Psalms 18:1–9, *“I will love thee, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower. I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies. The sorrows of death compassed me, and the floods of ungodly men made me afraid. The sorrows of hell compassed me about: the snares of death prevented me. In my distress I called upon the Lord, and cried unto my God: he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before him, even into his ears. Then the earth shook and trembled; the foundations also of the hills moved and were shaken, because he was wroth. There went up a smoke out of his nostrils, and fire out of his mouth devoured: coals were kindled by it. He bowed the heavens also, and came down: and darkness was under his feet.”* Hallelujah!

That is how much God wants to fight for you! Get on the right side of the battle again. He wants to fight for your family, he wants to fight for your future—just get on the right side of the battle. You don't have to figure it out just read it and believe it. Move forward in faith and let God be God.

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**TIMES SQUARE CHURCH**

Times Square Church was founded in 1987 by Pastor David Wilkerson, author of “The Cross and the Switchblade.” It is an interdenominational church located in the heart of New York City.

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**WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF SERVICES**

Sunday	10:00AM	3:00PM	6:00PM
Tuesday	7:00PM	Church Service	
Thursday	7:00PM	Prayer Meeting	
Friday	7:00PM	Church Service	

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