

AT WAR!

Dark clouds overhang our heads! During numerous years we have known and enjoyed times of tranquility, peace and security, so much so that a lot of people have fallen asleep in a comfortable routine. But our enemy does not take a vacation, he prepares his strategy, draws up his plans, waits in the wings to attack us, eagerly looking for the right moment to do just that! When he sees us slumbering in a deep lethargic sleep, he attacks without warning. The current war in the Middle East, in which Israel is deeply involved, parallels to a certain extent the conflict the church faces with the forces of good and evil. All we have to do is observe the unfolding of this conflict to see the similarity there is with the present attacks taking place in the spiritual realm. We have forgotten these verses:

**Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of
His might, put on the whole armour of God,
that ye may be able to stand against the
wiles of the devil. (Ephesians 6: 10-11).**

It is now time more than ever to hold each other's hand and to be one in faith. It's time more than ever to unite our strengths in order to overcome the enemy. Just like Israel has to protect herself against her enemies surrounding her all while facing the threat of international terrorism, we too must unite in order to stand against the crafty attacks of Satan.

**For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against
principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness
of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places....
(Ephesians 6: 12).**

In a war there are always the dead and the wounded. Our enemy lies in wait, watching us through the bushes, inconspicuous before our eyes focused on the cares of this life, the temptations it offers, the seductions of the flesh, and like a roaring lion he wanders to and fro seeking whom he may devour.

It could be a great feeling dying on the battlefield when we are ready to meet God. However, this question should be foremost in our minds: AM I READY TO MEET GOD? ON A DAILY BASIS? NO MATTER WHAT THE HOUR?

Resist him with an unfailing FAITH!

If within our camp one of us is a victim and falls on the battlefield, let it be a warning to us all! Under no circumstance should we give the enemy of our souls an open door! It must be zero tolerance!! Even if within our ranks a courageous soldier falls and we end up losing a battle, we have not lost the war!

The local church, no matter its size, is presently under narrow surveillance by our enemy. The Spirit warns us:

WE ARE AT WAR!

When at war, we have to prepare! Only fools remain indifferent! The “live and let live” mentality is unacceptable; we cannot afford to wait and see what will happen. We must take full authority over all the forces of darkness.

Just like Israel is God’s chosen people in the natural world, the Church is God’s spiritual people. Israel must defend itself against its enemies who surround her on every side.

WE ARE ALSO SURROUNDED BY ENEMIES! Let us open our eyes, let us awake, the enemy lingers at the door. He already has made victims; he has

invaded our territory, he has destroyed a portion of our endeavours; he must be driven away. It comes down to a diabolical bacteria that menaces the entire flock.

The flesh-eating bacteria!

Who has not heard of this terrible plague? Every year, there are about 100 to 200 Canadians victimized by this rare disease and between 20 to 30 people die from it. This monster bacteria can kill a man in 24 hours. A former QuÃ©bec premier had to have one of his legs urgently amputated to prevent him from dying from its effect! This bacteria destroys one's immune system.

Dear brothers and sisters, sin opens the door to the enemy of our souls. Our spiritual immune system is thus destroyed and unless we immediately drive him away in the name of Jesus, we will be defeated. It is zero tolerance!

FOR THE TIME HAS COME WHEN THE JUDGEMENT WILL BEGIN BY THE HOUSE OF THE LORD (1 Peter 4:1).

God's enemies desire to destroy Israel. The devil's desire is to destroy God's children.

In a war, there are the dead, the wounded, there is suffering, sadness, destruction.

The Lord calls us to be of good courage, not BE demoralized by circumstances. We live in perilous times.

Let's roll up our sleeves, let's unite in faith and be of one mind. There is no room for back yard squabbles in a war, no place for criticism; it is not a place to begin throwing stones at each other. There is only one God and only one army; there is also only one goal: **TO BE VICTORIOUS BY FAITH OVER OUR COMMON ENEMY!**

This I recall to my mind, therefore I have HOPE. It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions FAIL NOT. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness. It is good that a man should QUIETLY WAIT FOR THE SALVATION OF THE LORD. Lamentations 3: 21-23, 26.

IN A WAR: No room for futile discussions, no room for negativism nor for past disappointments – we have to look ahead. No room for hatred, for spite, for vengeance. Our war is not won with missiles and bombs, but with **LOVE and FORGIVENESS!**

Evangelist Marcel

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Our FAITH is what keeps us and we will be victorious! Once more, He will send forth an abundant rain.

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