

RESISTING THE ONSLAUGHTS FROM HELL

"... My soul trusteth in thee: yea, in the shadow of thy wings will I make my refuge, until these calamities be over past.

*I will cry unto God most high, unto **God** that performeth all things for me.*

He shall send from heaven and save me from the reproach of him that would swallow me up ... my heart is fixed ..." Ps. 57:1-3, 7.

David, the Lord's servant breathed the words of this psalm during a season of great and intense pressure against him from the enemies that rose to frustrate God's purpose for his life. He was anointed and destined for the throne, but a strong and powerful clique was bent on frustrating that purpose.

This has often been the pattern in the lives of those favored of the Lord unto divine placements:

- It was so with Israel in their wilderness journey.
- It was so with the early church.
- It has been so with the saints of all ages.

Recently, the emergent Body of Christ in Nigeria, especially (although the same afflictions are accomplished in the brethren all over the world - 1Pet 5:9) has been under intense attacks and pressures - clearly, from the kingdom of darkness.

The Lord never kept us in the dark, that these pressures and onslaughts were coming. They were discerned from afar, and constant prayers have been going on across the land with respect to such alerts.



If not for such constant prayers, the situations may have been more devastating.

We have, for the past 3 months, witnessed some painful deaths, of brethren in their prime! There have been so many, so close to death, that only God's grace averted them. **EVEN AMIDST THESE PRESSURES, WE HAVE SEEN GOD'S FAITHFULNESS** - Lam.3:22.

Now, what are the intentions of the devil's hosts by all these pressures and attacks?

1. To weaken the hearts of the brethren.
2. To create fear and sense of insecurity.
3. To shift our focus and distract us from our goal.
4. To cause (if possible) the work to cease.

The Lord our God, as at other times, has a word and solution.

He hath said: *"I will never leave thee nor forsake thee"* - Heb 13:5

And again;

"I will not leave you comfortless (GK:-as orphans, defenseless and helpless)..." John 14:18.

Beloved, we are neither helpless nor defenseless!

"Nay, in all these things we are more than conqueror through him that loved us" - Romans 8:37.

Now, what are we to do, amidst these many pressures and attacks?

1 pet 5:9 says: - *"who resist steadfast in the faith ..."*

To *resist*, here is taken from a Greek word, which means- (To stand against, to oppose, and to withstand).



The word *steadfast* is also taken from a Greek word, which means- (strongly, stiffly, and solidly).

Hence, we are not to fold our arms or run back and abandon the work.

WE ARE TO STAND AGAINST AND OPPOSE THIS WAVE OF ASSAULTS, STRONGLY!

We have prayed on this issue for the past few months, however, let our withstanding the devil be more stiff and strong!

These things will assist us individually and also as local expressions, at these trying times:-

1. Refuse to be intimidated or cowed by these pressures - phil. 1:28
2. Resist the spirit of fear being projected by the devil now. You are not uncovered - Ps. 46:11, ps23:4, 1Tim 1:7. Your defense is sure!
3. Be sure to abide (remain, reside) under the shadow of God's wings - Ps. 57:1
4. Do not take unnecessary risks at this time. (E.g. self - medications, traveling at nights, or under dangerous conditions; making spontaneous journeys not cleared by God etc.) If in doubt, pray further and consult your fellow brethren.
5. Cry unto God, that all these waves be stilled. Ps. 57:2. Let this be done at individual, family and fellowship levels. Let seasons of prayers and fasting be observed at individual, family and fellowship levels for the next 2 months (Between now and the National convention in April).

Certain fellowship days may be made to be prayer and fasting to further resist these evil tides; some days or weekends or night vigils may be declared to seek God's face at the above levels, etc. The Lord will lead and give directions to his people as to what specific steps to take.

BUT WE MUST RISE AND CRY OUT TO HIM!

In Isaiah 59:19, we read: - "*When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him* (or, as in the margin: put him to flight)"

Our fervent resistance of these satanic onslaughts will surely put him and his agents to flight and surrender!

Ours is to stand, his (satan) is to surrender.

6. Let our hearts be fixed - focused and unshaken from the present truth. The church must march on!
7. Let our God arranged network be further strengthened.
 - Be in close touch and fellowship with your fellow brethren (especially at your locality) - Heb 10:25.
 - Do not give in to any offense and thereby break fellowship with your brethren - Eccl. 10:8 (b)
 - Let fellow brethren know what is going on with you, especially those overwhelming. Take your fellow brethren into confidence. Remember Eccl.4:12.

"And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen" - Roman 16:20

SHALOM,

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P.S: Whatever is received in the place of prayer as cautions or directions from the Lord may be sent across through the above e-mail address.

