

FIT TO FIGHT

Deuteronomy 20:1-9 says "When thou goest out to battle against thine enemies, and seest horses, and chariots, and a people more than thou, be not afraid of them: for the LORD thy God is with thee, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt. And it shall be, when ye are come nigh unto the battle, that the priest shall approach and speak unto the people, And shall say unto them, Hear, O Israel, ye approach this day unto battle against your enemies: let not your hearts faint, fear not, and do not tremble, neither be ye terrified because of them; For the LORD your God is he that goeth with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to save you. And the officers shall speak unto the people; saying, what man is there that hath built a new house, and hath not dedicated it? Let him go and return to his house, lest he die in the battle, and another man dedicate it. And what man is he that hath planted a VINEYARD, and hath not yet eaten of it? let him also go and return unto his house, lest he die in the battle, and another man eat of it. And what man is there that hath betrothed a wife, and hath not taken her? let him go and return unto his house, lest he die in the battle, and another man take her. And the officers shall speak further unto the people, and they shall say, What man is there that is fearful and fainthearted? let him go and return unto his house, lest his brethren's heart faint as well as his heart. And it shall be, when the officers have made an end of speaking unto the people that they shall make captains of the armies to lead the people".

God doesn't begin to choose leaders and doesn't even determine who is actually in the army until he removes those who are not fit to fight. You will notice that no mention of men with diseases or ailments is announced that would have disqualified them. The only thing that would have allowed the men, who were initially expected to join the group in this fight, to be excused was things that would have lessened their focus. God knew the temporal minded hearts of men who, like Simon, savored the things of this world more than the things of God and placed certain exemptions in the Mosaic Law concerning war. It would have been great for the men, who had legal excuses, to say that this fight was bigger than their personal affairs or that since God was the giver of their fiancé, vineyards or houses, that He and His focus would instantly become their focus but it was not to be. They left without incident or chastisement. The odd thing is that God went further and asked all the men who were standing in battle gear who knew the war cry and were positioned for battle to check themselves in the heart to see if they really believed that they were on a boat to victory or whether secretly, unbeknownst to the comrades around them, feared that they had enlisted on the Titanic. Many saints today are in the army garb but don't like the orders from God and don't believe that the missions of their church will succeed. Guess what? You are hereby cheerfully excused from the battle. God made a strict rule of warfare for Israel that men who are afraid and distrustful of the orders from God and can only believe what they see are infectious to the group and must be quarantined. They aren't destroyed or blamed but will simply not experience the victory ordained only for those who believe. Fear is contagious and humanity is highly susceptible to this deadly disease. Nothing will disqualify you from The Lords service more than fear because it is the direct opposite of what God desires from those who claim him as Lord and bear his name and even use His authority. We must believe in His power to deliver us in order to truly call him Lord.

Hebrews 11:6 says "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is and that he is a REWARDER of them that diligently seek him". If He promised then what are you afraid of? *Get back in the fight.*