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The Battle is the Lord's

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Right before David killed Goliath, he told him "the battle is the Lord's". That certainly proved to be true battle after battle. The Lord had told His people this from the very start. "The Lord your God who goes before you, He will fight for you..." Deuteronomy 1:30

Notice a number of these occasions.

The Five Amorite Kings

"And it happened, as they fled before Israel *and* were on the descent of Beth Horon, that the LORD cast down large hailstones from heaven on them as far as Azekah, and they died. *There were* more who died from the hailstones than the children of Israel killed with the sword." Joshua 10:11

The Syrians Army

And Elisha prayed, and said, "LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." Then the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain *was* full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. So when *the Syrians* came down to him, Elisha prayed to the LORD, and said, "Strike this people, I pray, with blindness." And He struck them with blindness according to the word of Elisha. 2 Kings 6:17-18

"And they (4 lepers sdc) rose at twilight to go to the camp of the Syrians; and when they had come to the outskirts of the Syrian camp, to their surprise no one *was* there. For the LORD had caused the army of the Syrians to hear the noise of chariots and the noise of horses—the noise of a great army; so they said to one another, "Look, the king of Israel has hired against us the kings of the Hittites and the kings of the Egyptians to attack us!" Therefore they arose and fled at twilight, and left the camp intact—their tents, their horses, and their donkeys—and they fled for their lives. 2 Kings 7:5-7

The Moabite Army

Then they (the Moabites sdc) rose up early in the morning, and the sun was shining on the water; and the Moabites saw the water on the other side *as* red as blood. And they said, "This is blood; the kings have surely struck swords and have killed one another; now therefore, Moab, to the spoil!" So when they came to the camp of Israel, Israel rose up and attacked the Moabites, so that they fled before them; and they entered *their* land, killing the Moabites. 2 Kings 3:22-24

The Assyrian Army

Isaiah said to Hezekiah ""Thus you shall say to your master, 'Thus says the LORD: "Do not be afraid of the words which you have heard, with which the servants of the king of Assyria have blasphemed Me.

2Ki 19:7 Surely I will send a spirit upon him, and he shall hear a rumor and return to his own land; and I will cause him to fall by the sword in his own land." ' ' ' 2 Kings 19:6-7

"And it came to pass on a certain night that the angel of the LORD went out, and killed in the camp of the Assyrians one hundred and eighty-five thousand; and when *people* arose early in the morning, there were the corpses—all dead." 2 Kings 19:35

Did you catch that? 185,000 an angel of the Lord killed in the camp of the Assyrians.

How powerful is Romans 8:31 for us today? "What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *can be* against us?" How about 8:37 "Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us."

Discipline Won't Work

Robert F. Turner

"Discipline won't work." For years I denied it. After all, the scripture plainly commands it (2 Thes. 3:6; 1 Cor. 5:1-). But I now concede. It will not work and I will tell you why.

Discipline will not work because our congregational relationship is faulty. "...with such a one, no, not to eat" (1 Cor. 5:11). But we are not eating with one another anyway! "...I have written unto you not to keep company..." But we are not doing that either! Our association is limited to a greeting nod or an occasional chat after an assembly. It is announced that brother Smith is sick. "Who is he?" We have no abiding and close tie (company) to sever. "...after the first and second admonition, reject." (Tit. 3:10). A man "joins" (Act. 9:26) the disciples, and they "receive" him with an announcement, a handshake, and an entry into the directory. If nothing more develops, "rejecting" him is nothing more than an announcement and a directory mark out. It has little impact. Such a distant and shallow relationship leaves nothing meaningful to "withdraw." It does not work. OF COURSE, WE **COULD** CHANGE THE CONGREGATIONAL RELATIONSHIP.

Discipline will not work because the whole scope of discipline is not employed. Discipline is defined with words like training, education, instruction, correction, as well as punishment. It includes encouragement in struggle, praise in victory, comfort in distress, instruction for the ignorant, support for the timid, scolding for some, a harsh rebuke for others, and even the final effort of withdrawing self from the obstinately rebellious. All is discipline — aimed at saving souls. If discipline means only an occasional withdrawal, it does not work. OF COURSE, WE **COULD** DO ALL THE WORK OF DISCIPLINE.

Discipline will not work because it is not done in love of souls. The Father chastens those he loves (Heb. 12:6); we often chasten those who embarrass or anger us. We ignore "sin in the camp" — especially among our friends — until something scandalous happens. Suddenly discipline is in order. Did a love of souls call for this action? — will it continue? Nice sins are as damning as the shameful. Such hypocrisy thwarts the work of discipline. OF COURSE, WE **COULD** LOVE ONE ANOTHER WITH A PURE HEART.

Discipline will not work because we do not work. Many brethren do not know where to start. Past neglect has left a littered house, and our first house cleaning is a distressing mess. Some throw up their hands in despair. Many, many brethren simply want nothing to do with any discipline. They plainly say discipline is a bad idea. No matter that God commanded it. They dislike it, and will not do it. They would rather see a brother go to hell quietly than have any unpleasantness. "It won't work" and "It does more harm than good" is their faithless cry. How do they know? Have they ever tried it? Thus, for one excuse or another, brethren do not work God's plan of discipline -- and therefore, the plan does not work. OF COURSE, WE **COULD** BOLSTER OUR FAITH IN GOD AND DO WHAT HE SAYS.