

# A War Room Moment

## Devotion

*Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil (Ephesians 6:10–11).*

As we sailed down a Wyoming highway at 79 mph that bright sunny afternoon, the darkness raged within me. It was Sturgis week, and our 16-year-old daughter was driving. Her father was calm and controlled in the passenger seat. I was in the back with our son, playing a game of slap jack. My son was quite focused — and winning — because I was paying no attention to the slapping of jacks. Instead, I had one eye on the motorcyclists darting in and out of lanes and the other eye on the rising speedometer, choosing to play my own game of “boxing with fear.”

It hadn't always been that way. It had slowly snuck in through my children's early years, and I dismissed it as worry. By middle school, it had escalated and came in bigger doses. The day my child began operating a motorized vehicle, it seemed to be a full-blown terror which I couldn't shake.

I wrestled in prayer and gave it to the Lord many times over, yet I still lost sleep, nursed fear, and imagined evil almost all the time. These were not marks of a secure believer, and I knew it. Subsequently, frustration, guilt, and disappointment were added to the mix of chaos in my thoughts and emotions. This was neither fun nor healthy.

On this daughter's 17th birthday, she joyfully acquired her license, excited to finally go driving alone. I braced myself for the battle I anticipated would only grow fiercer.

After the van left our house the next morning with my girl behind the wheel, I had a long cry, parked my heart on the couch, and opened my Bible at random. The words hit me hard! *And he called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases (Luke 9:1)*. I paused in amazement. Why hadn't I seen this verse before? Could this awful shroud of terror hanging around be a spiritual attack? It had certainly distracted me, caused me to doubt, and affected my witness of faith. I had prayed so often asking God to change me or to handle the issue itself, but I had not used the name and authority of Jesus Christ directly on my enemy.

Then I did something I'd never done, something I had seen a desperate woman do in the movie *The War Room*. I stormed through my house, firmly demanding Satan leave, tearfully assuring him he could not toy with me any longer, and confidently proclaiming Christ as Lord of our family, our hearts, and our minivan! It is possible my neighbors saw me holding the front door open, yelling at

an invisible guest to “get out and stay out!” They never asked me about it.

Afterward, I was exhausted and fell asleep. When I awoke hours later, I could physically feel a weight lifted from me and sense a freedom and peace that I had not felt in a long time. It was a profound experience to feel such peace. Often times I don’t get that tangible experience. Though I know by faith the truth of Jesus’ power, this day God gave me the blessing of the emotion to match the truth.

When Christ was on this earth, He declared He had come to give sight to the blind, set the captives free (Luke 4:18) *and bring those in darkness into his marvelous light* (1 Peter 2:9). His great rescue on the cross of Calvary accomplished it all. Praise be to God!

While I am on this earth, the spiritual battle remains. The enemy does not relent. Fear comes knocking, but the armor of God protects me and the name of Jesus is ready on my lips. Bring on those “war room” moments!

## Song Reflection

Though devils all the world should fill, All eager to devour us,  
 We tremble not, we fear no ill; they shall not overpower us.  
 This world’s prince may still Scowl fierce as he will, He can harm us none.  
 He’s judged; the deed is done; One little world can fell him.  
 “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” (LSB 656; v.3)

**Prayer:** Mighty Father, victorious Jesus, Holy Spirit, protector of my faith; I praise You for Your power and protection and for the strong armor You provide me for battle. Your Word assures me that even though my enemy schemes against me, I do not need to be afraid. You’ve defeated the enemy and secured a forever future for me through faith. Grant me Your peace and rest, today and always. Amen.

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