

The Potters House



THIS TIME IS DIFFERENT

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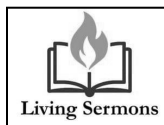
This Time Is Different

Source: The Potters House

Preacher: Sarah Jakes Roberts

Publisher: LivingSermons.com

Watch Live Video [Here](#)



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Foreword

Some messages are meant to inform. Others are meant to transform. The message contained in these pages belongs to the latter.

In an age where many believers are exhausted by prolonged battles, delayed answers, and the pressure to produce visible results, this sermon offers a timely reminder that the greatest victories are not won merely by strength, but by spiritual discernment. It calls us beyond human methods and familiar patterns into a deeper dependence on the wisdom and strategy of God.

Throughout this message, the reader is invited to consider an essential Kingdom truth: **the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God** (2 Corinthians 10:4, KJV). What God requires in one season may be entirely different from what He required in another. The same Lord who gives victory also determines the strategy by which that victory is obtained.

One of the most compelling themes woven throughout this sermon is the relationship between weariness and discernment. Weariness has the ability to cloud judgment, weaken sensitivity to the Holy Spirit, and tempt us to rely on yesterday's methods instead of today's instructions. Yet the Word reminds us not to grow weary in well-doing, for in due season we shall reap if we faint not (Galatians 6:9, KJV).

The message also challenges our assumptions about strength. True spiritual authority is not measured by physical ability, public recognition, or outward appearances. Rather, it is revealed through obedience, surrender, patience, and unwavering trust in God's leading. Whether confronting an obvious battle or enduring a prolonged season of siege, the believer is called to seek Heaven's strategy instead of merely repeating yesterday's victories.

As editors at LivingSermons, our responsibility has been to preserve the preacher's voice while presenting the message in a format that is clear, readable, and suitable for personal study. Care has been taken to correct grammar, improve readability, organize the content into logical sections, and standardize Scripture references using the King James Version (KJV), while faithfully retaining the heart, emphasis, and prophetic flow of the original sermon.

It is our prayer that this book becomes more than something you read. May it become a companion during seasons of uncertainty, a source of encouragement when weariness threatens your heart, and a reminder that God is never limited to one method of working. He remains the God of divine strategy, perfect timing, and unfailing victory.

As you turn these pages, ask the Holy Spirit not merely to increase your knowledge, but to sharpen your discernment. May He teach you how to protect your heart, recognize the season you are in, choose the right spiritual weapon, and walk confidently in the unique assignment He has entrusted to you.

Above all, may this message strengthen your faith to trust God's process, embrace His strategy, and remain steadfast until the harvest appears.

May the Lord richly bless you as you read.

— ***Wisdom Epsi***
Chief Editor, LivingSermons.com

Table of Contents

Foreword

Publisher's Note

Main Message

Introduction

A Different Kind of Battle

Boldness Is Not Reserved for Letters

Opening Prayer

The Weariness of Repeated Disappointment

Even Doing the Right Thing Can Become Exhausting

Don't Grow Weary

Don't Grow Weary While Doing Good

Protect Your Heart While You Sow

I Hear the Sound of Abundance

Weariness Is a Test

Battle or Siege?

Siege Requires Patience

God's Power Is Assigned to This Battle

Paul's Strategy Under Pressure

An Invitation to Know Jesus

Closing Prayer

Prayer of Commitment

About The Potter's House

About Living Sermons

Join Our Team

We Are Social

Publisher's Note

This book is a faithful transcript of a live sermon delivered by the preacher under the inspiration and unction of the Holy Spirit. Every effort has been made to preserve the preacher's exact words, tone, flow, and spiritual authority, while carefully proofreading and formatting the message into a clear and readable ebook format.

The message you are about to read was originally ministered in a live congregational setting. As such, it carries the weight, urgency, and atmosphere of that sacred gathering. Minor grammatical and structural adjustments have been made solely to enhance readability, without altering the substance, intent, or power of the original delivery.

Watch the live sermon from which this message was transcribed on YouTube, **at [the Potters House Official YouTube Channel](#)**

Livingsermons.com does not claim ownership of this message. All spiritual credit and ministerial authority belong to the preacher through whom the Word was delivered. Our role is that of stewards and editors—serving the Body of Christ by preserving and distributing life-giving messages in accessible digital formats.

Our commitment is excellence without dilution.

Our standard is reverence for the Word of God.

Our daily goal is to transform powerful live sermons into polished PDF and ebook editions for the edification of the Body of Christ.

It is our prayer that as you read, the same grace, conviction, clarity, and impartation present in the live service will minister to you afresh.

— ***Livingsermons.com***

A Spirit-led Publishing Stewardship

Main Message

Begins Here



Introduction

Primary Text: *2 Corinthians 10:1–6 (KJV)*

There are seasons in the life of every believer when doing the right thing still produces disappointment. Those seasons can create a quiet weariness that tempts us to question whether our obedience is making any difference at all.

In this message, Sarah Jakes Roberts reminds us that God's strategy is often different from the world's strategy. Though we walk in the flesh, we do not fight according to the flesh. God calls us to remain faithful, continue sowing into the Spirit, and trust Him for a harvest that comes in His timing.

A Different Kind of Battle

My subject, for those of you who like to take notes, is "**This Time Is Different.**"

If I can offer a little context to what is happening in our text, throughout the book of Corinthians, Paul is writing a letter to the church at Corinth. Throughout much of **2 Corinthians**, we see a version of Paul that is pleasant, kind, and understanding as he teaches these new converts what it means to walk in their newfound faith and belief in Jesus Christ.

But when we arrive at chapter ten, the tone takes a noticeable shift. The shift is so significant that some theologians have questioned whether Paul is even the author of this portion of the letter. What has happened is this:

Paul is writing to the church because there has been division among them. There are issues that need to be addressed, and he is bringing clarity with love and kindness. However, while he is helping the church, rumors have also begun circulating about him.

The rumor is that Paul's letters are bold, fierce, courageous, and direct—but when he is physically present, he is meek, humble, and unimpressive.

If I could put it in plain language, which always helps me when I'm reading the Bible, they're basically saying:

"You talk one way in your letters, but you don't act that way when you're standing in front of us."

They're saying,

"You're not really about that life."

"You wait until you're far away to send somebody with a letter, and then you want to say something bold. But face-to-face, you've got nothing to say."

Some of y'all know people like that.

Some of you have even wanted to tell somebody—whether on the internet or somewhere else—

"If you had to say that to my face, you wouldn't be nearly that bold."

Paul is responding to those accusations.

Boldness Is Not Reserved for Letters

Paul writes:

"Now I Paul myself beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ, who in presence am base among you, but being absent am bold toward you."

(2 Corinthians 10:1, KJV)

Then he continues:

"But I beseech you, that I may not be bold when I am present..."

(2 Corinthians 10:2, KJV)

In other words, Paul is saying,

"I'm actually trying not to be bold when I'm with you because it shouldn't be necessary."

But if they continue pushing against him, he is prepared to demonstrate that his courage is not limited to written correspondence.

Paul goes on to say:

"...with that confidence, wherewith I think to be bold against some, which think of us as if we walked according to the flesh."

(2 Corinthians 10:2, KJV)

He is explaining,

"You misunderstand my strategy."

"Yes, I walk in the flesh because I live in a human body—but when it's time to fight, I do not fight according to the flesh."

Then comes one of the most familiar passages of Scripture:

"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:

(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;"

(2 Corinthians 10:3–5, KJV)

Paul is saying,

"I reserve my energy for the battles that truly matter."

"The strategy I use may seem unfamiliar because you're accustomed to warfare looking a certain way."

But this time is different.

Prayer

Spirit of the Living God, I need You.

We are walking in the flesh, but the moment I engage in this assignment, I must war in the Spirit.

Lord, wherever there is weakness, frailty, or tiredness in my body, I ask that You would strengthen me.

Bring clarity to my mind.

Fill me with love for Your people so that I may flow according to Heaven's sound.

Allow me to release words in this room that make it clear You hear them and that You see them.

For those who watch this message a year from now, two years from now, or even ten years from now, may these words remain just as fresh and relevant as they were to the church at Corinth when they first received them.

I thank You because You are faithful to deliver.

Open our hearts to receive.

In Jesus' name.

Amen.

The Weariness of Repeated Disappointment

There is a definition of insanity that we've all heard repeated throughout culture. The interesting thing is that very few people care whether it's actually the official definition or not. It's become so popular that we've accepted it as truth.

The true definition of insanity has to do with a severely disordered state of mind. There is also a legal definition that concerns whether a person possesses the mental capacity to make sound decisions.

But none of that is the definition people usually quote. Instead, we repeat this phrase:

"Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again while expecting different results."

With that in mind, I'd like to offer my own definition. If insanity is doing the same thing over and over while expecting different results, then **weariness** is doing the same thing—or thinking the same thing—over and over again while experiencing the same disappointment.

Weariness is continuing to do what you know you're supposed to do...

Continuing to pursue what God told you to pursue...

Yet experiencing the same disappointment again...

and again...

and again.

We don't become weary because life keeps giving us different outcomes.

We become weary because we keep applying the same faithful methods and continue encountering the same painful results.

It would almost be easier if nothing happened.

But instead, we keep ending up in the same place.

I finally got my finances together.

I'm finally saved.

I'm finally acting right.

Yet I still can't seem to get my head above water.

Now I'm beginning to feel weary.

I cleaned up my circle.

I'm talking the talk.

I'm walking the walk.

Yet I'm still battling loneliness.

I'm still experiencing disappointment.

That's what weariness feels like.

Even Doing the Right Thing Can Become Exhausting

I use that definition intentionally because weariness doesn't only happen when we're doing bad things.

Everybody is dressed up now, and we like people to think we've always done everything the right way.

But the truth is...

I've grown weary from doing wrong before.

The difference is that weariness was easier to understand because I already knew I wasn't living right.

It was easy to tell myself,

"If you want different results, maybe you should try doing the right thing."

But nobody talks enough about the weariness that comes from finally doing the right thing.

It's one thing to become tired of repeating sinful patterns.

It's another thing entirely to finally surrender your life to God...

Finally decide to obey Him...

Finally commit to doing what's right...

Only to discover that the results don't appear the way you expected.

Can we have a real conversation in church?

I'm checking all the boxes.

I'm saying all the right things.

Yet nothing in my life seems to be shifting.

That's when the enemy whispers,

"You were better off before."

"If you're still ending up with the same results, why even bother trying to do right?"

Inside, I'm weary.

I'm trying to keep my head above water.

I'm trying to keep my heart pure.

I'm trying to watch my words.

But if I'm honest...

I'm getting tired of doing the right thing. I'm tired of always being the bigger person. I'm tired of always being the one praying. I'm tired of watching my mouth while everyone else says whatever they want. I'm watching people who ignore God's ways appear to prosper...

while I'm trying to obey Him. I'm weary. I'm trying to raise these children the right way...

and they're still giving me trouble.

I'm trying to make healthy decisions in my relationships...

and I'm still hurting.

I'm weary.

Don't Grow Weary

Paul writes in **Galatians**:

"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."

(Galatians 6:9, KJV)

Notice something important.

Paul doesn't say,

"Don't ever become weary."

He says,

"Don't grow weary."

That tells me there may be moments when I find myself feeling weary.

But then I have to ask myself:

What decisions am I making that are causing this weariness to grow?

What expectations am I carrying that are feeding this weariness?

The word **grow** is intentional.

Earlier in the chapter, Paul speaks about sowing and reaping.

He writes:

"For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting."

(Galatians 6:8, KJV)

This is the principle of sowing and reaping.

That's why I'm careful about what I sow into.

I don't sow into my flesh.

I don't feed my bitterness.

I don't feed unforgiveness.

I don't feed lust.

You have to know what your flesh pulls you toward.

Your flesh is anything that pulls you away from God.

Your flesh is anything that creates distance between you and Him.

Whenever I notice that certain activities draw me away from His presence, I realize that I'm feeding my flesh instead of my spirit.

Paul teaches that if we sow to the flesh, corruption will follow.

It will damage our relationship with God.

It will damage our identity.

It will change how we show up in the world.

But if we sow into the Spirit, we will reap from the Spirit.

Sometimes, when I forgive you, I'm forgiving you on credit.

It's not that I didn't have other options.

I'm simply choosing to sow into my spirit.

Some of us had to push our way into church today.

Some of us had to leave the comfort of that blanket behind.

Why?

Because we're sowing into our spirit.

Some of us changed the music we've been listening to because we're sowing into our spirit.

And don't let anyone convince you that because they've been walking with God for twenty or thirty years, spiritual harvest becomes automatic.

No.

Every season requires fresh sowing into the Spirit.

Some people think they will eventually reach a place where faith operates on cruise control.

But I hear God saying:

If you're going to remain fresh...

If you're going to remain relevant...

If you're going to maintain your authority...

If you're going to fight today's devil...

You cannot fight with yesterday's harvest.

How are you sowing into your spirit today?

You've reached a new level. You're facing a new devil. Yet you're trying to survive on an old harvest. That doesn't work. Daily bread is for **today**. So I continue sowing into the Spirit.

Paul also reminds us that when we sow into the Spirit, we cannot expect an immediate outcome. Because if we demand immediate results...

we'll grow weary...

when we should have been growing in the Spirit. My weariness grows whenever my expectation is focused on immediate outcomes. I'm sowing for results...

instead of sowing out of obedience. I am not sowing into the Spirit simply to receive an instant harvest. I sow into the Spirit because that is who God has called me to be. It is the conviction of my identity.

I'm not doing it to **get**.

I'm doing it to **become**.

Because I'm doing it to become, I realize that I have to be patient with the process of becoming.

I wish I could really say that the way I feel it.

You didn't become who you are overnight.

You didn't become broken overnight.

You didn't become weary overnight.

It took generations of trauma.

It took generations of pain.

It took years of mistakes.

You did not become you overnight.

So when I sow into the Spirit, I recognize that I am sowing into a process.

I'm sowing into a process.

That means I have to settle into the process because reaping takes time.

But sowing is guaranteed whenever you know what you've placed in the ground.

That's why I have to be careful whenever I start feeling weary.

When weariness begins to grow, I have to put something different into the ground.

I have to pray,

"God, nevertheless, not my will, but Your will be done."

"God, I trust You anyway."

Because I have to make sure that in this season of sowing, I don't begin planting seeds that produce greater weariness.

Don't Grow Weary While Doing Good

Paul says in **Galatians 6:9**:

"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."

(Galatians 6:9, KJV)

If I can maintain the patience required for sowing...

I will reap. If I refuse to grow weary...

If I refuse to become discouraged by what I see...

If I just keep sowing anyway... Even when it doesn't make sense...

Even when the numbers don't add up...

Even when I can't explain what God is doing...

If I just keep sowing anyway...

I have to keep feeding my spirit.

My circumstances may not have changed, but I believe God's Word is true.

If I keep sowing...

I'm going to reap.

If I keep sowing...

I'm going to see exactly what God promised.

You will reap in due season **if you do not lose heart.**

Protect Your Heart While You Sow

That tells me something important.

There is a connection between my ability to experience harvest and my ability to protect my heart.

I have to learn how to guard my heart during seasons when I cannot yet see the fruit of what I've planted.

I'm raising that child...

I don't see the harvest yet...

But I'm still sowing.

And while I sow...

I'm protecting my heart.

Do you know why?

Because I don't want to miss the harvest when it comes.

Can I say this the way I feel it?

The principle of sowing and reaping is simple:

What you sow...

you will reap.

But just because you reap something...

doesn't automatically mean you'll recognize it.

If your heart is lost somewhere along the journey, you can be standing in the middle of your harvest and completely miss it.

My heart became jaded. Discouragement settled in. Weariness took over. And I failed to recognize that fruit had already begun to grow. I wish somebody understood what I'm saying. There are moments in our lives when we are standing in answered prayer...

Standing in blessing...

Standing in harvest...

Yet we've become so discouraged by the process that we don't even recognize what God has already done. So the real question isn't:

"Will I keep sowing?"

The real question is:

Can I keep my heart?

Because my heart keeps me sensitive enough to recognize when harvest is approaching.

I Hear the Sound of Abundance

I feel this prophetically for someone.

I don't know who you are.

But I hear God saying,

"I hear the sound of an abundance of rain."

To understand that, we'd have to go back to **1 Kings 18**.

There had been a famine in the land.

The harvest seemed impossible.

Yet the prophet declared:

"I hear the sound of abundance of rain."

(1 Kings 18:41, KJV)

In other words:

"I know you can't see it yet...

...but I hear rain."

It's a rainy day.

I mean this prophetically.

Some of you have been sowing...

and sowing...

and sowing...

and you're becoming weary because all you've seen is seed going into the ground.

But I hear God saying:

"Get ready."

Get ready.

Get ready.

Get ready.

Don't keep staring at the news.

Don't look to your left.

Don't look to your right.

Keep your eyes fixed on Me.

Because if your eyes remain on Me...

you'll recognize the clouds when they begin to gather.

You'll hear the thunder before the rain ever begins to fall.

I hear a sound.

I hear a sound.

You're about to see in the natural what you've been sowing in the Spirit.

You're about to witness in your life what you've faithfully planted in the Spirit.

Weariness Is a Test

This weariness... is a test.

If you can pass the test of weariness...

I feel this prophetically.

That wasn't even in my notes.

But someone needs to hear this.

If you can resist the temptation to allow your weariness to grow...

If you can fight to keep your heart...

You're going to see what God has promised. You have to get your heart back. Your heart was never supposed to be attached to the outcome. Your heart was only supposed to remain attached to obedience. Get your heart back. Do you know why?

Because you don't want to miss the harvest when it arrives. Your heart is what keeps you sensitive enough to recognize that harvest is near. I hear God saying:

"It's going to hit your chest before it shows up in your hand."

It's going to hit your chest before it shows up in your house.

It's going to hit your chest before it shows up at your job.

You'll sense it in your spirit before you ever see it with your eyes.

God says the awareness of harvest will first be deposited in your heart.

Guarding Your Heart During Weariness

Paul wanted the believers in Galatia to understand something. The difficult assignment wasn't merely sowing. The difficult assignment was **keeping their hearts while they sowed**. So when you realize you're becoming weary...

it's not merely a circumstance problem. It's a heart problem. Something in your heart is under attack. And you've got to protect your heart during seasons of weariness.

Because weariness dulls your spiritual senses.

I know this is true because weary people miss things.

We don't hear clearly when we're weary.

We don't recognize what God is saying when we're weary.

We don't always know what to do.

Wouldn't it be just like the enemy...

Not necessarily to place you into a brand-new battle...

But simply to make you weary of the battle you're already fighting?

To convince you that no harvest is connected to your obedience?

Moses Missed the New Instruction

When we find Moses in **Numbers 20**, it's no surprise that he's frustrated.

His sister has died.

The children of Israel are complaining again.

These are the same people who watched God part the Red Sea.

The same people God delivered from Egyptian bondage.

The same people who watched manna fall from Heaven.

Over and over again, God proved Himself faithful.

Yet here they are...

complaining once more.

Moses is exhausted.

He's grieving.

He's leading an ungrateful people through the wilderness.

Now they're afraid they're going to die of thirst.

The Lord gives Moses very specific instructions.

He says:

"Take the rod... and speak ye unto the rock..."

(Numbers 20:8, KJV)

This is the same rod that stretched over the Red Sea.

This is the same rod Moses had once used to strike the rock, and water came forth.

But this time...

God says,

"Take the rod...

...but don't strike the rock.

Speak to it."

This is how we know Moses was weary.

Because when he arrived at the rock...

he struck it.

That wasn't what God said.

But when you're weary...

you fall back on what worked before.

And you miss what God is saying to do now.

When you're weary...

you assume yesterday's strategy should work today.

You seek God...

yet fail to obey the fresh instruction because you're relying on an old method.

The Right Strategy at the Wrong Time

When you're weary...

you can have the right strategy...

at the wrong time.

And the right strategy at the wrong time...

is still the wrong strategy.

It was right then.

But it's wrong now.

What worked for one child may not work for another.

Right strategy.

Wrong child.

Right strategy.

Wrong team.

Right strategy.

Wrong season.

It's not that the strategy is bad.

You're simply standing in a different moment.

That's why we have to ask God,

"What is Your strategy for this season?"

Don't become so weary that when you're backed into a corner, you automatically reach for what you've always done.

Because weariness causes you to rely on what you know...

instead of what you've been told.

And whenever you rely on what you know instead of what God is saying...

you miss Him.

God is trying to reveal the diversity of His wisdom.

The diversity of His provision.

The diversity of His power.

My God is not limited to one method.

What He did for you...

He doesn't have to do for me.

Different Battles Require Different Weapons

Personally—and nobody asked—but I believe one of David's greatest strengths was knowing **which weapon to use for each battle**.

We often celebrate David's slingshot.

And rightly so.

But if you keep reading Scripture, you'll notice David doesn't keep using a slingshot forever.

He had enough wisdom to recognize that the slingshot was the right weapon for that particular battle.

The next battle might require something different.

When David faced Goliath, he told Saul:

"I cannot go with these; for I have not proved them."

(1 Samuel 17:39, KJV)

He refused Saul's armor because that wasn't God's strategy for that moment.

Later, when David became king and led armies, we see him fully armed for battle.

Why?

Because different battles require different weapons.

Our Confidence Is in the Lord

When David spoke with confidence, his confidence wasn't in the slingshot.

He didn't say,

"I defeated the lion because of my slingshot."

"I defeated the bear because of my slingshot."

Instead he declared:

"The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine."

(1 Samuel 17:37, KJV)

The Lord gave him the strategy for the lion.

The Lord gave him the strategy for the bear.

And David believed the same God would give him the strategy for Goliath.

He believed God would provide wisdom for every battle, even if the method changed every time.

If I were really preaching, I'd stop right here and tell somebody:

Stop grieving because you don't have a slingshot.

You're not fighting a slingshot battle.

You want the slingshot because that's what worked last time.

But God is saying,

"For this battle, I don't need a slingshot."

"For this battle, I need your praise."

Sometimes I win with a slingshot.

Sometimes I win with praise.

Sometimes I draw my sword.

Sometimes I worship.

But one thing I know...

I'm going to win.

Because the same Lord who delivered me then...

is the same Lord who will deliver me now.

If I had just a few more seconds, I'd take a praise break and remind myself of all the different ways God has carried me through.

Sometimes He used a friend.

Sometimes it was just me alone in my prayer closet.

Sometimes He spoke through an Instagram post.

Sometimes He reminded me through an old hymn.

But every single time...

He used something.

And every single time...

I came out.

He didn't use the same strategy every time.

I'll be honest.

I feel a little stirred up.

Because I've realized...

I've been limiting God to one weapon.

That's why I've been weary.

Because I thought that if God was going to do it, He had to do it a certain way.

Then I realized something.

God doesn't have to repeat yesterday's method in today's moment.

What you must understand is this:

God can accomplish His purpose in any number of ways.

So my trust is not in the method.

My trust is in God.

God, I don't care whether You heal me through the laying on of hands...

or whether You place the cure in the hands of a doctor.

All I know is that the Lord is going to deliver my body.

I don't know who this is for, but don't believe that because it didn't happen at the altar, it won't happen at all.

God says,

"I'll bring you to the altar to strengthen your faith before you walk into the doctor's office."

Some people receive instant deliverance right here at the altar.

Others walk away discouraged because God didn't do it for them the way He did it for someone else.

They conclude,

"If He didn't do it like that for me, then He's not going to do it at all."

But I came to tell you today:

When the Lord has declared that you will be healed...

When the Lord has declared that you will be made whole...

He may not use the same method He used for your neighbor.

But God is faithful to His Word.

"God is not a man, that he should lie..."

(Numbers 23:19, KJV)

And He declares:

"...I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it."

(Isaiah 46:11, KJV)

So don't become discouraged because God's method in your life looks different from someone else's.

My God is vast enough...

Powerful enough...

Creative enough...

To develop a brand-new strategy for exactly what you're facing.

You're weary because you're searching for yesterday's solution...

Or your neighbor's solution.

But God says,

"Don't limit Me."

Jesus Never Healed Everyone the Same Way

If you asked the blind man in **Matthew 9**, "How does Jesus heal blind people?"

He might answer, *"He simply speaks a word."*

Then you walk over to the blind men in **Matthew 20**, ask them the very same question, and they'd tell you, *"No, He touched our eyes."*

Then the man in **John 9** would interrupt and say, *"Excuse me—that's not how He healed me. He made clay with His saliva, put it on my eyes, and told me to wash."*

Then you meet the blind man in **Mark 8**.

You ask, *"How did Jesus heal you?"*

He would say, *"He touched me once, and I wasn't seeing clearly. Then He touched me a second time, and my sight was completely restored."*

Everybody was healed. But the methods were different. Everybody reached healing. But the journey wasn't the same.

Different Weapons for Different Seasons

Here's what we have to learn. God uses different weapons for different moments. Our responsibility is to ask, *"Lord, what weapon do You want me to use in this season?"*

I don't want to assume that what worked then...

is automatically what You want to use now. David understood this. Different moments required different weapons. That's why Scripture describes him as **a man after God's own heart**. He was constantly seeking God's heart to know how to respond in every situation. I'll be honest with you. I've been looking for a pattern. I've been asking God for predictability.

Because He hasn't given me predictability... I've grown weary. But the Lord reminded me that I cannot allow my weariness to grow in this season. My heart has to remain sensitive enough...

Not only to discern which weapon to use...

But to recognize exactly what kind of situation I'm standing in.

Battle or Siege?

David knew more than which weapon to use.

He knew the difference between a battle...

and a siege.

When David stood before Goliath...

he was in a battle.

The slingshot brought immediate victory.

That was a battle.

But when David dealt with Saul...

he wasn't in a battle.

He was under siege.

And what you need during a battle is very different from what you need when you're under siege.

Let me give you an example.

When one of my children is having trouble at school, sometimes I have to send an email.

Parents, you know what I'm talking about.

Some emails can't be written from a phone.

I need my laptop.

When my name appears in your inbox...

we're in a battle.

But when I recognize that my child is struggling with anxiety...

or depression...

something no email can fix...

I understand that their identity is under siege.

The enemy is trying to surround them. He's trying to take territory. An email won't solve that. But when I'm under siege...

I can bombard Heaven on behalf of my children. Because this isn't merely a battle. This is a war over my child. A war over my seed. And the weapons I use in battle...

are different from the weapons I use when I'm under siege.

Siege Requires Patience

Being under siege requires different weapons.

It doesn't just require power.

It requires patience.

When you're under siege...

you can't simply react.

You can't say everything you're thinking.

You must have intentional strategy.

Battles are often easier to confront because they don't usually last as long.

You can expend all your strength.

But one of the greatest mistakes we make...

is using battle strategies during seasons of siege.

When I'm under siege...

I need calculation.

I need restraint.

I need wisdom.

I need a plan from God.

I can't throw all of my strength at every situation.

There are moments when I know I have the ability to shut something down.

I know I could end it.

But if I did...

I might interrupt what God is trying to accomplish.

That's exactly what David understood with Saul.

He realized,

"If I destroy Saul, I'll interfere with God's process."

Sometimes God doesn't need you to exercise all of your strength.

Sometimes He needs you to restrain your strength...

so His power can be revealed.

The question isn't whether you *can* use your power.

The question is:

Can you hold your power when you think your power could fix it?

Can you stay in position...

and allow God to work?

I'm under siege.

There's a strategy connected to this season.

Weapons may be formed against me...

but I know they shall not prosper.

I can either fight every weapon...

or I can stand still like Jehoshaphat and worship God in the middle of the battle.

Because when you're under siege...

you don't simply fight war with more war.

You seek God.

You trust Him for something different.

God's Power Is Assigned to This Battle

When God doesn't release you to do what you already know how to do...

it isn't because He's trying to diminish your strength.

He's teaching you how to use it properly.

God will never allow you to spend your power on something His power has already been assigned to.

Think about how many times you've looked at a situation and thought,

"I could fix this."

"I know exactly what to say."

"I know exactly what to do."

And maybe you could.

But if you intervened...

you might interrupt what God wants to accomplish in the long term.

Just because God hasn't released you to use your power...

doesn't mean your power is ineffective.

It simply means your strength has been reserved for the battles that truly belong to you.

If God allowed you to spend your strength on everything...

you wouldn't have any strength left for the assignments carrying your name.

I hear God saying,

"Let Me handle this."

Paul's Strategy Under Pressure

When we return to Paul's letter, it appears as though Paul is under siege because people are talking about him.

They're describing him in ways we don't normally associate with Paul.

When I think about Paul, I remember the man before his conversion.

He hunted believers.

He arrested followers of Jesus.

He approved of their deaths.

I picture Paul as courageous...

resilient...

eloquent...

powerful.

Yet the church at Corinth was spreading rumors about him.

They claimed he was physically weak.

They said his speech lacked eloquence.

They questioned his authority.

They were trying to undermine the work God had accomplished through him.

What I find fascinating is that Paul doesn't simply ignore the accusations.

Instead...

he uses the moment to teach the entire church.

He's teaching them what it means to live under pressure...

and how believers should respond.

Paul understood something.

Though his speech might not impress them...

Though his physical appearance might not overwhelm them...

His strategy was never dependent upon what people could see.

They expected power to look a certain way.

Victory to look a certain way.

Strength to look a certain way.

Because Paul didn't match their expectations...

they questioned his effectiveness. Isn't that exactly what happens today?

People begin talking whenever power doesn't look the way they expected. Whenever someone responds differently than they would have responded...

they assume weakness. Paul reminds them that this particular conflict requires a different weapon. As I studied this passage, I realized something. It looked as though Paul was under siege. But in reality...

Paul wasn't under siege at all. What he was experiencing was actually a battle that could be addressed.

Paul wasn't the one retreating.

He was advancing the Kingdom of God in ways they simply didn't understand.

It looked as though Paul was under attack.

But in reality...

Paul was the one advancing the threat.

The threat just wasn't moving in the direction they expected.

They were concerned about the way Paul was showing up before the church at Corinth. What they failed to realize was that he was operating with divine strategy.

He was not merely trying to take territory. He was establishing the Kingdom of Heaven. He was dismantling systems and disrupting mindsets.

The Greco-Roman world was accustomed to military conquest—strength displayed through visible force, intimidation, and domination. So when Paul spoke about advancing the Kingdom but did not arrive with the methods they expected, they questioned his effectiveness.

"If you're going to win," they believed, "you have to win a certain way."

But they did not understand that **this time is different.**

The way God was going to bring victory would be different from what they had seen before.

"I am going to use a weapon you are not even familiar with."

Sometimes God gives you a weapon that is unfamiliar to the environment in which you must use it. Sometimes He gives you a strategy that makes sense only to you and to Him. He may instruct you to take a completely different path from anything you've done before—or from anything other people expect you to do. And because it looks unfamiliar, people begin talking about you. They think you've lost your mind.

They wonder how you expect to win using a strategy that appears so weak. But they don't realize that God has given you a strategy that allows you to show up feeble...

...to show up without the degree...

...to show up without the business partner...

...to show up without the investors...

Yet still accomplish His purpose. God has given you a strategy. It may not look familiar to anyone else, but it is exactly what Heaven ordained for you.

Walking in the Flesh, Warring in the Spirit

One thing I love about this passage is that Paul never denies his humanity.

That challenges us because sometimes all we want to say is, "We walk in the Spirit."

Yes, we do.

But we also live in physical bodies.

Paul recognized that there were moments when his body was weak.

There were moments when he did not possess physical strength.

He never tried to pretend otherwise.

Instead, he essentially tells the Corinthians:

"There will be seasons when your body cannot show up the way people expect."

But don't become discouraged by how you walk. Focus on how you war.

If you know how to war correctly, you can still sit in a chair with a hurting back and defeat the enemy.

I've watched Bishop T.D. Jakes preach after back surgery.

His body was weak...

...but his spirit remained strong.

That means I don't have to feel strong physically in order to wage spiritual warfare.

Right now, I may jump across this stage.

Thirty years from now, maybe I won't.

But the anointing isn't in the jumping.

The anointing is in what happens in the Spirit.

If one day all I can do is sit in a chair and pray,

"Heavenly Father, I call upon Your Name, because there is no other Name greater in all the earth.

I call upon Heaven's resources.

Release supernatural power.

Release supernatural authority over my house.

I plead the blood of Jesus over everything concerning me.

I rebuke every plot and every plan of the enemy.

Let every demonic assignment be scattered in the Name of Jesus.

No weapon formed against my family shall prosper."

Then I will still be warring.

Don't Let Physical Weakness Silence Spiritual Authority

When my body is weak...

...my spirit is still alive.

Don't let back pain steal your praise.

Don't let knee pain steal your worship.

If you have to praise Him from your chair...

Praise Him from your chair.

Because **we war in the Spirit.**

You may not always feel strong physically.

But you're not fighting from your body.

You're fighting from your spirit.

I see many of you.

I know you've fought for your children.

You've endured custody battles.

You've prayed through impossible situations.

And God delivered you because you understood how to war in the Spirit.

Paul understood this.

There were seasons when he displayed tremendous physical endurance to fulfill God's calling.

And there were seasons when his body was weak.

He admitted it himself.

His presence appeared weak.

His speech was not always impressive.

Yet Paul knew what was inside of him...

...even when his body failed to reflect it. You must know what's inside you. Because these bodies are fading away. But the inward man is being renewed day by day. God is equipping us with different weapons for different seasons.

Different Times Require Different Weapons

I believe Paul intentionally used this moment to teach the church at Corinth something vital.

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we must understand that the weapons God gives us will vary according to the season.

Sensitivity to the Holy Spirit determines which weapon we use.

And I believe God gave me this message because we are living in different times.

This time is different.

The era we're living in requires different weapons.

Not only the weapons we're familiar with...

Not only the weapons we respect...

But sometimes weapons that feel completely unfamiliar.

If we refuse to release our attachment to familiar methods, we may completely miss what God is doing.

Paul reminds us:

"For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds."

— 2 Corinthians 10:4 (KJV)

Paul uses military imagery.

Strongholds were fortified cities.

Fortified arguments.

Fortified systems of thinking.

While people were criticizing Paul...

...Paul was changing minds.

He wasn't interested merely in conquering people.

He wanted transformation.

And genuine transformation required a different strategy.

Discern What This Moment Requires

My word for you is simple. Some victories come through discerning what this present moment requires...

...and then trusting God enough to do it differently. We need discernment—not merely for information...

...but for obedience. Some of you, like Paul, have been called into industries...

...into communities...

...into cities...

...into systems...

God is using you to establish structures that produce lasting change.

And you may discover that the methods that worked for previous generations won't work for this assignment.

God may give you something entirely different.

The Stronghold May Be Within

On a personal level, this message also challenges us to examine ourselves.

Sometimes the stronghold God wants to tear down isn't in society.

It isn't in your workplace.

It isn't even in your family.

Sometimes the stronghold sleeps beside you every night.

Sometimes it lives inside your own mind.

It exists in your perspective.

Your assumptions.

Your expectations.

Your identity.

Paul was not actually under siege.

He was the one advancing the Kingdom.

He was the one laying siege to darkness.

Few people recognized it.

But Heaven did.

That is what we are called to do in this season.

We are not called to hide while darkness advances.

We are called to ask:

"Lord, what stronghold have You assigned me to tear down?"

"What arguments must I cast down?"

"Are they cultural arguments..."

"...or arguments within my own heart?"

Then we ask Him:

"Lord, give me weapons that are not carnal."

Weapons That Are Mighty Through God

Here's something remarkable.

The weapon God gives you may appear completely ordinary.

It may even look natural.

But once it has been surrendered to God...

...once His anointing rests upon it...

...that weapon becomes mighty through God.

That's why Paul says the weapons are **mighty in God**.

Your gift without God's anointing may be impressive...

...but it will not accomplish eternal transformation.

That is why every weapon you pick up must first become mighty **through God**.

Sometimes we possess powerful natural abilities...

...but they remain merely human.

I don't want merely powerful weapons.

I want weapons that are mighty in God.

Closing Exhortation

As I close today, I want to pray for those who are in a fight.

When I began talking about weariness...

...something inside you responded.

Because you've been afraid...

...that you're losing heart.

But hear the Word of the Lord:

This time is different.

God is giving you fresh strategy for a new season.

Don't rely on yesterday's methods.

Seek today's instruction.

The same God who delivered you before...

...will deliver you again.

Perhaps not by the same method.

But by the same faithful hand.

Amen.

A Prayer for the Weary

If you've been doing the same good thing over and over again...

...and you've experienced the same disappointment...

I want to pray with you.

You don't have to come to the altar.

You can remain exactly where you are, or you can come forward if you choose.

Whatever feels most honest before God.

Perhaps you're trying to learn how **not** to throw all of your strength at something God has never authorized you to fight.

There are some situations where God says,

"I want to handle that Myself."

And you're grieving the loss of control.

You're learning what it means to trust God with something that means everything to you.

I want to pray for you.

Maybe you're here, and no one understands the weapon God has called you to use except you.

It doesn't make sense to anyone else.

They don't even believe it will work.

But you needed this reminder:

God trusted you with Heaven's agenda before it ever touched the earth.

And finally, I want to pray for those who cannot show up physically the way they once did.

Whether your condition is temporary or has become your new normal, you've equated strength with physical ability.

In doing so, you've underestimated what God can accomplish through you in your present condition.

I pray this message reminds you that what truly matters is **not how you walk—it is how you war.**

When your life is surrendered to God, how you wage spiritual warfare has nothing to do with your physical limitations.

An Invitation to Know Jesus

If you're here today and you don't know Jesus, I want to tell you what He has done for me.

Jesus put to death everything that was trying to destroy me.

My sin.

My fear.

My inadequacy.

He nailed it all to the Cross.

When He died, those things died with Him.

And when He rose again—free and victorious—I was raised with Him.

The power I walk in today doesn't belong to me.

It is the same resurrection power that raised Christ from the dead over two thousand years ago.

If you've never known Him...

Or perhaps you desire to know Him more deeply...

More intimately...

I want to pray with you.

As a sign of surrender, would you simply lift your hands?

Lift them as though you're releasing every weapon you've been trying to hold on to.

As though you're saying,

"God, I only want the weapons You place in my hands."

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

I have said what You instructed me to say.

Here stand Your sons and daughters, navigating a world that often feels bigger than they are.

Yet we believe Your Word:

"Greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world."

— 1 John 4:4 (KJV)

Father, You knew we would experience trials and tribulations in this world.

But You also knew that Your Son had already overcome them all.

Today I ask that You would meet every person in the place of their weariness.

Meet those who have continued doing good but have become discouraged.

Meet those who feel as though they are losing heart.

Lord, have an intimate encounter with every heart.

Comfort them.

Wipe away their tears.

Acknowledge their pain.

Breathe upon them as only You can.

As Your Spirit breathes upon them, I declare restoration in the Name of Jesus.

Where disappointment has settled...

Where people have failed them...

Where circumstances have discouraged them...

Strengthen them, Lord.

Restore their hearts.

Make them sensitive once again to the countless ways You are able to work in their lives.

Open both their hearts and their minds to the limitless possibilities of Your power.

I plead the blood of Jesus over them.

I rebuke every lie of the enemy that seeks to limit You in their minds.

I rebuke every spirit that attempts to destroy their trust in You.

Today we surrender.

This lifted hand is our declaration of surrender.

We trust You.

We believe You.

Restore us as only You can.

Where there has been weariness...

Bring wisdom.

Where there has been weariness...

Bring wholeness.

We see You pursuing us.

So we lay our hearts before You.

We declare that we will do what You tell us to do.

We will go where You tell us to go.

Because we believe harvest is on the way.

Your Word is true.

You are not a man that You should lie.

Give us endurance for the journey.

Strength for the journey.

Let us be alive to witness the harvest.

Let us be awake when the rain begins to fall.

Let it rain, Lord.

Let it rain.

Let it rain.

Open the windows of Heaven and pour out blessings we do not have room enough to receive.

As You pour out blessing...

Pour out wisdom.

Pour out strategy.

Make us like the sons of Issachar, who understood the times and knew what Israel ought to do.

Give us the right weapon...

...for the right room...

...for the right opportunity.

Holy Spirit, fall upon Your people.

Not only in their hearts...

But upon their mouths.

Give them every word they need for every situation ahead.

Give them the Holy Spirit to love that child.

The Holy Spirit to build that marriage.

The Holy Spirit to survive that divorce.

Teach them what no parent could teach.

Teach them what no pastor alone could accomplish.

Holy Spirit...

Lead them.

Guide them.

Be their Father.

Be their Comforter.

Dispatch Your angels concerning them.

Lead them.

Correct them.

Nurture them.

Restore them.

Fulfill them.

Sustain them.

Provide for them.

Restore everything the locust has eaten.

Let no weapon formed against them prosper.

And every tongue that rises against them in judgment, You shall condemn.

Cause every circumstance to work together for their good.

Holy Spirit, fill this place.

Let there be an overflow.

An overflow of courage.

An overflow of passion.

I declare that they will advance farther than anyone imagined possible.

Give them confidence in the weapon You've entrusted to them.

Confidence in the gift You've placed within them.

Confidence in the strategy You've revealed.

And give them the courage to use it.

In Jesus' Name.

Amen.

Prayer of Commitment

Repeat after me:

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for this Word.

I needed it.

Thank You for Jesus.

Thank You for making Him, who knew no sin, to bear all of my sin...

All of my weakness...

All of my limitations.

You placed them upon His body.

You nailed them to the Cross.

And You put them to death.

When Jesus was raised free and victorious...

I was raised with Him.

Free to live.

Free to dream.

Free to war.

Free to walk in the Spirit.

Strengthen me, Lord.

Restore my heart.

Help me not to grow my weariness...

But to uproot it...

And make room for more of Your Spirit.

In Jesus' Name.

Amen.

A Word to the Potter's House Family

Potter's House family, we love you.

We thank God for you.

If you desire to grow deeper in God's Word, join us for our midweek service.

If you have questions...

If you want to know how to apply this message more deeply...

Our pastors would love to walk alongside you.

If this message ministered to your heart and you'd like to sow into this ministry, you are welcome to do so as an act of worship and faith.

And if you're searching for a church home, we'd love to welcome you into our family.

Yes—we can get a little rowdy.

But we'll love you exactly where you are.

If you'd rather speak with someone personally, our pastors are available after service.

We would love to pray with you, hear your story, and walk this journey with you.

Our church is beautiful not simply because of the preaching or the worship...

It is beautiful because of the people.

You make this family stronger.

And while I may be a little biased...

I truly believe this is one of the greatest church families in the Metroplex.

Whether today becomes your first day with us or you're still getting to know us, you're always welcome here.

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

May the Lord lift up His countenance upon you...

And give you peace. **Shalom.**

In Jesus' Name.

Amen.



About The Potter's House

The Potter's House is an intergenerational church passionately committed to uplifting humanity by embodying Christ's call to salvation while addressing the most pressing challenges facing our world—both locally and globally.

At its core, The Potter's House believes that true transformation requires more than spiritual growth alone. In an ever-changing world, thriving demands a holistic approach to human development—one that nurtures spiritual depth, emotional resilience, meaningful community, intellectual growth, and economic empowerment.

With a mission rooted in faith and innovation, The Potter's House meets people at every stage of life, providing practical solutions, spiritual guidance, and empowering opportunities designed to help individuals and families evolve with purpose, strength, and power.

As a global voice of hope and restoration, The Potter's House remains dedicated to building lives, strengthening communities, and advancing the Kingdom of God through transformative ministry.

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- **Language Translators:** Help translate sermons into different languages so more people can access the truth.
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