**The Lord Will Fight for Us. (Exodus 14:10-14)**

Do not fear your difficult circumstances – rather, stand, trust God, and don’t complain or waver in your faith.

First and foremost, greetings to all of you and congratulations to all our men named “Vartan”. May the Lord bless you and give you courage like the original General and his comrades, who fought for their faith in 451AD. Today we’re going to be talking about the Lord’s battle on behalf of our salvation. May this message remind us of God’s power, and may it give us the courage and faith to face all kinds of difficulties with our faith rather than fear. Again I say, do not fear your difficult circumstances, but rather, stand, trust God, and don’t complain or waver in your faith. Let’s talk about why you should do this…

God is going fight for us if we allow Him to intervene. In the Scripture reading, the Israelites had forgotten the miracles that God had done to free them – instead, they had begun to focus only on the (terror of) the enemy. Instead of focusing on what God had done and His power, which could save them again if need be, they gave into their emotions and wanted to go back into slavery. They did not trust God, despite all He had done. Moses, however, stood in front of that Red Sea and told them, “Do not be afraid, stand, and watch the Lord’s salvation.” He also said, “The Lord will fight for you, therefore be quiet.”

As we think about a similar situation that Armenians faced, let’s remember that the Roman Empire was undergoing invasions in the West, and the Church as a whole was gathered in a suburb of Constantinople to discuss a theological issue. We Armenians were battling not only for our political independence from the Persian monarch, but also for our faith. Armenian historians write how General Vartan and his volunteer comrades prepared themselves for the fateful battle by taking communion and rejecting any tempting offer by the enemy king to deny their faith for material benefits. They prepared for that battle by saying to the enemy king, “Your sword, our necks.”

Today, we find ourselves before a similar challenge. We see that our faith is gradually finding itself more and more at odds with the culture at large. Yes, perhaps today’s battles and troubles are different than they were then. Perhaps our battle is to stay free of the world’s self-centeredness. Perhaps our war is to pray for our grandchildren and children, to advise them to live a God and Christ-pleasing lives. Perhaps our battle is to refuse to consider this world’s temporary pleasures or our physical comfort more important than God.

Vartan and his comrades were victorious in the battle set before them. Instead of giving into King Yazdgerd’s offer, they chose to recognize Christ as their king, and to completely sacrifice their comfortable lives for the Lord.

Today God is giving us the same invitation. Let us not be afraid of our current situation all around us. Let us stand firm in our faith. Let us trust God! And let us stop the complaining and our faithless expressions, which program our minds in the wrong way. Let us come together and trust in God, based upon His deeds, and let us wait and watch His rescue, just as He has done so for us in the past. God is going to fight for us if we allow Him to intervene in our affairs. Again, do not fear your difficult circumstances – rather, stand, trust God, and don’t complain or waver in your faith. May God keep us steadfast in this faith. Amen.