

Worship 2 Witness: Mighty God

Isaiah 9.6

MPS: Jesus is Mighty God who fights for us in battle and gives victory to us in the war.

OBJ: Every person can understand Jesus as Mighty God by recognizing five Big problems and three actions.

READ Isaiah 9.6

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isa 9:6

INTRO Let's begin by understanding the name Isaiah uses for this promised Messiah.

Mighty [HB: *gibbor*] means mighty man, warrior of warriors, hero of heroes. The root for this word is associated with warfare and the strength and vitality of the successful warrior; God's representative in battle. In the scriptures God's might and strength are set apart from man's.

The weakness of God is stronger than man's strength 1 Cor 1:25

God [HB: *el* – God or god] This word is a common word for God in the scriptures.

Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. Psa 90:2

This name sets God as the hero among heroes, both among men, as “a child is born”, and deities, as “a son is given”. Isaiah tells us something very important with this title for the Messiah; He is Mighty God, able, capable and ready to fight to save and redeem. **Isaiah's promised Messiah who is Mighty God is “supra” among all super heroes.**

Q? What could be more important than believing and trusting that God is able to do what He has promised?

TRANS Considering the fuller context of Isaiah's prophecy will help us gain a greater understanding of the meaning of this title.

Isaiah 7.1-14 Summary

Isaiah 9 provides a fuller explanation of an earlier prophecy in Isaiah 7:14, “Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.” In Isa 7:1 Judah has been victorious over Aram and Israel. Then, Aram allied with Ephraim. In response, King Ahaz allied himself with the King of Assyria (2 Kings 16.7-8) and used silver and gold from the temple to buy Assyria's favor, the mighty army of that day. (7.2) Isaiah is sent to Ahaz with his Son, Shear-Jashub (name means ‘a remnant will return’), and says, “do not fear, do not loose heart, what your enemy plans against you will not happen. You must stand firm in your faith or you will not stand at all.” (7:3-9) Some time later God commands Ahaz to ask for a sign of promise. (7:10-11) But Ahaz responds in pious arrogance and disobedience. (7:12) Isaiah identifies Ahaz's disobedience and gives the promise of Immanuel in response to his arrogant disobedience. (7:13-14)

Ahaz demonstrated two fatal errors. First, he trusted in his strength alone. It may seem subtle at first, but Ahaz refused God's command. His success (7:1) ruined him so that he “did not do what was right in God's eyes” (2 Kings 16.2). When we trust in our strength alone over God, no matter how small or insignificant it may seem, it denies God. Whether our denial is direct in refusing to obey God's command or indirect in not considering God's command, our trust is placed in our strength and not God's. The Bible gives clear warning of this sin.

The Lord foils the plans of the nations; he thwarts the purposes of the peoples. But the plans of the Lord stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations. No king is saved by the size of his army; no warrior escapes by his great strength. Psa 33:10-11, 16

the strongest soldier does not always win the battle, Eccl 9:11

Second, in arrogance he pitted himself against God. Ahaz arrogantly trusted his own strength and refused God. When your plan opposes God, you will never stand. All who oppose God will be put to shame (Isa 45:24). Even the warrior's strength fails when opposing God (Jer 46:5). Consider the plight of the man that opposes God.

*But God will break you down forever; He will snatch you up and tear you away from your tent, and uproot you from the land of the living. The righteous will see and fear, And will laugh at him, saying, "Behold, the man who would not make God his refuge, But trusted in the abundance of his riches And was strong in his evil desire." **Psa 52:5-7***

No matter how rationale or small it may seem / sound, denying god for self always reveals pride, and always lead to defeat & destruction.

Isaiah's prophecy of "Mighty God" stands in contrast to Ahaz's arrogant denial of God and His strength. What great kings are powerless to do, God always proves powerful to accomplish. But, when you refuse or reject God's power for your life, you will never experience his strength in your life. [You can never experience the mighty power of God in your life until in faith you stand to watch the mighty work of God instead of trying to do in your strength.](#)

TRANS Today I want to invite you to pick a fight. Or, maybe, re-engage a fight that you aren't having but should be having because you've gotten beat down, been hurt or feared too great a loss if you engaged. But, you know it is a battle God wants you to engage. It may be a battle against something you need to conquer in your life. Or, it may be a battle for something you need to accomplish or pursue. Either way, it is a fight you've not engaged or you've recently dis-engaged because it seemed to great for you to conquer.

TRANS Before we engage I want to warn of **Five BIG problems** that we often encounter in our fighting.

Problem #1: We lose sight of and fail to look to the true God.

This first problem is a most common problem throughout history for God's people. The Israelites constantly forgot God and failed to look or listen to Him. Moses confronts this problem and reminds them when he states,

*For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes. **Deut 10:17***

Isaiah prophecies that the *Son* who is *given* is a great warrior, the powerful, larger than life one, to remind us to look to Him. He is Supreme above all warriors in all realms. Nothing can or may arise that will overthrow Him. [Mighty God promises that this Messiah, the Lord Jesus, will be sufficient for victory in any battle we engage.](#)

? Have you 'lost sight of' or 'failed to look to' Mighty God in your recent battle?

TRANS Our second problem follows closely on the heels of the first.

Problem #2: We forget or forsake God's true glory and fight for the wrong reasons.

Once we lose sight of God, only one person consumes our full focus, self. We expect that God should be as committed to me as I am. We love to defend personal desires and selfish motives. We get busy with life's demands and consumed with life's struggles. Then, when they begin to weigh us down, we question God and ask why He is failing us. The Psalmist reminds us that God is the King of Glory.

*Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle. **Psa 24:8***

Isaiah's prophecy of Mighty God points us to the only One who is worthy of all glory, the One who is the King of glory. Our biggest problems in life arise when we live for any other, lesser glory. [Mighty God is the promise we live in when our lives are lived for His true glory.](#)

TRANS Once we forget or forsake God, faith wanes and doubts rise.

Problem #3: We doubt and question whether God is able.

When our eyes do not stay fixed on God our hearts cannot remain strong in God. God knows this. Isaiah's prophecy confronts our unbelief that arises when our eyes lose sight of God. He will later describe this victorious God by saying,

The Lord will march out like a mighty man, like a warrior he will stir up his zeal;

with a shout he will raise the battle cry and will triumph over his enemies. **Isa 42:13**

ILLUS **Did you hear that?** (Sound of can opening.) Someone just opened a can they cannot contain.

? **Have you lost sight of God and begun to doubt, or allowed questions to enter your thinking about God?**

TRANS This next one is so easy for us today, with the presence of instant and constant gossip (news) on social media. **Problem #4: We lose sight of what we are fighting 'for', predominantly, and who we fight 'against', to start fighting with others that we should be fighting alongside.**

Allow me to illustrate this problem with a common scenario.

ILLUS **How many of you, as a child I am sure, got mad at your mom, dad, brother, sister or cousin, and ended up kicking your dog?** We may think we cannot win, or even that we shouldn't win. But when we hurt, we just want someone or something else, like our poor dog, to hurt more than us.

? **How many times have you lashed out at someone completely unrelated, just because you were hurt?**

This is an all-too-common self-protective measure we employ to provide background music for our pity party. **Mighty God points us to the true adversary and fights for us, to guard us against all the wrong fights we get ourselves into.**

TRANS This leads to our fifth problem.

Problem #5: We war in the physical realm with spiritual enemies, authorities and principalities.

David, facing Goliath, reminds us not to fall prey to this problem when, after choosing stones for his slingshot, he states, "*the battle is the Lord's.*" (1 Sam 17:47) The Prophet Zechariah reminds us how Mighty God fights for us.

Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the LORD of hosts. Zech 4:6

Every battle, no matter where it may take shape, is a spiritual battle for worship and glory.

Paul reminds us that our weapons are greater than the flesh, for divine warfare.

For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. 2 Cor 10:4

ILLUS Sci-Fi movies where the guns they have do not affect the enemy they face. This is a great illustration of how we look when we fight the real battles of life with the weapons of this world. **Christian, you always lose when you fight spiritual battles with weapons of the flesh.**

The Christian's armor is spiritual in nature because our battles are with spiritual enemies, authorities and principalities. This doesn't mean there are no physical manifestations of our battles. After all, David chose five stones and finished the job with a sword. But David knew the battle was always the Lord's. We prepare for battle with the right armor so that we never forget the true warrior that gives the victory. **Mighty God is the supreme warrior who fights for us.**

Our BIGGEST problems in all life's battles culminate in losing because we war in the flesh. Mighty God is our great hope because He is the mighty warrior that won in the spiritual realm, the realm that rules the world we live in. **You always lose every time you neglect the spirit realm to engage the battles of your life, no matter the outcome of that individual battle. Mighty God conquers authorities and principalities in the heavenlies, to bring victory to life's battles in the physical realm from secured victory in the spiritual realm.**

If our biggest battles were on this earth, Jesus would've stayed to fight with us, or trained us in a different kind of warfare. But even when he walked on earth he engaged the true battle of the spiritual realm. When the disciples walked the street with him, the demons would shriek and yell at him. And, while the disciples spent every waking minute with him, the demons knew more about him. **How?** Because demons knew Jesus and His authority in the spirit realm. **Demons avoided Jesus because they knew He was Mighty God and they were defeated foes.**

When you reduce life to anything less than spiritual, you take Jesus out of your corner. Jesus' authority transcends all other realms. Every battle is won by His Spirit. If you want to experience Mighty God in your life, you've got to stop living only in the physical realm and walk with Jesus in the spirit realm.

MPS: Mighty God tells us that Jesus is the One who fights for us in battles and gives to us victory in the war.

The main reason we don't see God's power more evident in our life is because we give God no room to work. In the New Testament only one thing in scripture prevented Jesus from working in a mighty way. It wasn't the power of demons or even Satan himself, but unbelief in the hearts of people. (Mark 6:1-6) He can't speak mightily because we don't stop and unplug long enough to hear from Him. He can't counsel us in wonder and wisdom because we look into His Word for what we want Him to say, not what He has said. He can't act mightily because we are busy fighting flesh with flesh with no regard for the Spirit. **Jesus as Mighty God means we submit all of life to trust in Him.**

God wants to show himself mighty, to you and for you. But God applies his might to bring glory through His will, not ours. God wants to show himself faithful by demonstrating his mighty power in your life. But, if you are going to experience God's mighty power you must be in a position to need it, and thereby trust Him.

TRANS We all need God's mighty power to be real in our life because daily demands show the limits and insufficiencies of our strength, not to mention how often the big issues of life overwhelm us. Every battle, great and small, in this life is but a battle of the great war in life, the war for our soul. The timeless battle is that man has always tried to do for himself. As long as we are content with our "doing" we will never experience God's mighty power. We cannot live this life and know true victory in our strength. We need the supra-supreme One, Mighty God, who will fight for us and give us His victory. **True victory in this life only comes by faith in the power of the One who is Mighty God, the Lord Jesus Christ.**

The promise of Isaiah's prophecy primarily calls us to faith in Jesus Christ.

Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. Jer 17:7

The promise of Christmas is the God who is with us is the mighty God. He is stronger than that which threatens you, has come against you or could overtake you. He will always and only lead you into battles that He has for you. I urge you today to place your faith in the Mighty God.

TRANS Three actions move the battles of your life from the physical to the spiritual realm, and let Jesus be Mighty God in your life.

Act #1: Humble yourself before God.

Every person holds a measure of confidence in their own strength/successes. Self-confidence should always be conditioned and measured only under faith in God. Humility is the example of Jesus in **Phil 2.5-9** and should be our model. Humility is not dormancy, inactivity or weakness. It is first seeking the counsel and strength of the Wonderful Counselor and Mighty God before proceeding.

humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time 1 Peter 5.6

When you humble yourself before God and trust Jesus, He will act mightily FOR you as He works mightily IN you.

Act #2: Place your faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ.

Do not trust men. Do not trust self. As the Wonderful Counselor he has the perfect plan and as Mighty God he has the ability to carry it forth, thwarted by nothing. God knows your life. No problem is too big, no desire too great, no circumstance too impossible. Do not place your trust in God and other things. Trust God.

Depend on the Lord; trust him, and he will take care of you.

Then your goodness will shine like the sun, and your fairness like the noonday sun. Psalm 37.5-6

Trust is never an “action-less deed”. When the Bible tells us to trust it always includes an action. That action might be turning away from a current path, or turning to another practice. But faith and trust in God ALWAYS leads to an act of obedience, even when that obedience is “don’t move”. **Trust in God may lead you to be dead still, but it never leads you into dormancy.**

? How is Holy Spirit stirring in your heart to lead you today, by faith in obedience to follow Jesus?

Act #3: Stand & watch Mighty God act in your behalf.

God warns Ahaz, “*If your faith is not strong, you will not have strength enough to last.*” (Isa 7.9b) Eph 6 says “*take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.*” “Stand firm” doesn’t necessarily mean “stay on your feet in one spot”. Rather, don’t lose hope or give in because “you will be strengthened to keep living life.” **Evil cannot overcome you as long as God is armoring you. Faith in Mighty God, the Lord Jesus Christ, makes all the difference in all of life’s battles.**

Sometimes victory comes not in conquering, but persevering. Knowing when to retreat to fight another day is as important as how to attack when the time comes. Jesus commands us to put on the whole armor of God so that after we’ve done all WE can do, we will still stand. (Eph 6.13) God’s mighty power begins when and where our’s ends.

Mighty God does His best work when we are fully and desperately dependent upon Him. Mighty God is our strength that brings our victory as we persevere by faith.

CLOSE

Few people struggle to worship when God seems larger than life, or so it seems. But, when life feels larger than God we question, doubt, grow anxious and disbelieve everything, including God. **God is as real when we hide in the dark echo of the cave as He is when we dance joyfully in the rain. God is as capable and willing to deliver you from the cave as He is willing to overflow joy in you for rain dancing.**

God can, and one day He will fix all things. Only the fool says “God isn’t fixing this” because he’s lost all hope. **Right now, God is fixing Himself firmly IN you to show Himself mighty FOR you.** What you need to conquer and bring victory in your life will only be done after you surrender and trust Mighty God. **The Lord Jesus Christ is Mighty God who has come and lives among us.**