

## **“Are we there yet?”**

**On a long car trip**, the children often say through boredom: “Are we there yet”, when the journey is getting too tedious for them. So, have you become tired and worn out, hoping for an immediate and instant solution? **This may be it.**

**“This is not good, saying: “It’s not over”**, sings Lauren Daigle in the song: **These Are the Days**. “It’s not good saying: “It’s not over”! Well, what does she mean?

This same thing had become a popular approach to preaching, where the leader or preacher says: **It’s not over, until it’s over!** especially **as a resistance-claim against the darkness**. This refers to the spiritual warfare we’re involved in, and the claim of persevering against it and overcoming it.

“It’s not over ’til it’s over!” **meaning we’re still in the fight, we haven’t given up and we’re not likely to!** “It’s not over, until it’s over!” , and that’s good, surely.

But, **what ground are we fighting from?** What fortification are we using? What, or Who is our refuge and strength, our High Tower and fortified Battlement?

“It’s not good saying: “It’s not over”! because it can become an expression of striving, an anxious ‘war-weary battle cry’ and thereby distract us from the One who’s already won our victory for us.

**This is a most important claim of our faith**, that Christ has already won the battle we fight against Satan and against the hoards of darkness. Therefore, we’re here as ambassadors of Christ’s kingdom, to enforce the victory He’s won by the authority of His name.

“Since therefore the children (**us!**) share in flesh and blood, he himself (**Christ**) likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery”, ~**Hebrews 2:14-15**, ESV.

~**see also:** John 12: 27-32, Ephesians 2:1-6, 1 Corinthians 2:6-8, Matthew 10:1 & 5-8, also 28:18, Luke 10:17-20, 1 John 5:18-20, 2 Corinthians 5:16-20, Ephesians 6:10-18, 1 John 3:7-10 & Colossians 2:13-14.

Please cherish **those scriptures**, recite them, meditate on them and ask Holy Spirit for revelation through them, also for **which ones are your own key-claim**.

Have you or your church/your dedicated, 'spiritual warfare mates' become war-weary? This may be your refreshment.

**I shudder to think of the time when one pastor** I was following, kept up this **"It's not over 'til it's over"** -claim as he paraded across-and-back, across the altar space of the hall we were meeting in, claiming vehemently: "It's not over 'til it's over devil"! and repeatedly: "It's not over 'til it's over devil!" with what seemed like threats, taunts and a spiritual-smear-campaign to me.

**That's entirely not necessary, and a dangerous way to treat** "celestial beings" - dangerous for the taunter and smear campaigner! **~cf. Jude 1:8-10 & Acts 19:13-16**. Any spiritual battle we face is appointed by our God's providence, and must be handled this way: **~cf. 1 Corinthians 10:13 & Colossians 2:9-10**.

**On the other hand**, we're "grown up" into Christ who is the head of all principality and power **~cf. Colossians 2:9 & Ephesians 4:13-15**, and we are well able to rely on Holy Spirit and/or wait on Him for the anointing and power we need to resist and defeat the devil **~cf. Daniel 10:1-3 & 10-14, Matthew 4:4,7 & 10**.

Therefore, the: **"It's not over until it's over"** -claim, must yield to **this Head's** completion in us!

"For the entire fullness of God's nature dwells bodily in Christ, and **you have been filled/made complete by Him and in Him, who is the head over** every ruler and authority", ~Colossians 2:9-10, Holman Christian Standard Bible (HCSB), and other versions.

"For he (Christ, the Anointed One) is the complete fullness of deity living in human form. And **our own completeness is now found in him**. We are completely filled with God as Christ's fullness overflows within us. He is the Head of every kingdom and authority in the universe!", ~Colossians 2:9-10, The Passion Translation (TPT).

So, it's surely **not** good! saying: "It's not over".

“It’s not good, saying: “It’s not over” as Lauren Daigle sings, **because it is over!**  
**for the Christ-believer.**

It is finished! Our redemption is complete, and there **is** no other sacrifice that can be made in order to justify and liberate anyone into eternal life ~cf. John 19:30, Hebrews 10:12-18 & Zephaniah 3:17.

“For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified:, ~Hebrews 10:14.

“For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified”, ~Romans 8:29-30.

~see also: 2 Cor. 5:16, Eph. 2:5-6, Eph 4:10, 1John 3:2-3, and 1Pet. 1:8.

And so, we’ve become God’s body in the earth! - the Body of Christ.

So, this Christ! who has achieved our complete and perfect redemption and who abides with us as immanuel: God-with-us, has given **us for each other! and for His glory** as He rules through us.

Ephesians 4:8 & 11-12 - “When He ascended on high ~v8 ... he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry.

“..to equip” in the original Greek grammar is a preposition, an article and a noun, meaning: **toward perfection, equipment and complete furnishment of the saints.**

So, once redemption’s work was completed by Christ and we became complete in Him through our faith in God, **Christ gave us for each other!**

He gave these five types of people as grace gifts - potentially, each one of us for each other - **towards the perfection, equipment and complete furnishment of the saints** “in holy array from the womb of the dawn”, as it pictures Christ being glorified in Psalm 110.

Messiah! I know God himself will establish your kingdom as you reign in Zion-glory.  
For he says to you, “Rule in the midst of your enemies!”  
Your people will be your love offerings, like living sacrifices spilled out before you!  
In the day of your mighty power you will be exalted,  
and in the brightness of your holy ones (**us!**) you will shine  
**as an army arising from the womb of the dawn** (together you-all will be),  
anointed with the dew of your youth! ~Pslam 110:2-3, TPT.

**Christ in us, the hope of glory!** ~cf. Colossians 1:27. **This army is arising.**

And yet we have this place of “arising”, of coming into participation with Christ. It’s like I feel daily as I “arise out of my flesh” and am coaxed into His presence, such-as-with this Communion meditation :**Colossians 1:15-23, esp. vv22-23.**

For I’ve said in my heart: from-out-of this cavernous, want-filled-space, by the gracious presence of God, as I’ve groaned out these lyrics of Lauren Daygle’s:

“Through the victories, through the scars; **let me echo who You are**”.

And yet, I’m aware of the scripture’s meaning in Hebrews 1:3 that my Savior: Jesus Christ “upholds all things by the **word** of His **power**”, by the **rhema** of His **dumamis**, by the **Living Voice** of His **Soul’s Strength**. including me!

It seems like a mere ideal to me at times that we-as-Christ’s believers and followers, live by Holy Spirit’s presence, power and personal grace-in-truth.

And yet we’re constantly and consistently filled with the One who upholds all things by the Word of His Power, who fills all creation with His creative, all-sustaining Living Voice, who guides and guards His very personal and eternal purposes with His Soul’s Strength in-and-through us!

And we’re held in His almighty, all compassionate, nurturing Hand by the grace of the One who washes away our sins with His blood sacrifice, who sustains our physical stature with His broken body and who heals each one of our diseases.

We die to be like Him, like a lover, fully assured of her beloved’s faithfulness, fully confident in his strength of unrelenting love, always comforted by His unique, rejoicing character despite all trials and challenges.

And so, He comes to us on eagle’s wings:

“My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is perfected in weakness”, ~cf. 2 Corinthians 12:9, reassuring us once again of His abounding faithfulness and of His ability to charge us with His own faith in us.

So, we find ourselves alive in Him - this Living Voice! - having obtained somehow miraculously: His Soul's Strength in order to go on “in weakness and yet rejoicing”, whereas “the joy of our LORD is our strength” ~cf. Nehemiah 8:10.

Hereby, we've been rescued in His great arms of everlasting love, the result being that we can once again say:

“The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want”, ~cf. Psalm 23:1, having escaped the cavern of our wants, and having been charged with His faith.

Oh, our Deliverer!

“You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. **These things** I command you, so that you will love one another”, ~John 15:16-17.

What things?

The words: “I command you” are better translated: “ “these things I enjoin with you, or enjoin upon you” - that is: your fruitfulness, your asking of My Father **I- Have enjoined upon you**, with the intent that you all may be loving one another.

That is: we love one another with non-pretend patience and kindness through observing and participating in this process of asking our Father and getting testimonial answers, because we've been given by Christ **for each other**.

This unique and holy observation and participation in each other's lives becomes evident by “My Choosing of each of you, the resultant fruit that is borne, your sharing of the answers My Father has given you for your asking, and all this, with your delight in Me”.

And surely, **we've hereby arrived in the Presence of His counsel**: as we do, and as we need to do, day-by-day.