

Dear NU Family,

We stand here together at the beginning of a new school year, and I am deeply grateful. Grateful for Jesus, our Savior. Grateful for the Holy Spirit that empowers us to live in this new kingdom we belong to. Grateful for each one of you here at Northwest University, contributing to this incredible community of scholars, leaders, and worshipers. I pray that you feel this sense of gratefulness as well, and that it fills your heart with joy.

Recently, I was speaking with the Lord about some anxiety that I felt in my own soul. As I conversed in prayer, the Lord led me to read 2 Chronicles 20. In this passage, the nation of Judah was about to go to be attacked by their enemies. They were naturally afraid, and asked God to prevent the war altogether. But instead, a Levite named Jahaziel was filled with the Holy Spirit, and shouted, “Listen, all you people of Judah and Jerusalem! Listen, King Jehoshaphat! This is what the Lord says: Do not be afraid! Don’t be discouraged by this mighty army, **for the battle is not yours, but God’s**” (2 Chron 20:15, NLT). In the moment that I read this, God filled my heart with peace, reminding me that He doesn’t always prevent our battles, but fights them on our behalf, and the outcome is in His hands.

Perhaps you have something in your life right now that is causing some anxiety or fear to creep into your spirit. Personally, I have discovered that the best way to overcome fear is through *love*. 1 John 4:18 tells us that “perfect love expels all fear”. And we have a perfect love in our life in the love of Jesus Christ. Though we no longer go through the battles in our life with fear, we do need to go through them fully equipped. Ephesians 6:10 tells us to “put on the whole armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes”. As you put on the armor of God, be sure to take up the sword of the Spirit – the word of God – through which the Lord will fight for you. And remember, whatever battles arise this year, they belong to the Lord.

COMING UP THIS WEEK

Monday, August 28 | Chapel: Psalms and Stories – Megan Netherton | Butterfield Chapel, 10 & 11:20am

Wednesday, August 30 | Convocation Chapel | The Pavilion, 10:40am

Friday, September 1 | Chapel: Already a Disciple – Christian Dawson | Butterfield Chapel, 10 & 11:20am

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