

Day 35—Don't lose your heart to war!

By Janet Douglas

Greetings fellow warriors:

I had already completed this prayer initiative for today, but I asked Brad if I could add more.

As many of you know by now, we lost a mighty warrior yesterday (August 3) along with several of her staff members and another life was taken in a tragic automobile accident. Congresswoman Jackie Walorski was an incredible person and she loved Indiana. She loved the people of her district and she fought for all of Indiana. She represented our state well. Jackie loved what she was doing and she always pointed to Jesus as to the reason that she was in that position. I met her multiple times and had the blessing to pray over her in Indiana and in Washington. Jackie was such a loving person. She was tough and stern but so loving. The glory of God oozed out of her. Her smile was contagious. Jackie would walk into a room and the atmosphere would shift. Jackie will not only be missed by husband, her friends, and loved ones but by all who voted her into office and her coworkers from both sides of the aisle.

Her staff members were just as loving as she was and they served her well. Please keep Jackie's husband, Dean Swihart and their extended families in your prayers in the days, weeks, and months to come as well as the family and friends of Zach Potts and Emma Thomson. Pray also for the family of the other person that perished in the accident.

It's such a tragic loss for our entire state.

So many times, we don't understand when things like this happen and we may never understand but regardless we put our faith in Jesus and we continue to press forward and we look to Him knowing that this was not a surprise to Him and Jackie is now in the great cloud of witnesses and no doubt she is praying from there just as passionately as she did when she was with us. We understand the Word of God that He is close to the broken hearted (Psalm 34).

Even as I change a few things before submitting this, I have to smile through my tears tonight for Jackie's family. My heart aches for them and for our state. We lost a great warrior! Jackie loved God and she was not ashamed to say it, show it, and most importantly she lived it. While I didn't know her that well, I have no doubt that she would say to each of us to set our face like flint and to keep fighting for LIFE for these babies in Indiana.

As we gathered to pray with others, I asked God to not let their deaths be in vain but let the Indiana House of Representatives pause as they remember Jackie, Zach, and Emma; but let the Fear of God come upon each of them and cause them to do the right thing by voting against abortion. Life is so frail and short, may each Rep vote with the conviction that they are responsible to God for their actions today. In the name of Jesus.

As I have prayed and pondered about what I would share today, I can't get too far away from the fact that we are in a real battle. It's been a real battle for 49 ½ years. We've been writing about this; we've acknowledged this as we began these prayer initiatives. We weren't sure when we started where things would be at the end of this journey. Still, we knew the battle was real. It's still a battle and regardless of what the House will do today, and in the next few days, it will be an ongoing battle for everyone involved.

Yes, if we see abortion abolished, we will rejoice and we will give all glory to God, we will celebrate life, and then some. And if it goes in a different direction, we will no doubt be upset and disappointed, but we will NOT stop fighting. When we get through this round, there will be more issues we will need to raise and fight to keep our freedoms in this nation. Whether it be to call the church to rise up and take care of all these babies that will be up for adoption, or if it goes the other way; we will need to continue seeking God for Heaven's strategy for how to combat the situation at hand. We will NEVER STOP FIGHTING. Amen.

I traveled to Indy on July 24th with a dear friend, and we met with others and took some time to pray in downtown Indy and other locations before the big day at the Statehouse on July 25th. Because I had been there when we met in June, I knew what to expect but I didn't prepare my friend very well. Oh, I told her what would happen, but regardless of what you try to describe, one can't possibly explain it to another so they can be prepared. We had a small team driving up from Evansville on Monday morning, and another team from

Washington, Indiana, who was able to get in, but our team from Evansville, couldn't make it inside the Statehouse because by the time they arrived it was already total chaos. We hit the Prayer Room on the 4th floor as soon as we got inside the building at 7:30 am. After praying and worshipping for 45-50 minutes, I received a call to meet one of the Senators down in the basement to pray while they met with the *Right To Life* group so they could prepare for the day. We then went back upstairs to stand in line to get inside the senate chambers to pray.

The sound that was coming out of the Statehouse was utter chaos. I remember walking through the crowd of naysayers as they heckled their obscenities and worse. Frankly, I was heartbroken once again at what I witnessed. Young children screaming to the top of their lungs, dressed in the most vulgar clothing while determined to make a point. It's a part of the Saul Alinsky playbook in *Rules for Radicals*. One of the things they teach is "get louder than those in the room, it's intimidating." True story.

Seriously, they rarely veer off their playbook.

We sat and prayed as we listened to Republicans condemn Senate Bill 1. I couldn't help but weep inside while hearing the debate happening before me. I struggled to wrap my mind around the fact that this bill didn't even have to come to this. Republicans have the majority and had they put a trigger law in place, it would have been simple. Indiana could have joined the other 13 states who were proactive. We were left behind.

By now I am certain most of you if not all have read the original bill and the revised one written by Republicans. Still, it was not what we hoped for to end abortion. Now revised by the House Committee, it is still short of being a pro-life bill. Today, Thursday, August 4, 2022, will be when the House floor debates this bill. This is the biggest day of this fight. This could be the day God intervenes and shows us the bill He wants. We know the bill the GOP wants. What does God want? Isn't that the question every Christian Rep should be asking?

We must continue to pray, and we must continue to take a stand for LIFE. Abortion must be abolished. NO EXCEPTIONS. This is God's will. So be it!

Friends, this is what I'm praying for, and this is how I will continue to pray.

While reading a book written by a dear friend and Apostle in Michigan, Barbara Yoder (originally from Indiana) she writes about the Goliath that stands before us. In her book, "<u>Taking on Goliath</u>," she writes about the trends in America. So much of it is true today. *Economic Erosion, Spiritual Curiosity, Sexualized Culture, Loss of Community, Loss of Freedoms, Terrorism and Islam, Political Crisis*, and *Gender Crisis* just to name a few.

She goes on to write "Have we lost our heart for war?" While Apostle Barbara talks about the war in Afghanistan, she mentions the soldiers and how they were prepared for the war. She says that in the U.S. (prior to the war in Iraq) members of the armed forces joined primarily to obtain an education. Many joined the armed forces for personal gain. They joined the National Guard and became "weekend warriors." Many of the soldiers who went into battle in the Iraq war were reservists. They were only trained for weekends. That's all they signed up for but now they're on the battlefield.

Barbara goes on to say in her book, "I believe the church has been somewhat like our armed forces; we've been weekend warriors too. We have not taken on the warrior role as a lifestyle. I'm not only talking about the generation of young adults; I'm also talking about a church generation. An entire generation of the church must arise as warriors if we are going to turn the culture of this nation and protect it from ungodly threats."

This is talking about you and I and everyone who says they stand for life. We can't be occasional warriors. We're part of the greatest army in the universe. It's not just weekend wars we fight but if we're going to shift a culture, we must be willing to fight every day of every year of every month of every week of every day of every minute of every second of the day! WE DON'T QUIT.

You've heard it said many times, that we should be those that when we wake up in the morning and the moment we put our feet on the floor, the enemy says, "Oh NO, Janet Douglas is awake." (Insert your name)

We must be daily warriors, and we don't take a vacation from the warrior mentality. Frankly, when this battle is over, we know there is another right behind it.

We need to be prepared. We need to undertake the training and we must be disciplined and willing to remain on the frontlines no matter what.

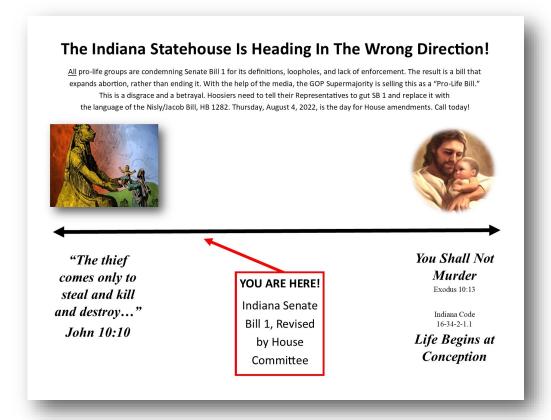
This means something is going to have to shift in our lives and worldview because most of us became believers with the assumption that our lives would be of the "happily ever after" variety and now we would be home free.

NOT!

Oh, I could say so much more on this, but time won't allow it.

What am I saying to you today?

I am saying Beloved of God, YOU AND I MUST KEEP FIGHTING...We cannot quit no matter what happens in this situation. There will be ongoing battles that God has commissioned His church to battle. We co-labor with Him as His sons here on earth.



There is no doubt that those who are fighting for abortion are very organized and that's one thing that you and I must work to do in the days ahead. They are organized and I am praying that God will raise up those who have that gift to organize. All that said, none of this will happen unless you and I continue to surrender and continue to say, "YES LORD."

We must be disciplined as a soldier, and we must be always ready to be called to duty. When a person joins the armed forces, your life is no longer yours. You are always on standby and when the war breaks out, you must be ready to be shipped out to the battlefield. As it is with our relationship with God, our lives are not our own. The war begins when we become believers. As new believers, we go straight into Bootcamp. Holy Spirit trains and disciplines us so we move from civilians into soldiers. It's not a weekend-only training, as you may have noticed in your own experience. Day in and day out we are under the command of the Most High God, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Captain of the hosts.

I am so thankful to see how Father is rallying His army across Indiana at this moment. No doubt, He's been connecting us together, and we're learning what each one of us is called to do and it's been so refreshing to watch everyone step into their positions.

I teach Spiritual Warfare and one of the things I teach is that every person is important and has a role in this army. If you are boots on the ground or are an intercessor that stays in the prayer room or perhaps you research the land, whatever role you play is equally important to the entire assignment.

I have no doubt in the days ahead God will continue to teach us how to be better equipped and teach us how to work alongside one another, shouting for one another to keep going and encouraging one another to push through to the end.

This is what I want to land on today. Beloved, no matter what things look like. Regardless of what we've witnessed from the opposing side, or even the leaders in the Senate and now the House, We KNOW that God is still in charge, and HE WILL HAVE HIS WAY IN THE END. I have no doubt of this. We will continue to stand on the Word of God, and we will not waver as we go forward.

Great victories are won when ordinary people like you and I execute our assigned tasks—and a faithful person does not debate each day whether he or she is in the mood to follow the sergeant's orders or show up at a boring job. We exercise our faith by responding to the task that lies before us, for we have control only over our actions in the present moment.

So, each of us must continue to step into the challenges (the Goliaths, if you will) that have stormed the world

we live in. In this case, it's the abortion case in Indiana.

So, what do you and I need to do at this hour? We need wisdom and understanding and knowledge so that we can become Davidic warriors. We need the courage to advance despite fear and vulnerability. We need to be very clear in our minds and hearts as to whom we serve and how we serve HIM—every single minute, twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, like a soldier in the military.

Pray with me:

Father, we thank You that You are the Lord of Hosts. We thank You that You are the Captain of the Army. We thank You Lord because we know that this is not over until You say it's over.

Give wisdom and courage to Representatives Nisly and Jacob as they seek today to end abortion with no exceptions. Do the impossible. Father, we trust You. We trust that You are in charge, and we ask You Father to convict every believer who is in the House and cause them to rise to do the right thing and end abortion in our state. Move people today, who did not intend to vote for life, to vote for life. When the votes are cast, we ask You to give us a majority for life.

Give us the stamina to stand strong even in this very moment. Cause us to be expectant to what Your Word says about babies and murder and LIFE. We agree with Your Word Lord Jesus. Father, forgive us for not walking in full surrender as a soldier in Your army. We surrender now again Lord as we say, "Here we are. Do what You will with each of us Lord Jesus." In the mighty name of Jesus of Nazareth.

Decree with me:

We decree that we're an army dressed for battle. We decree that we walk in the seven Spirits of God as we walk in the Spirit of the Lord, Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel of Might, Knowledge, and the Fear of the Lord (Isaiah 11). We decree we will continue to fight for righteousness and justice for these babies. We decree that every abortion clinic will be shut down in the State of Indiana. We decree Your Word over us in Revelation 5:9-10—You were slain and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation and have made us kings and priests to our God: and we shall reign on the earth.

We decree 2 Timothy 2:12 over Your army today—If we endure, we shall also reign with Him! In the name of Jesus.

I believe Jackie fought to the end and now she is in the great cloud of witnesses. I have no doubt she is still fighting with us, she's just has a different vantage point but I have no doubt she is fighting with us.

Today, I dedicate this to Jackie and her family and I pray that each of you will remember the warrior she was for LIFE and that you will press on and be willing to endure even to the end just as she did.

Onward Christian Soldier,

Janet Douglas

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Thursday Special Session Update

- This is the BIG DAY. Throughout the day, the House Floor will discuss the bill and propose and vote on amendments. This is part of the legislative process. This is how bills are crafted. Since January of 2017, Representative Curt Nisly has filed a bill that would end abortion. In the last legislative session, the Nisly/Jacob "Life Bill," HB 1282, has the language which would end abortion with no exceptions. Pray for wisdom for these two men as they strategize how to amend SB 1 to have this God-honoring conclusion to abortion in Indiana. Continue to call Reps and send emails.
- ◆ FIND YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS IN INDIANA, <u>click here</u>.
- Archive folder of these daily devotionals: <u>click here</u>. For 14 Indiana Prayer Requests, <u>click here</u>.