

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

Drawn from “The Battle is the Lord’s,” A Sermon on Deuteronomy 20:1-9

Pastor Nicoletti @ Faith Presbyterian Tacoma

September 7, 2025 AM

1. This week’s sermon text is about **literal** warfare. Are you, or any of your loved ones, **veterans** of war? If so, what did this passage bring to mind that you would be willing to share with the group?
2. Look again at verse 1 of the sermon text. Why does it specifically mention “horses and chariots?” How does this detail fit into the overall theme of confidence in the Lord?
3. Look again at verse 2 and notice that Moses specifically commands “**the priest**” to exhort the people before going into battle. Why “the priest” instead of the king, a prophet, the elders of the people, or just any valiant Israelite? And **which** priest do you think Moses had in mind, since Israel had **many** priests?
4. As a group, read Psalm 20 together. What connections can you draw between this psalm and the sermon text?
5. Our sermon text exhorts us not to be afraid in battle, and Pastor Nicoletti specifically argued that this should apply to our **spiritual** battles as well. How does this exhortation fit with Philippians 2:12, a passage which specifically commands us to “work out our salvation **with fear and trembling?**”

6. If the Lord is all-powerful and all-good, then why does He place us in dangerous, terrifying situations at all?

7. In the sermon, Pastor Nicoletti pointed to the vices of our fallen nature and argued that “like Israel, on our own, we are outnumbered and outgunned against these enemies within.” Do you agree? If so, then explain how the Lord can still hold us **responsible** for our sin. *(In other words, how can we be held responsible for our sin when we are mastered by our fallen nature?)*

8. In the sermon, Pastor Nicoletti talked about how **unhelpful** it can be to hear things like “You can do it,” “I believe in you” and “you got this.” Have you **personally** experienced this?

9. Look again at this passage and ponder the many descriptions of fear: “afraid” (vrs 1), a “faint...heart,” “fear,” “panic,” “dread,” (vrs 3) “fearful and fainthearted,” and a “heart...[that] melts” (vrs 8). What are **you** afraid of right **now**?

10. What are you **battling** with right **now**, and how can this group help, encourage, and pray for you?