

BATTLE BEGINS

Sunday, September 18

[1] When all I see is the battle, You see my victory
When all I see is the mountain, You see a mountain moved
And as I walk through the shadow, Your love surrounds me
There's nothing to fear now for I am safe with You

[CHORUS]

So when I fight, I'll fight on my knees
With my hands lifted high
Oh God, the battle belongs to You
And every fear I lay at Your feet
I'll sing through the night
Oh God, the battle belongs to You

[2] And if You are for me, who can be against me?
For Jesus, there's nothing impossible for You
When all I see are the ashes, You see the beauty
When all I see is a cross, God, You see the empty tomb

[BRIDGE]

Almighty Fortress, You go before us
Nothing can stand against the power of our God
You shine in shadow, You win every battle
Nothing can stand against the power of our God

Writer Phil Wickham's explains his inspiration for 'Battle Belongs':

"The song's inspiration comes from one of my favorite stories in the Bible: 2 Chronicles 20. It's a story of this huge army that's come together to fight the people of God. And, when the people of God and their king, Jehoshaphat, hear this army coming their way, they freak out. They come to God and pray, 'We are powerless against this army, but our eyes are on You God. Show us what to do.' And, God responds to them. His spirit comes upon this Levite man. And, through the Levite man, God says, 'Do not be afraid or dismayed for the battle is not yours, but it is God's. You will not have to fight in this battle. Stand firm, hold your position, and see the salvation of the Lord on your behalf.' They stood firm. So much so that instead of sending their army, they sent their worshippers to the front lines. And, through song, the worshippers—that is, the holy men in their robes—gave thanks to the Lord for His steadfast enduring love. Upon hearing the holy men sing, the army freaked out. They were routed. They started turning on each other to the point where the scriptures say not one of them was left alive. God moved on behalf of His people. And, to this day, God's still moving and battling on behalf of His people."¹

When Wickham wrote the song in late 2019 there were no serious issues going on in his life – no battles he was facing. He wondered why God had inspired him to write the song at this time. But shortly after the coronavirus turned the world upside down. Released in September of 2020, the song became "a fight and faith song" for both Wickham's family and many Christians around the world. The song is a reminder that nothing is too great for the power of our God. So let's "fight on our knees" in prayer and praise the One who wins every battle.

2 Chronicles 20:15 He said: "Listen, King Jehoshaphat and all who live in Judah and Jerusalem! This is what the LORD says to you: 'Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God's.

Psalms 28:7 The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him. 8 The LORD is the strength of his people, a fortress of salvation for his anointed one.

Romans 8:31 What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?...37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

Listen to Phil Wickham sing 'Battle Belongs' on YouTube
@ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qtvQNzPHn-w>

¹ https://www.newreleasetoday.com/article.php?article_id=3177