

The Battle to Conquer Darkness

The spiritual battle we fight
by
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Prologue

In 2019 I launched my first project. I have decided to do so every year. Dedicated photo shoots to get all the images as well as poems I wrote to enforce the message of every image, took months to complete. I started this project LONG before Covid hit the world. It was only a few weeks after lockdown started, that I realised that the main theme running through the whole project is something the whole world would be able to identify with. I realised that this was, like the 2019 project, an assignment from God!!

The project for 2020 is all about the battle between good and evil. This battle started even before God created this beautiful earth. The fierce battle that started the day Satan dared to challenge God. The war we are part of, the battle between the children of the light and the children of the darkness.

Being a Christian I know that this battle has already been won at the cross, but it will continue until that last day of reckoning. We are children of the living God, He is our Father and the most important is our relationship with Him. We are not slaves, He gave us a free will. We have a choice in everything we do. Because we are received and born in sin, we have the natural instinct to choose the wrong path. The inner battle inside of us is also a harsh reality, as we have to make a conscious decision to always choose that what is right.

Satan and his forces have no power over us, as God is stronger. The enemy will constantly attack you with temptations, trying to steal your joy and peace. Satan knows he has already been defeated, but he is trying to get souls to join him in his everlasting hell. This is the reason we are fighting the battle to conquer the darkness!!

The theme of the gas mask is to make us aware that “evil gasses” cannot touch or affect us if we wear our armour. Fighting this battle is not easy, you will get tired and weary, listening to the lies the enemy is feeding you, you will fall into fear, but you are never alone. God is not always around you, He is living INSIDE OF YOU!!

*“The battle has ALREADY been won.
We are ALREADY free and washed clean of all our sins
Live the life of a VICTOR, as you have ALREADY received the eternal life!!”*

Special thank you

This project would not have been possible without the help and support of a few key people.

“Rudolph, you are not only my husband, but my best friend. Thank you for all the help and support to make this project possible. Your help to carefully plan the shoots, especially the handling of the smoke grenades, made everything fall into place. You are the best, thank you for everything, I love you!!”

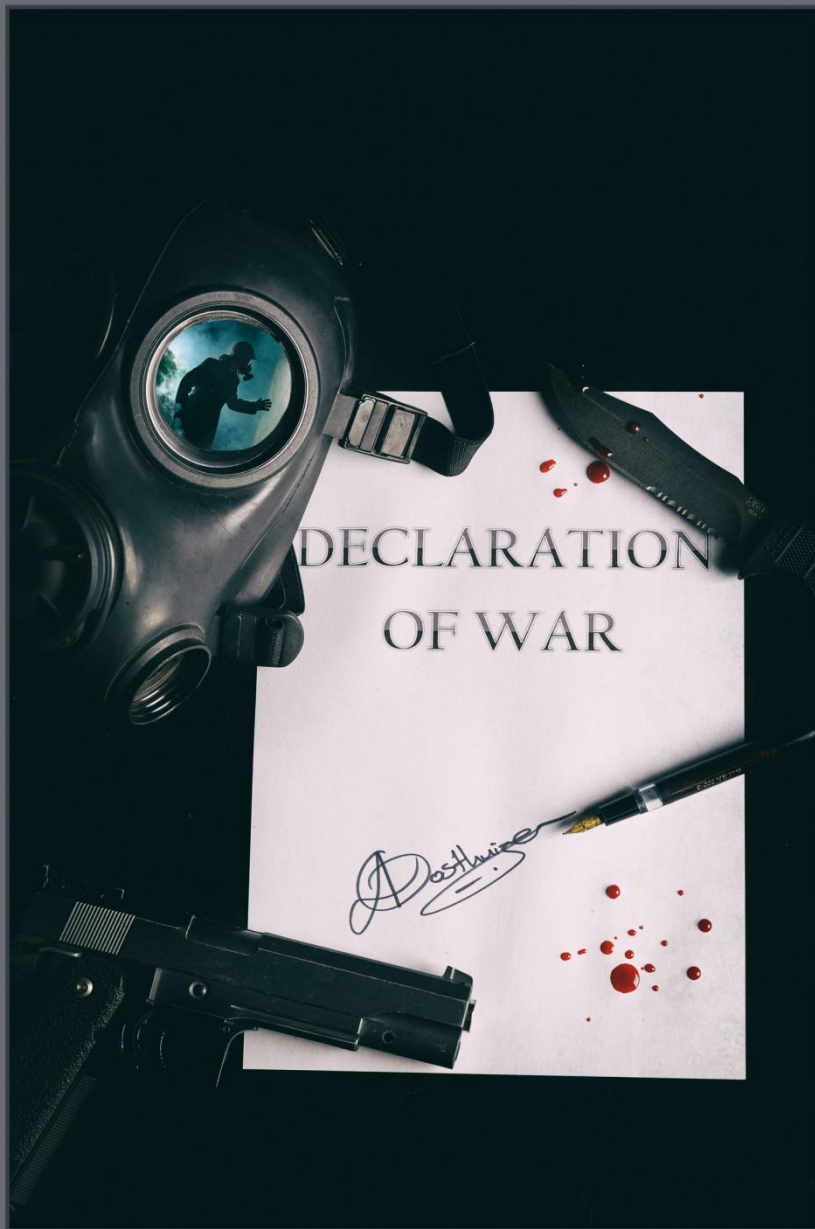
To my husband Rudolph Oosthuizen, my son Rico Oosthuizen en a good friend Luc Smith. A special thank you to my 3 models. Without you this project was not possible. Thank you for all your patience while I kept on shooting to get that exact image I had in mind. You never complained when I requested just one more pose, you were all playing your parts perfectly!!

Wilhelm Leuschner, my pastor and friend. Thank you for always providing the best insights about God and Scripture. Words spoken during your sermons came together in this project!!

Nanette Hennop, my dear friend. Thank you for giving us access to the old building. It was just the perfect venue to do the shoot with the smoke grenades. That added to the special effect of the whole scene!!

To those few special friends who were always supportive. Phoning and asking how things were going and encouraging me when I felt overwhelmed, made my hands strong. Thank you that I know that I can always rely on you!! You are very special to me!!

*“Success is not only depending on how hard you work,
it also depends on the help and support of those dear to you!!” Alta Oosthuizen '20*



Declaration of war

A declaration of war so long ago,
when Satan dared to challenge God.

From that day, everlasting war,
children of the light vs children of the dark!!



Transform for the best

Fighting the battle in the name of the Lord,
remove all clutter to take up your sword.

You need to transform, to change for the best,
to be sent on your quest, from the East to the West!!



Faith is....

Faith is to believe in something you cannot see,
a reality outside yourself you cannot touch.

The certainty of your future, your destination known,
even if your're in chaos, if your world is completely blown!!



The armour of God

Entering the battle, ready to fight the war,
protect yourself with the armour of God.

Faith in the righteousness of the truth,
salvation of your spirit to receive everlasting peace!!



Broken armour

Your armour is there to protect,
to shield you from evil attack.

Cracks will weaken, will cause you to slip,
leaks for Satan to get a foul and horrible grip!!



Stand strong and fight

Smoke and fire, the war all around you,
you in the middle to do your part.
Take up your arms, stand strong and fight,
the Lord above will always hold you tight!!



Your Almighty Protector

Within a world with evil gasses to inhale,
you need some help from outside yourself.
Just take the mask, the protection it provides,
trust your Almighty Protector to be on both your sides!!



Conversation with God

Down on my knees, in conversation with God.
There at His feet, absorbing the wisdom He gives.
To calm the storms of my every day life,
the strength that I need to continue the fight!!



Whirlpool sucks

Living in this crazy world,
struggling to keep your head afloat.
The whirlpool trying to suck you in,
to devour your mind and alter your soul.
Stand strong in your faith,
you have the power to rise above it all!!



In the fog of war

In the fog of war you have to decide,
sometimes with no definite facts on your side.
Trust your Commander, the guidance He provides,
vigilance in your awareness, certainty in your mind!!



Child of the King

In the middle of the war, you might get confused.
Asking who you are, what's the purpose of it all?
You are on your journey to eternal life,
a saved Child of the almighty King!!



The act of force

The definition of war, important to know,
understanding the mechanics, the forces in play.

“The act of force to compel the enemy to do your will”
Wonderful to know the enemy will bow before God’s will!!



Toxic media

You hold the world in your hands,
toxic information, the media makes a stand.

Selective truths to corrupt your mind
shield your soul, leave all the lies behind!!



False security of the world

Do not conform to the standards of this world,
do not seek approval in a world filled with false securities.

Let Him transform, renewing your thoughts and heart,
goodness from His hand is where your purpose will start!!



Grow in darkness to shine

You find yourself in a spot to be transformed,
not always easy, but keep this in mind.

If you crush grapes, you'll get wine.
Intense pressure will make diamonds shine.

Press an olive to get the purest oil,
all seeds grow in the darkness of the soil!!



Fogging your sight

The father of the lie,
twists the truth to add some fog.
Clouding your view, fogging your sight,
attacking you, the follower of the light!!



The last days

Scripture has warned us,
about the devastation to come.

The last days on earth,
the fierce battle has begun!!



Fear and darkness

Chaos and darkness around me,
fear and emptiness inside of me.
Does He even see, does He even care?
Darkness is where I silently stare!!



Fading fast

Despair as you feel vulnerable and exposed,
feeling that you are fading fast!

Fear engulfing your soul,
you realize that you are not in control!!



My promise to you

“I hear your cries my dear child,
why did you forget the promises that I’ve made?
Never will I leave, nor will I ever forsake you,
fighting together, My strength living inside of you!!”



Rock bottom

The strength of a warrior may fade,
his courage may get weary and weak.
Hitting rock bottom, a potent place to be,
the only way is up - He, your rock to set you free!!



The evil around you

Be aware of the enemy all around you,
be vigilant and aware to see the evil eye.
You have been warned by His wise words,
the evil lurking every day, waiting to devour you!!



Filter the venom

The world is filled with venom,
people, words, pictures on your screen.

Filter which will poison your mind,
exposure to evil will devour what is kind.



“Dark your other side is”

Dark your other side is,
from the shadow fall your evil piece.

Trust in the light we must,
fight for the good till dust!!

(Yoda style)



Let the “I” die

We all have some good and evil inside of us,
we have the instinct to choose me, myself and I.

But take up your arms, search for the light
let the “I” die and let His light shine bright!!



Following the light

We choose to follow the Father of the light,
seek His guidance, He'll show you the way.

Follow only His path,
then you'll never go astray!!



He is always in control

Living in the world, seeing the destruction,
feeling helpless, crying in despair.

Will all that is perfect, all that is pure,
vanish and dissolve, will it all disappear?

He is always in control, even if you do not see,
all in His plan will He let everything be!!



Blindly follow Him

You find yourself on a journey,
a path in which you had no choice.
The steps blurred, the reasons unknown,
blindly follow His voice as your own!!



Echo's of the past

“You are the echo of your past” they say
“Consequences of what you did will follow you”.

But we are clean, washed with blood,
already living the victors life.

His words took it all: “It is complete”,
where glory and salvation will forever meet!!



Outsiders

Life did not start on this earth for us,
always the outsider in this crazy world.

Never will we fit, never allow to become part,
our heavenly destination the point from where we start!!



Where the war starts

You find yourself down on your knees,
feeling unable to finish the fight.

This is the end - you've lost the war,
but on your knees is the place where you start the war!!



Evil has no effect

Smoke and danger, the threat the enemy tries to enforce,
unsure of your defences, you sometimes fear the evil force.

But no evil spirit will ever have an effect,
as no force can destroy that what He protect!!



Your missing piece

You think you're in control,
trying to make your puzzle fit.

But He, the missing piece you've been searching for,
His plans, His ways, He reigns for ever more!!



Declare that He is God

“Be still and know that I am God!”

Amongst the nations, all over the world.

Every knee will bend, every tongue will declare

He is God - kneel down in prayer!!



The journey

The destination after the war is known,
peace as we fight with certainty in mind.

More important is the journey that you take,
the bond between Father and child that no force can break!!



Power to move mountains

Fighting the spiritual battle,
you may doubt yourself.

Your abilities, your strength,
will you be successful in your defence?

You were equipped by God Himself,
strength to move mountains all by yourself!!



The power to protect

He holds the sun and the moon,
His words control the night and the day.

That same power is alive in you,
the task to protect was given to you.

Use your power, ask Him how,
hold on to the precious, the sun and the moon!!



Escape the father of the lie

Not all you meet with masks are friends,
a cloud of smoke and darkness follow them.

Be alert to detect, quick to escape,
the claws of evil, the father of the lie!!



Keep your armour on

Lights of the world may flicker, colourful and “calm”
to make you at ease and let go of your guard.

Always be attentive, keep your armour on,
the armour of the heavens that will strengthen your arm!!



Moving forward

Down on your knees,
overwhelmed by the chaos of the world.
Just keep on moving forward, one step at a time,
away from the world's dirt and grime!!



Control over your reply

Fathom the concept - You have NO control,
not always in charge where your feet stroll.

You have control on how you will reply,
will your words spread life or will you let hope die??



Do what is right

Armour does not protect you against attempts,
attempts of the world to blind your sight.
Even if no-one is looking at you closely,
always choose to do that what is right!!



The outside rim

Living inside this pagan world,
hurled from side to side.
Only seeing the rim, the outside line,
no clear picture, not knowing why.
It's not yours to fully understand,
only living in faith out of the Father's hand!!



Courage is moving forward

Nobody said fighting would be easy,
nobody promised a road clear of fear.

Courage and bravery, is it perfection that I should depict?

Courage is moving forward in the presence of fear!!



His words are true

Lies and deception - traits of the evil sphere,
to cloud your mind, fill your heart with fear.

Hear His voice, the truth to you,
you belong to Him, nothing else you need to do!!



The power of the cross

He suffered all the pain,
He became sin, took all our blame.
We are victors, evil will never reign,
all because of the power of the cross!!



No bondage to the past

“You are forever doomed” the enemy is telling you,
constantly trying to bind you to your past mistakes.

Start on your knees, looking forward to the light,
He broke the chains, only freedom for you in sight!!



That what you need
He is the giver of all,
your provider of everything big and small.
With wisdom and love, giving you your grant,
providing what you need, not that what you want!!



I have no fear

I lift my eyes up above,
knowing where my help comes from.
Walking through evil, I will not fear,
peace as my Maker is always near!!



His light terrifies the dark

The enemy is operating in the dark,
spreading fear, the illusion of being in control.
But His light terrifies the dark, the enemy cannot face,
His name alone tears the night apart!!



Amen

Agree with Him,
 although you do not understand
Move with Him,
 even if the direction does not make sense.
End with Him,
 as there is no better destination
Never doubt Him,
 as He is always in control!!



Victorious

The battle is over,
victorious over the enemy.

Lay down your armour,
no more suffering to come!

Coming back to collect, the way he left,
celebrating the victory, rejoicing eternal life!!

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