When Sickness Came Knocking at My Gate

Word of Truth · By Pst Dr Nellie Shani | Founder, CEO · March 5, 2026

> *A powerful testimony on overcoming sickness through faith and the Word of God. Learn the biblical principle of "turning back the battle at the gate" and exercising authority over disease through prayer and Scripture.*

I was woken up by a throbbing headache.

Even the soft pillow felt like I was lying on a stone. I tried to lift my head off the pillow, but the pain was excruciating. I could not turn my head. My entire body burned with fever and my forehead was dripping with sweat. My throat was painfully dry, and every muscle in my body ached.

The last time I had felt this way was more than twenty-five years ago when I had contracted malaria.

Using every bit of strength I could muster, I reached over and switched on the bedside lamp. It was **2:00 a.m.**

At that moment a troubling realization hit me.

We were already **seven months into the COVID-19 pandemic**, and it seemed the illness had finally caught up with me.

I was alone in the house.

The strongest temptation I faced at that moment was **fear**. My mind tried to imagine what it would be like to be found dead in the morning.

But then something powerful happened.

Remembering Who I Am in Christ

Just as panic began to rise, the **Holy Spirit reminded me who I was in Christ**.

He reminded me of the authority I have as a believer and of what Jesus Christ accomplished on the cross of Calvary.

Scripture came to my heart immediately:

"He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; **by his wounds you have been healed**." – **1 Peter 2:24**

At that moment I knew I had a choice.

I could either allow fear and sickness to dominate my mind, or I could **stand on the Word of God**.

As a teacher of the Word, I realized that this was the moment to **practice what I had preached**.

Faith must move from the pulpit into real life.

Recognizing a Spiritual Battle

I knew something important.

I had gone to bed perfectly healthy the night before.

This meant that the sickness was not just a physical problem. It was a **spiritual attack from the kingdom of darkness**.

Over the years, the Holy Spirit has taught me many lessons about spiritual warfare and healing. One of those lessons is found in **Isaiah 28:6**:

"…A source of strength to those who **turn back the battle at the gate**."

But what exactly does it mean to **turn back the battle at the gate**?

Understanding the Gate Principle

Imagine someone knocking at the gate of your house.

You go to see who it is.

When you open the gate, you realize the person standing there is your enemy.

You now have a decision to make.

You can either **allow that person to enter your house**, or you can **refuse entry and shut the gate**.

Many believers unknowingly make the mistake of **opening the gate to sickness**.

They allow the enemy in through their **words**.

For example, someone might say:

• “My head is killing me.”

• “I feel terrible.”

• “My fever is getting worse.”

• “I need a doctor to tell me what this sickness is.”

These statements may seem harmless, but they actually **give life to the problem**.

Scripture teaches us a powerful truth:

“Death and life are in the power of the tongue.” – **Proverbs 18:21**

Whatever we give a voice to can grow stronger.

Another Scripture confirms this principle:

“You will also decree a thing, and it will be established for you.” – **Job 22:28**

Our words have authority.

They can either **empower sickness** or **drive it away**.

Do Not Fight the Battle Inside the Gate

The mistake many people make is allowing sickness inside the gate and then trying to fight it after it has settled in.

The biblical strategy is different.

Turn it back immediately.

When I woke up that night, I realized something important.

COVID-19 had come **knocking at my gate**.

I needed to **turn it back instantly**.

Using the Sword of the Word

To defeat the attack, I needed a weapon.

The Bible describes the **Word of God as a double-edged sword**.

“For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword…” – **Hebrews 4:12**

Right then, the Holy Spirit placed a Scripture in my heart.

It came from **Mark 11:22-24**:

“Have faith in God… If anyone says to this mountain, ‘Go, throw yourself into the sea,’ and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them.”

Suddenly, peace flooded my heart.

I understood what I needed to do.

COVID-19 had become the **mountain**.

And Jesus said that mountains must move when we **speak in faith**.

Speaking Directly to the Mountain

Faith is not silent.

Jesus taught us to **speak to the mountain**, not merely talk about it.

So I spoke directly to the sickness.

I declared:

“Covid-19, I bind you in the name of Jesus Christ. Whatever is bound on earth is bound in heaven. You foul disease, I command you to loose your hold on me. Come out of every part of my body and leave in the name of Jesus Christ! I cast you into dry and uninhabited places. Holy Ghost fire, consume every trace of this sickness. By the wounds and stripes of Jesus Christ, I am already healed. Be gone in Jesus' name!”

After making that declaration, I went back to sleep.

My body still felt weak.

But in my heart, I had **peace**.

The Victory the Next Morning

When I woke up the next morning, something incredible had happened.

Every symptom was gone.

The headache was gone.

The fever had disappeared.

My body felt completely normal.

There was **not a trace of sickness left**.

I went to the office that morning and even held a prayer session with someone who had come to see me.

God had demonstrated a powerful truth:

Believers have authority over sickness through the name of Jesus Christ and the Word of God.

Walking in Divine Health Through the Spirit

The Bible reminds us of another powerful promise:

“And if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies.” – **Romans 8:11**

The same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead lives inside every believer.

That Spirit releases life, healing, and power into our physical bodies.

When sickness tries to invade, we must remember our authority in Christ and **turn the battle back at the gate**.

At the **first sign of sickness**, do not panic.

Do not immediately surrender to fear.

Instead, remember who you are in Christ.

Stand on the Word of God.

Speak with authority.

And **turn the battle back at the gate**

Prayer Points

1. Repent for Negative Declarations

Ask the Lord to forgive you for acknowledging and giving a voice to negative situations that the enemy brings your way.

2. Keep the Sword Sharp

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you keep your spiritual sword sharp by:

• Reading the Word daily

• Meditating on Scripture

• Memorizing the promises of God

3. Thank God for the Weapon of His Word

Give thanks that God has given believers a powerful weapon — **His Word** — through which we can walk in victory and divine health.

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