

King David's Three Great Warriors

'Now these are the last words of David, son of Jesse. The man who was raised on high and anointed by the God of Jacob, and the sweet Psalmist of Israel says, "The Spirit of the Lord spoke by me and His word was on my tongue. The God of Israel spoke; the Rock of Israel said to me, 'When one rules over men righteously, ruling in the fear of God, He is like the first light of the morning when there are no clouds, when the tender grass springs out of the earth through clear shining after rain'" (2 Samuel 23:1 to 4). David wrote these things when he was coming to the end of his days, as an old man he was remembering parts of his life.

David was a great king who ruled over his people for forty years and he was a man who knew the heart of God. He wrote many beautiful Psalms during his reign and these Psalms reflect His relationship and his love for the Lord. The Psalms give us a picture of the conflict and the dangers that David faced during his lifetime. They also give us a sense of peace and security, knowing we are the sheep of God's pasture. David faced many life-threatening battles, yet through them he wrote Psalms of joy, thanksgiving and praise. David had been anointed king when everyone else thought he was not all that important (1 Samuel 16:11 to 13). His elder brothers resented and dismissed him (1 Samuel 17:28 & 29). After David had been anointed king by the prophet Samuel, and the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him, David went back to tending sheep (1 Samuel 16:13 & 19). It was God who could see the potential in David who was then just a teenage boy. David was still a teenager when he was sent to take some food to his older brothers and ended up killing Goliath (1 Samuel 17:1 to 51).

King David proved to be a great leader of his people. He came in contact with many people from various walks of life. Some were royalty, some were ordinary people in need of help, some willingly joined David in battle and risked their lives for him. David could not have written such beautiful Psalms without imparting something to the people around him, and having people notice his relationship with God. He must have shown them how to have faith and trust in the Lord. David appreciated his men and their commitment to him. He named 37 different warriors (2 Samuel 23:39), and from that list of 37 men, David named three mighty men as being the bravest (2 Samuel 23:8 to 12); Josheb-basshebeth, Eleazar and Shammah.

The name Josheb-basshebeth means 'sitting in the counsel'. He wielded his spear and went alone against 800 men and won. Josheb would have needed the Lord's supernatural help because his victory would have been beyond human capability. This man would have known God long before the day of that battle. He must have, through David, heard everything about God that he needed to gain the victory. Our ultimate goal should be to sit in the counsel of God for eternity. Christians should sit under the teaching of committed, Holy Spirit filled, Godly men, to learn about the counsel of God. Josheb-basshebeth had to make a choice. He had to decide whether to run away like the other soldiers had done, or stand and fight the enemy. He chose to stand and fight. In the natural it must have looked impossible, but with the example of David and Goliath, he stood up to the enemy and won. He would have realised the battle would be impossible for him alone, but he put his faith in the God of Israel to give him the victory. Once he started he couldn't stop for a break. He had to keep on until the victory was won and enemy was defeated.

Eleazar means 'God is my Helper'. He fought with the Philistines until his hand stuck to his sword and the Lord wrought a great deliverance that day. All the other soldiers had run off leaving Eleazar alone to fight, and he refused to let go of the sword until the battle was won. Our 'sword' is the Word of God and we must cling to it and fight with it until it 'sticks' to us. We should study and learn it until we can speak appropriate scriptures, at the appropriate time, to fight our battles in this world. The whole Bible needs to be a strong foundation for us to live by. The scriptures should be in our hearts where the Holy Spirit can use them, not merely in our heads. We cannot win any battle by using the Bible as a history textbook. It must become life and truth to us before we can use it as a two-edged sword, and we need the power of the Holy Spirit to make the scriptures come alive in our hearts. God does not work out of our frustration or anger; He only works out of our faith. Resting in God will give us peace in any situation, and we must have the faith to believe He will win every battle for us, if we would just believe and trust in Him. He will give us the victory in His timing according to His Word. We need to let go of the problem, not let go of His Word.

Shammah means 'God has heard'. He was an older brother of David (1 Samuel 16:9). He stood in the midst of the field of lentils to defend it and he slew the Philistines after the Israelites had fled. The Lord wrought a great victory through Shammah's courage. Sometimes we can feel as alone as Shammah must have felt at that moment after the soldiers fled, but he didn't give up. He fought alone for that field of lentils – but with God on his side. A field of lentils may not seem significant to us in this age of imports and exports, but it was a field of food for the Israelites and it was all they had. It belonged to the nation. The Lord will give us the strength and wisdom to fight for what is ours. It is vital for us to pray for our nation and our political leaders because they are our own 'field', whatever nation we are from. We need to pray for our source of spiritual food, which is our church and our Godly leaders, and we need to pray for our own family because they are ours too.

We all need to be like these three men, hold on and use God's Word until it becomes part of us. We need to pray for our homes, our families, our church, our countries and ask God how to pray so we can use His strategies. By doing this, we will be more than conquerors through Him who loves us (Romans 8:37). We serve the same God who helped David's warriors win the victory in seemingly impossible circumstances, so we can apply the same faith to our situation. To do this we have to get to know the Lord ourselves, personally, by sitting in His counsel through prayer, reading the Bible and seeking His will. We must choose to face the enemy, but we must first hear from God to know what we are facing. For example, we need to ask ourselves if our problem is an attack of the enemy, a discipline from God or the result of a foolish decision made by us, then we must be persistent. God will help us if we keep pressing in and onward until we win the victory. We need to exercise our faith based on God's Word. 'Faith comes by hearing the Word and the Word comes by the teaching of Jesus our Messiah' (Romans 10:17). We must believe that God wants us to be victorious and He wants us to know He is with us. Problems that come will not be won in the natural way of thinking, but by faith in the miracle working power of God. We need to hear from God ourselves. No one else can do it for us. Others can support us, but we must seek the Lord for ourselves. 'All things work together for good for those who love God and are called for His purpose; so we might be conformed into the image of His Son' (Romans 8:28 & 29). Jesus said, "It is written in the Book of the Prophets; they shall all be taught of God. Everyone who has learned from the Father comes to Me" (John 6:45).

The battles that some of us face seem unsurmountable, but with God nothing is impossible (Mark 10:27). Faith sees everything as it is in the natural, but believes for the supernatural victory. Faith is based on what God says; not on how we feel. We need to believe God has an answer to our problem; we need to seek Him, hear from Him, act on His Word, keep pressing on and be consistent. We should not fear what man might say. It is hard to be full of faith and fear at the same time. If we ever get advice that does not line up with God's Word, we must reject it because He never contradicts His Word. When we use God's Word to gain a victory, it must be under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We use our hands and fingers to read the Bible, which is our Sword, and we use the scriptures to war against the enemy and gain the victory. 'He teaches my hands to war, so that my arms can bend a bow of bronze' (Psalm 18:34). 'Blessed be the Lord my Rock, Who teaches my hands to war and my fingers to battle' (Psalm 144:1).

Amen and God bless you.

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