

**“DAVID
STRENGTHENED
HIMSELF IN THE
LORD”**

1 SAMUEL 30:1-6

WHAT'S THE FIRST THING YOU DO IN TIMES OF TROUBLE?

- Deny that you have it?
- Ask God to remove it?
- Tell your friends and family about it?
- Triangulate or have others share the blame for it?
- Figure out what God's servants did in similar situations, and apply their Godly principles to your struggle

DAVID HAD HIS SHARE OF TROUBLES (EVEN THOUGH DESCRIBED AS A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART)

- He was pursued by King Saul as Public Enemy #1
- He had to spend much of his early career hiding and survived several assassination attempts
- His entire family was kidnapped on one occasion
- He had a son, Amnon to rape his daughter, Tamar (stress from the family can overwhelm)
- His son, Absalom ultimately led a revolt against him
- He suffered his son Absalom to be killed (unfortunately some of us can identify)

HOW DID HE SURVIVE ALL THESE TROUBLES?

He Strengthened Himself In the Lord!

HOW DOES ONE STRENGTHEN HIMSELF IN THE LORD?

History of the Text for Today

- Around this time, Saul was pursuing David to destroy everything he owned (army, family, cattle, and all of his resources)
- David, fearing for his army's life, decided to move his forces (600 men) closer to the Philistines, and march with them for protection since the size of their army was larger (1 Samuel 27:1-6) *But left his family behind him (Ziklag)*
- David's faith weakens: He trusted one enemy to keep him from another rather than trusting in God

Bad Decision: Using Satan to Get God's Results!

Satan: Short Term Results But Long Term Consequences!

CONSEQUENCES OF A BAD DECISION

- When David and his army get back to their families in Ziklag, the town had been attacked by the Amalekites, burned to the ground, and their women and children kidnapped
- Can you imagine a leader's stress with his family and his men's families kidnapped
- David's leadership is questioned to the point of a consideration of mutiny and executing him
- What do you do when you have a problem that's greater than you or your resources?
- Let's see what David did

SO HOW DOES DAVID STRENGTHEN HIMSELF IN THE LORD?

David Had a Habit of Talking to Himself

- In bad times, he refused to let his mind run on with fretful or doubt-filled thoughts (dwell on the worst)
- In Three Verses in Psalms, he records the same observation, Psalms 42:5, 11 and Psalms 43:5

Recorded either during Saul's Persecution or Absalom's Rebellion (on the run from Jerusalem for his life)

“Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God, for I shall yet praise Him For the help of His countenance.”

DAVID'S QUESTIONS ARE ONES WE SHOULD POSE TO OURSELVES

- The penetrating questions David was concerned about were not the obvious (I'm in trouble; what's going to happen?), but **God**, what is my relationship with you when there is stress in my life?
- David recognized that part of his stress, anxiety, and depression was due to the fact that he had left **God** out of his equation (thus we *feel* inadequate)

We are tempted do the same thing (stop praying, stop praising, stop worshipping, stop giving)

Or, *“When I get my life straight, then I'll be back to Jesus and you all.”*

GOD IS ANGERED IF WE SEEK TO SOLVE OUR PROBLEMS WITHOUT HIM!

- A good example of God's displeasure, when his people fail to look to Him for strength, is found in Isaiah

When Israel was attacked by Assyria, Israel placed her trust in Egypt and Pharaoh, rather than in God; Isaiah 30:1-2

Therefore, because of this behavior, God promised to frustrate the efforts of Israel to solve her problems by herself!
Isaiah 30:3; 31:1-3

Sometimes God will let us go, to reap what we sow,
Ecclesiastes 11:9 *“Christianity is too slow for me!”*

God wanted Israel to trust Him, not themselves, Proverbs 3:5-6
(Don't trust sinners, or society, to look out for your best interest when you are in trouble or despair)

DAVID'S QUESTIONS ARE ONES WE SHOULD POSE TO OURSELVES

- Trouble in our lives will tend to cast doubt on our knowledge of the extent of God's love for us, His care for us, and the patience God needs from us to manifest His glory (Satan talks to us too when we doubt) Remember, "*tribulation worketh patience*" or *God is working on us even during our struggles*
- A renewed confidence in God is the divine antidote or prescription for depression and anxiety during uncertain times

HOW DID DAVID ACQUIRE A RENEWED CONFIDENCE IN GOD DURING TROUBLED TIMES?

- He could remember God's track record with him (your memory is a strength tool for you; Luke 16:25)

(The bear and lion incidents, the promotion to the King of Israel position among 8 choices in his family, escaping assassination attempts)

- God didn't remove Himself from David because he failed in this episode of his life, at Ziklag;
- God doesn't remove Himself from us due to "occasional stumblings" in our lives Psalms 37:25

STRENGTHENING YOURSELF IN THE LORD

- **Talk to yourself. Call your thinking into account. Don't let your mind run free with doubt-filled thoughts; Be intentional in prayer, Philippians 4:6-8**
- **Remind yourself of all the good things that God has done for you, touched you, and answered your prayers and the prayers of others in your life**
- **Remember that God is in control and promises to supply all of our needs (not wants) Philippians 4:19**
- **How he does it is up to Him. His ways aren't ours, Isaiah 55:8-9 (you may be fed by birds like Elijah, or pull your tax money out of a fish's mouth like Simon Peter; the mysterious ways of God) Think!**

But God, I've done too much wrong!

- **God has delivered us out of the power of Darkness into His Son's Kingdom, Colossians 1:13**
- **Since God loved you when you were at your worst, won't He love you now that you are trying to please Him? Our failures don't surprise God**

When God Saved Us He Knew What He Was Getting!

We Had Issues When We Were Bought!

Ephesians 2:12-13

Romans 7:19-20

THE PLAN OF SALVATION

Hear the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Believe the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Repent Of Sins

Acts 17:30

Confess Christ

Acts 8:37

Be Baptized

Acts 8:38