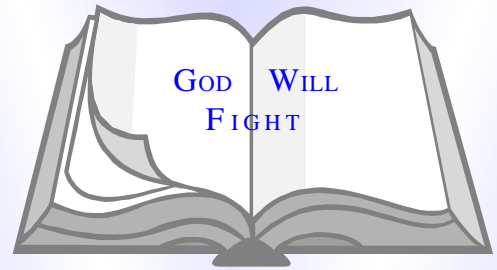


The Bread of Life



MAY 2000
- Wayne Dailey -

God Will Fight for You



There are those times when situations develop
That you've just got to have God come on the
scene!

I don't care how big or how tough you are,
there are some things you just can't handle
without God's help.

There are problems for which, no matter how
much you may feel you know or understand,
you just can't solve them.

Know this, though,
there isn't one thing God can't solve,
not one thing He can't move.

II Chronicles 20:1,2

. . . the children of Moab,
and the children of Ammon,
and with them other beside the Ammonites,
came against Jehoshaphat to battle.
Then there came some
that told Jehoshaphat, saying,

There cometh a great multitude against thee
from beyond the sea on this side Syria . . .

Right away it's not hard to know that there's
trouble on the way.

It's a battle that would seem, right from the
onset, to be the kind of a warfare you don't
want to have to face.

It's a battle where all your enemies gang up
together against you, a battle where they all
come with a united front, sure that they're
going to do you in.

II Chronicles 20:3

And Jehoshaphat feared,
and set himself to seek the Lord,
and proclaimed a fast
throughout all Judah.

I like this approach to a big problem.

Think about such an approach as a church:

we gather together for a prayer meeting, and we pray for a few moments. Then we get up and go home, hoping it will all work out!

Here in Jehoshaphat's day we see that one of the greatest victories in his reign was not some valiant thing he did. Yet, it was valiant, in that he took the time to pray and seek God.

Consider what Jehoshaphat did. He was battling fear in hearing this, wondering what to do - and he did what we all ought to do in our troubles.

Yes, Jehoshaphat got down to business to pray and to seek God, calling the people to come together to fast and seek the Lord.

Humble yourself! Seek God's face!

Turn to the Lord with all your heart!

Lean on Him, and

don't look to your own understanding.

Don't look to your own imaginations. Don't listen to all that man might tell you to do - but get right down to business, seeking out an answer from above.

When you have problems, there's an answer. You can always find an answer from the Lord - if you'll seek His face and search it out.

Jehoshaphat understood this was the way he'd have to go. He was afraid, but he didn't encourage others to be afraid.

No. He encouraged them to fast and pray with him to see if they could move the hand of God.

II Chronicles 20:4

And Judah gathered themselves together, to ask help of the Lord: even out of all the cities of Judah they came to seek the Lord.

So there were others, now. They became concerned, and it spread amongst the people throughout the country.



This is what it would take.

II Chronicles 20:5-6

And Jehoshaphat stood in the congregation of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the Lord, before the new court, and said . . .

O Lord God of our fathers,
art not Thou God in heaven?
and rulest not Thou
over all the kingdoms of the heathen?
and in Thine hand
is there not power and might,
so that none is able to withstand Thee?

I think the pattern that is being followed here is something we often fail to do.

Instead of praying, we scratch our heads, not knowing what to do!

Not only were they praying - but the king was remembering.

He was familiar with the time when the great temple was built; and the time when it was dedicated, when King Solomon spread his arms out towards heaven, and prayed.



Solomon had prayed not only for that day, but also prayed that, down over the generations, God would help them in the time of trouble.

He prayed that any time they would gather together at this house, giving themselves to God with weeping and crying and praying, turning to the Lord - that God would . . .

hear them, and answer them
be merciful to them
help with the war or the plague

. . . and help with the battle
they might find themselves presently facing.

Jehoshaphat is thinking of this as he brings the people together to seek God.

It's quite important that we follow this when we stand on the promises.

I want to tell you something about the promises of God - there's no promise in the Book for which the answer is no! Every promise is yea and amen.

So, if God promised it, and we embrace it, holding on to it, believing it - He will fulfill His promise.

Here we are sick, and asking God to heal us:
and God,

having made a promise
He would heal us of all our sicknesses
and all our diseases,

tells us NO?
Is that what He does?

That is not God's way!

What kind of a promise would it be if there were a 'No' to it?

If we ask for things to consume it upon our own lust, God won't answer that.

You can't make God a party of an evil thing.
You can't make God a party of wrong doing.

If you want to do something that's not right, God will not participate - **James 4:3**.

But, on the other hand, He won't hold back any good thing He has promised in His Word.

Now, all the promises of God in Christ Jesus are yes and amen to the glory of God.

So why shouldn't we gather at the house of God to seriously pray when there's trouble?

It might be necessary to FAST!

I can't fast! You're right, you can't fast - you're eating from morning till night without stopping! Generally speaking, if you want something badly enough you'll do what it takes to get it.

I've fasted a lot of times over the years, as God has directed, and it hasn't killed me!

I'll tell you one thing it has done - many a time it's moved the hand of God and brought the answer.

see II Chronicles 20:7,8

Art not Thou our God,

Who didst drive out

the inhabitants of this land

before Thy people Israel,

and gavest it to the seed of Abraham

Thy friend for ever?

You see where the king is right now? He's looking, now, to follow a promise. And here he looks back to claim that same victory . . .

Now there's a great army
coming against them!

II Chronicles 20:9

IF, when evil cometh upon us, as the sword, judgment, or pestilence, or famine, we stand before this house, and in Thy presence, (for Thy name is in this house,) and cry unto Thee in our affliction, then Thou wilt hear and help.

Jehoshaphat had been fearful, but now he's taking confidence in what God has done. Faith is rising in his heart.



He quotes the Word of God, to bring hearts and minds around to what God has said - something to stand on; something with which to assure their hearts.

II Chronicles 20:12

. . . Behold, I say, how they reward us, to come to cast us out of Thy possession, which Thou hast given us to inherit.

O our God, wilt Thou not judge them? for we have no might against this great company that cometh against us; neither know we what to do: but our eyes are upon Thee.

I like that last phrase:

We have no might against this great company that comes against us; neither know we what to do: BUT our eyes are upon Thee.

Our eyes should ever be upon the Lord. There shouldn't be anything that would distract or hinder from keeping our mind on the Lord and on the promise.

We're going to trust that the Lord who loves us, who cares for us, who sees us in our trouble - trust that He is going to come and stretch forth His great hand, and minister to our need.

The king is turning his eyes up. Though he started in fear, now he is looking unto the Lord - **Oh, Lord, our eyes are upon Thee!**

Isn't that the place to have your eyes? If you turn to look unto the Lord when you're in trouble, you're looking to a steadfast place - to a place where God stands to hear and answer.

Why shouldn't you stand and keep your eyes on the Lord?

If you turn your eyes upon the circumstances you'll only get bewildered. You won't feel better! You'll only feel worse!

I might just as well give up!! There's too many problems! too many difficulties! It's too hard!

Listen, you can't allow yourself to get into the place where you think negatively, where you think in your heart that you might as well just give in! you might just as well give up! you might just as well turn back!

TURN BACK ???

Back to what ?

There's nothing to turn back to!



You were already back there. You know the awful pit that God brought you out of.

You know how God hewed you out,

Picture that farmer out there plowing his field. Why would he want to look back?

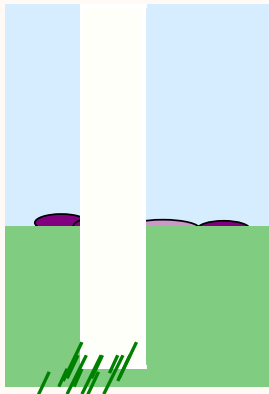
He's out there running the ox, he's got hold of the plow and the ox is pulling it forward - why look back?

Remember Lot's wife:

she had an opportunity to flee, but she looked back - and look what happened to her!

There was something back there that she desired. Sodom was home to her.

Think about it in the realm of our spiritual life - any time we look back or draw back, know that we're going to get into trouble.



So Jehoshaphat has his eyes upon the Lord, and encouraged the people to keep their eyes on the Lord, keep their trust in Him.

They knew from the record of God that surely there is nothing too hard for Him. They knew there were great miracles in their history.

They knew God had delivered them out of the hand of Pharaoh, and through the midst of the Red Sea.

And sometimes you've got to look back on what you know and have experienced, and draw strength from that.

When I was in trouble before, God did something for me. When I was in trouble, God was there to help. I put my faith in God, and these were the things He did. And I know He'll do it again!

Lord, that was where I put my faith in You, and this is what You did for me.

We know, in the depths of our hearts, that we can put our faith and our trust in God again and again - for He won't fail us. Why would He want to fail us?

One failure on God's part, and we wouldn't call Him God any more - we'd call Him a failure!

Can you show me a verse where God failed?
Can you show me a battle that He lost? God never fails - therefore, we can ever have confidence in Him.

So the king has his eyes upon the Lord now - and is causing others to look up with him.

My God will not fail. He has never failed me in the past, and He will not fail me in this battle.

II Chronicles 20:13

And all Judah stood before the Lord, with their little ones, their wives, and their children.

You see who they brought out there before the Lord!

Not only were the men of war out there, but their wives and their little ones are with them. They're all out there before the Lord.

They have no might against the great company that is coming against them - but their eyes are upon the Lord.



This is the setting for a battle - but **who was going to fight this battle?**

God began to move and to stir. He reached out to speak to one of His prophets who was standing right there in the midst of them.

II Chronicles 20:14,15

Then upon Jahaziel . . .
came the Spirit of the Lord
in the midst of the congregation . . .
And he said, Hearken ye, all Judah,
and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem,
and thou king Jehoshaphat,
Thus saith the Lord unto you,
Be not afraid not dismayed
by reason of this great multitude;
for the battle is not yours, but God's.

Up jumps this prophet, **Thus saith the Lord!**

This should mean one thing to Israel. **The prophet didn't say, Thus saith me!**

He said, Thus saith the Lord!

God, now, has taken over. The Spirit of the Lord is upon the prophet, and the Lord has a message. . .

The Lord wants to calm their hearts and still their voices. He wants them to stop and listen to what He has to say to them.

God is intervening, telling them not to be afraid nor dismayed by reason of the great multitude.

So what if they're outnumbered! Does that matter with God?

It doesn't matter whether there was one, or a thousand, or ten thousand!

We're never going to be outnumbered when it comes to our stand with God, although we may think we are.



Our enemy might think that we're outnumbered; but remember, one of us can chase a thousand, and two ten thousand. **And what on earth would happen if we all got up to chase the enemy!**

The message is based on these words: For the battle is not yours, but God's. To know this in the midst of the trying circumstances of life!

The battle is not yours. The battle is the Lord's.

When, and how, do we know

- when the battle is ours?

- and when the battle is the Lord's?

How do we know the difference between a battle that's our battle, and a battle that's the Lord's battle? Is there such a thing?

He said this for them to understand - **the battle is not yours, but God's.**

This is the Lord's nation. These are His people. Understand, now, the battle is because of them, because they are God's people. It's not their battle anymore. It's the Lord's battle.

* He's the One who has redeemed them

* He's the One who calls them by name

* He's the One who calls them His very own

* He's the One who chastens them
when they're sinning and doing wrong

* **and He's the One** who comforts and blesses
them when they turn back

And we're no different. When we face a battle, if it's the Lord's battle, shouldn't we be willing to step aside and let Him take over?

Shouldn't we be willing to turn it over to Him, and let Him take control?

But too often we want to keep on talking - keep on fighting - keep on trying . . .

and not stop to let the Lord take the battle into His own hands - standing back to watch and see the glory of the Lord.

They knew it was no problem for God to destroy an army. Their history Book - the Bible - told them over and over that, surely, God could defeat all of their enemies.



If the battle, then, is the Lord's battle - this is the greatest thing they would hear! If it's the Lord's battle, then that means the Lord will fight the battle.

Do you have a battle today? Who's doing the fighting?

Remember, now -

- * there isn't one thing God can't solve
- * not one thing He can't fix
- * not one thing He can't move

for we have no might
against this great company
that cometh against us;
neither know we what to do:

BUT

our eyes are upon Thee!

Yes,
God Will Fight for You

