

2 Chronicles 20:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ You will not *need* to fight in this *battle*. Position yourselves, stand still and see the salvation of the LORD, who is with you, O Judah and Jerusalem!’ Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them, for the LORD *is* with you.”

- All of us face various kinds of battles in our lives
- No one escapes problems or challenges, which we often call “*the storms of life*”
- The good news is that God already knows what He will do when we face difficulties
- He has a plan to bring us victory

Our text here tells us that we do not need to fight our own battles, because our battles belong to the Lord, not to us

- We just need to take our position and stand still until our breakthroughs come
- I believe that position is worship

Unless we have strong faith in God, anytime a storm comes into our lives the first thing that happens is we lose our peace and begin to feel fear

- Satan injects “*what if*” thoughts into our heads
- We often start to think we are going to have the worst possible outcome
- God wants us to be totally free from fear
- He doesn’t want us to live in torment

1 John 4:18 AMP

There is no fear in love [dread does not exist]. But perfect (complete, full-grown) love drives out fear, because fear involves [the expectation of divine] punishment, so the one who is afraid [of God's judgment] is not perfected in love [has not grown into a sufficient understanding of God's love].

- God moves on our behalf when we focus on Him instead of our fears
- Thoughts or feelings of fear are the enemy's attempts to distract us from God
- Fear will try to hold us back from trusting God

Joshua 8:1 (KJV 1900)

And the LORD said unto Joshua, Fear not, neither be thou dismayed: take all the people of war with thee, and arise, go up to Ai: see, I have given into thy hand the king of Ai, and his people, and his city, and his land:

- God was telling Joshua to not let fear control him and stop him from moving forward
- He needed to win the battle against fear so he could experience the victory of fulfilling God's plan for his life

2 Timothy 1:7 (NKJV)

⁷For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

- We need to learn to pray about everything and fear nothing!

In **2 Chronicles 20** a host of allied enemies came against king Jehoshaphat and the people of Judah

- Today the enemies we face may have different names and attack on many different fronts
- Fear, disease, stress, poverty, bad marriage, grouchy neighbors, insecurity, rejection, and others

How many things are coming against you right now?

- Let's learn to do what Jehoshaphat did

2 Chronicles 20:2–3 (NKJV)

² Then some came and told Jehoshaphat, saying, “A great multitude is coming against you from beyond the sea, from Syria; and they are in Hazazon Tamar” (which *is* En Gedi).

³ And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah.

Even though the first thing he did was fear, he did something else

- He set himself to seek the Lord
- Determined to hear God, he proclaimed a fast
- He knew he needed to hear from God
- He knew he needed a battle plan
- Only God could give him a plan that would succeed
- The first thing we do to combat fear is to hear from God

Romans 10:17 (NKJV) ¹⁷ So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

In the original language this verse in Romans is not talking about the written word but hearing the word of God

- When we hear the word of God, faith fills our hearts and drives fear away
- As we confess the truth of God's written word and pray in the Spirit we will hear God deep inside

He may give us a creative idea or some other direction that points us forward and away from the challenge we are facing

Jehoshaphat not only knew what to do but also what not to do

- He didn't consult with other people – friends, family, etc.
- He had probably been in other battles
- He didn't just assume and do the same thing he did the last time

No matter how well something has worked in the past, it may not solve your current crisis unless God empowers it in a new fresh way

- He may use the same method
- But He may give us new direction
- We must always look to God not methods

Our answers are not in methods, they are in relationship with God

Be encouraged, God wants to speak to you even more than you want to hear Him

Show God You're Sincere

2 Chronicles 20:4–5 (NKJV)

⁴ So Judah gathered together to ask *help* from the LORD; and from all the cities of Judah they came to seek the LORD. ⁵ Then Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the LORD, before the new court

- Jehoshaphat proclaimed a fast to show his sincerity to God
- When we face a problem, we should spend some extra time with God
- Maybe fast a meal, or entertainment
- Instead of telling all of your friends about your troubles why not spend that time with God?
- To seek means to pursue, crave, and go after something with all of your might
- We should seek like a starving man in search of food

2 Chronicles 20:6

⁶ and said: “O LORD God of our fathers, *are* You not God in heaven, and do You *not* rule over all the kingdoms of the nations, and in Your hand *is there not* power and might, so that no one is able to withstand You?

- We should learn to talk to God about Himself
- Here we see that Jehoshaphat is talking to God about how mighty He is

Instead of only talking to God about our problems, we need to talk to Him about Himself

- Who He is
- About His name and the power of the blood of Jesus
- Talk about the great things He has done and what He will do

After we praise Him in this way then we can mention our troubles

- Remember we should enter His courts with praise
– **Psalm 100:4**
- How would you like it if someone you loved only came to you with complaints or problems
- We don't want to be people who only seek God when we need something or are in trouble
- We need to have fellowship with Him all of the time

Remember God called Abraham his friend

- A friend is someone who spends time with you when things are going well as well as when they are not
- The Lord is not just our problem solver; He is our everything
- We need to relate to Him the right way

2 Chronicles 20:7–11 (NKJV)

⁷ Are You not our God, *who* drove out the inhabitants of this land before Your people Israel, and gave it to the descendants of Abraham Your friend forever? ⁸ And they dwell in it, and have built You a sanctuary in it for Your name, saying, ⁹ ‘If disaster comes upon us—sword, judgment, pestilence, or famine—we will stand before this temple and in Your presence (for Your name *is* in this temple), and cry out to You in our affliction, and You will hear and save.’ ¹⁰ And now, here are the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir—whom You would not let Israel invade when they came out of the land of Egypt, but they turned from them and did not destroy them—¹¹ here they are, rewarding us by coming to throw us out of Your possession which You have given us to inherit.

- Here we see that Jehoshaphat is being very specific about the mighty acts of God in the past
- He is reciting the faithfulness and promises of God
- You can sense the confidence which he is praying with

It’s almost as if he says, *“Oh, by the way we have this little problem, but you are so great, and You’ve got it under control.”*

- Our praises should outnumber our petitions
- Our prayer time should not only include our requests
- We should also include praise, worship, thanksgiving, and intercession for others

God is not surprised by our trouble; He already has a plan for our deliverance

Admit Your Dependence on God

2 Chronicles 20:12 (NKJV)

¹² O our God, will You not judge them? For we have no power against this great multitude that is coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes *are* upon You.”

- Here we see that Jehoshaphat openly admits to God his total inability to deal with the problem
- We need to realize that we can not solve the problems we face in life
- We do not have answers to every question we have or every situation we encounter
- There are times we just do not know what to do

Most of the time we waste so much time worrying or trying to figure things out on our own that we get frustrated and completely exhausted

- We need to let God do for us what we cannot do for ourselves
- You can not change on your own
- You cannot break bad habits without God’s help
- You will fail time and time again

You will become so exhausted by trying to fight your own battles that all you will want to do is give up

We will not be free until we admit our total dependence on God

Three things that Jehoshaphat did

- Admitted he had no might to stand against his enemies
- He admitted he didn't know what to do
- He fixed his eyes on God

By saying these three things he put himself in a position for a miracle

John 15:5 (NIV)

⁵ “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

- One of the keys to receiving anything from God is entire dependence on Him
- Without faith we cannot please Him – **Hebrews 11:6**
- Faith is the channel through which we receive from Him
- Faith is the leaning of the entire human personality in absolute trust in God

1 Timothy 1:5 AMP

⁵ I remember your sincere *and* unqualified faith [the surrendering of your entire self to God in Christ with confident trust in His power, wisdom and goodness, a faith] which first lived in [the heart of] your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am confident that it is in you as well.

We are to lean on, rely only, and depend entirely on God, taking all of the weight of our problems and our burdens off of ourselves and putting it all on Him

Psalm 55:22 (NKJV)

²² Cast your burden on the LORD, And He shall sustain you; He shall never permit the righteous to be moved.

- When you sit down in your most comfortable chair you put your entire dependence on that chair to hold you
- You take all of the weight off of yourself and put it on the chair
- We trust a chair more than we trust God
- We often say that we lean on God
- This may be true, partially
- But do we lean entirely on Him?

We often have a backup plan, in case He doesn't come through

- It's OK to not know what to do
- Jehoshaphat didn't consider it weakness or inadequacy
- By saying this he put himself in a place of utter dependence on God

2 Corinthians 12:9 (NKJV)

⁹ And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore, most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Without God's help we cannot change anything in our lives

- We can't change ourselves, our spouse, our children, family, friends, or circumstances
- We truly cannot do anything in ourselves that will have lasting results or value

We often forfeit joy and peace by trying to figure our things we have no business figuring out

- Some things are just too difficult to understand
- Nothing is too hard for God

Psalm 131:1 (NKJV)

¹ LORD, my heart is not haughty, Nor my eyes lofty. Neither do I concern myself with great matters, Nor with things too profound for me.

- We are finite
- God is infinite
- We have limitations
- God has surpassing knowledge
- We know some things, but we don't know everything

1 Corinthians 13:9 (NKJV)

⁹For we know in part and we prophesy in part.

We won't ever know everything, but we can grow to a place where we are satisfied to know the One who does know

We need to get to the place that even if we knew what to do we wouldn't do it without God

- We need to focus our eyes on Him
- Wait and watch God do something about our situation
- Realize there is nothing I can do unless you give me direction

The enemy may whisper over and over in our minds, *“What are you going to do?”*

Our friends may say, *“What are you going to do?”*

These are the times we need to say, *“I’m going to turn it over to the Lord, and wait on Him!”* *“He will do something wonderful for me, and I’m going to enjoy watching Him do it!”*

2 Chronicles 20:13 (NKJV)

¹³ Now all Judah, with their little ones, their wives, and their children, stood before the LORD.

- Standing still is action from God's perspective
- We usually take action in the natural realm and do nothing spiritually
- When we wait on the Lord we are taking spiritual action

We are making a decision to wait until God does something and in the meantime enjoy our life!

Isaiah 40:31 (NKJV)

³¹ But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew *their* strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

- We may need the strength we gain by waiting in order to do what He instructs us to do
- Those who wait on the Lord are the ones who receive answers and are strong enough to follow directions

2 Chronicles 20:14–15 (NKJV)

¹⁴ Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, in the midst of the assembly. ¹⁵ And he said, “Listen, all you of Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem, and you, King Jehoshaphat! Thus says the LORD to you: ‘Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle *is* not yours, but God’s.

- When they were all together before the Lord, someone began to prophesy
- The Spirit of God came upon him and spoke through him because the people were waiting on the Lord to lead them
- When we learn to seek God and wait on Him, He will give us an answer
- The answer may be very plain and simple

The Lord told Judah to not be afraid because the battle was His not theirs!