

YOUNG DAVID'S EXAMPLE (PART 2)

Jon Macon

David is truly one of the greatest examples of faith and obedience to God that we have been given in the holy scriptures. He is a man after God's own heart (1 Sam 13:14; Acts 13:22). David's life is given as an example to follow even as a young man. We have previously considered his faithfulness and diligence in his youth, and his honoring and obeying his father. We should also learn much from David's victories in battle, and also how he sought God's direction in every decision and every action he took in his life.

Our spiritual war

We remember the great victory God gave to David over Goliath and the host of the Philistines in 1 Samuel chapter 17. And David prevailed in many other battles over the enemies of God. Hebrews 11:32-34 says, "And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthah; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets: *who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.*" Let us now consider the young warrior David. As David recognized that God had a cause for him to fight for (1 Sam 17:29), so we also have a great cause. David and the physical nation of Israel fought physical wars which serve as a shadow of the spiritual war that is being fought by spiritual Israel, the church of Christ (Rom 2:28-29; Gal 6:16; 1 Pet 2:5-9; Heb 12:22-23). The church of Christ is the kingdom of God (Luke 1:31-33; Matt 16:18-19; John 18:36-37; Acts 2:29-36,47; Col 1:13). But this kingdom is not an earthly kingdom with a physical war to fight. Jesus said, "*My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.*" If the Lord's kingdom were of this world, we would fight physically. But we are part of a spiritual, heavenly kingdom. Therefore, we have been commanded not to fight physically (Matt 5:38-48; Luke 3:14; 6:27-36; Rom 12:17-21; 1 Thes 5:15; Jas 5:6; 1 Pet 3:9). But we have been commanded to "*war a good warfare*" (1 Tim 1:18), and to "*fight the good fight of faith*" (1 Tim 6:12), like Paul did (2 Tim 4:7). We have been chosen to be soldiers, and we must all be good soldiers of Jesus Christ (2 Tim 2:3-4). We are in a spiritual war: "*For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh*" (2 Cor 10:3), and "*the weapons of our warfare are not carnal*" (2 Cor 10:3).

Soldiers of Christ

Timothy was given the charge to charge the Ephesian Christians to "teach no other doctrine" (1 Tim 1:3-4), and this is part of warring a good warfare (1 Tim 1:18-19). Fleeing material things and following after eternal, spiritual things such as righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, and meekness is at the heart of our "good fight of faith" (1 Tim 6:10-12). To be "a good soldier of Jesus Christ" we must not entangle ourselves with the affairs of this life (2 Tim 2:3-4). The ultimate goal of our warfare is to overcome sin. Though as a Christian our mind is

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to live only for the Lord and do all of His will and only His will (2 Cor 5:14-15; 1 Pet 4:1-2), the members of our flesh are still warring against the law of our mind in an effort to bring us into captivity to the law of sin (Rom 7:14-25). Jesus Christ is able to deliver us and give us the victory in this war against temptation (Rom 7:25). The Lord has given us weapons and armor for this war. Though our weapons are not “carnal,” they are “*mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds*” (2 Cor 10:4). Our goal is to pull down these spiritual strongholds of the devil, “*casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; and having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled*” (2 Cor 10:5-6). “*For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places*” (Eph 6:12). The goal is to “*stand against the wiles of the devil*” (Eph 6:11), to “*withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand*” (Eph 6:13). The goal is to “*quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one*” (Eph 6:16).

Seeking God with no fear of men

David's faith in God is also demonstrated by the fact that he always sought God's direction, and always believed God and followed His instructions. For example, when David was hiding in the cave Adullam (1 Sam 22:1-4; Psa 57; Psa 142), God told David through the prophet Gad, “*Abide not in the hold; depart, and get thee into the land of Judah. Then David departed, and came into the forest of Hareth*” (1 Sam 22:5). David inquired of God about whether or not he should fight the Philistines to save the city of Keilah, and when God told him to go, David went and prevailed (1 Sam 23:1-5). As usual, David showed absolutely no fear of men whatsoever. David's faith was completely in God. When God told David to go and smite the Philistines and save Keilah, that was all David needed to hear (Rom 10:17). He was ready to go and fight, and had no doubts or reservations. This is the same faith David had when he faced Goliath (1 Sam 17:45-47). After this victory, David heard that Saul was coming for him, and David inquired of God about whether Saul would indeed pursue him there and, if so, whether or not the people of Keilah would deliver David to Saul (1 Sam 23:7-12). When God answered both questions in the affirmative, David and his men fled to the wilderness of Ziph (1 Sam 23:13-14). After the Amalekites attacked Ziklag and took David's wives and all the other Israelites captive, David inquired of God about whether to pursue them, and when God told him to go, David went and prevailed (1 Sam 30:1-19). David displayed a great *living* faith in God on all these occasions (Jas 2:14-26). When God spoke, David believed and took action. David continued this pattern of seeking God's direction and obeying His word throughout his life. Christians should also ask for God's blessings and help (Matt 7:7-11; Luke 6:12-16; Acts 12:11-12; 16:25; Jas 1:5-8; 4:2) and make request of Him in everything (Php 4:6; 1 Thes 5:17). We too should have our faith in God, and not fear men (Matt 10:28; Luke 12:4-5; Heb 13:5-6).