

## 4 December 2016 “We do not know what to do but our eyes are on you” – Tools for Christian Living.

We are in the last month of the year, it is always a good time to reflect on the year and assess what you have done – where you went wrong and spiritually how did you fare. If you have made mistakes 2017 can be a year to get closer to God ask for forgiveness – he is the God of second chances.

As you turn to 2 Chronicles 20 – I read this – this morning:

*A country preacher decided to skip services one Sunday and head to the hills to do some bear hunting. As he rounded the corner on a perilous twist in the trail, he and a bear collided, sending him and his rifle tumbling down the mountainside.*

*Before he knew it, his rifle went one way and he went the other, landing on a rock and breaking both legs. That was the good news. The bad news was the ferocious bear charging at him from a distance, and he couldn't move.*

*"Oh Lord," the preacher prayed, "I'm so sorry for skipping services today to come out here and hunt. Please forgive me and grant me just one wish.... please make a Christian out of that bear that's coming at me. Please, Lord!"*

*That very instant, the bear skidded to a halt, fell to its knees, clasped its paws together and began to pray aloud right at the preacher's feet.*

*"Dear Lord, bless this food I am about to receive... in Jesus' name... Amen."*

Today's message is going to be back and forth to the Old Testament and then compare how these truths or occurrences can be adopted and related to our personal lives, to assist us in having a deeper relationship and walk with God – It will cover steps for Christian living, blessings from God - when we listen to him and then we will close with disaster if we do not listen to God and continue walking in our own ways.

## 2 Chronicles 20 New King James Version (NKJV)

### Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir Defeated

20 It happened after this *that* the people of Moab with the people of Ammon, and *others* with them besides the Ammonites,<sup>[a]</sup> came to battle against Jehoshaphat.<sup>2</sup> Then some came and told Jehoshaphat, saying, “A great multitude is coming against you from beyond the sea, from Syria;<sup>[b]</sup> and they are in Hazazon Tamar” (which *is* En Gedi).<sup>3</sup> And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah.<sup>4</sup> So Judah gathered together to ask *help from the LORD*; and from all the cities of Judah they came to seek the LORD.

What do you do when you are faced with an issue? It could be a need – financial, emotional, sickness, troublesome family – or feel stuck spiritually? Maybe you just feel trapped in your everyday routine, and you have no idea how to grow. What can you do?

God has provided us with many spiritual disciplines to help us get closer to him, such as prayer and fasting.

In the Old Testament we find that God's people often fasted and prayed in times of repentance and in times of great distress, recognizing they needed the deliverance that only God could give.

Jehoshaphat did this when a group of nations threatened to conquer Judah. The opposing army was vast, and only a miracle could keep Judah safe. Jehoshaphat was learning that the nation needed to turn back to God. So the king declared a fast and led the people in prayer. As we humble ourselves before the Lord (There is a saying – The best theology is knee-ology, God fights on our behalf in ways that we cannot even imagine. Powerful enemies self-destruct, and oppressive, unjust forces wither away. This can only happen when we learn from the road map he left us. The Word of God – The Bible.

We also see the people were united – there was no arguing – everybody was in total obedience. Strife opens the door for Satan to enter in – be careful of arguing and fussing in your homes.

When you are faced with impossible situations in your life you can be fearful or like Jehoshaphat put your faith in action and know that your God is bigger than any problem you may face.

<sup>5</sup> Then Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the LORD, before the new court, <sup>6</sup> 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?** <sup>7</sup> *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? <sup>8</sup> And they dwell in it, and have built You a sanctuary in it for Your name, saying, <sup>9</sup> ‘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.’

**It is the same principle when we come here to the House of the Lord – we proclaim the promises and His Word back to God for him to deliver and meet with us. For the name of Jehovah God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit dwell in this place. When we come together we invoke the presence of God – Matthew 18:20 New King James Version (NKJV)**

<sup>20</sup> For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.”

This scripture confirms you only have a problem when you meet alone. You tend to moan and groan yourself and make your problem bigger than your God – who is very able to deliver us from any situations.

There is power in corporate prayer and worship - being in one mind and accord – like the disciples in the upper room. When we come together like this morning – you have to come believing that God is able to deliver you from whatever situation you are facing. Bring your needs and lay it at his feet – this Christian life we live – it is serious – you must mean business with God – the commitment cannot be one sided. Remember also that there are people in here who will stand in the gap with you before God interceding on your behalf.

<sup>10</sup> 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— <sup>11</sup> here they are, rewarding us by coming to throw us out of Your possession which You have given us to inherit. <sup>12</sup> 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.**”

I think this is an amazing piece of scripture – “We do not know what to do but our eyes are upon you”. When faced with the toils and tribulations of life – we do not have the answers – when we read or listen to the news – we may become fearful, anxious or angry – they still do not have the answers. Only Jesus has all the answers.

The bible reminds us : God the Help of Those Who Seek Him

### Psalm 121

*121 I will lift up my eyes to the hills—*

*From whence comes my help?*

<sup>2</sup> *My help comes from the LORD,*

*Who made heaven and earth.*

<sup>3</sup> *He will not allow your foot to be moved;*

*He who keeps you will not slumber.*

<sup>4</sup> *Behold, He who keeps Israel*

*Shall neither slumber nor sleep.*

<sup>5</sup> *The LORD is your keeper;*

*The LORD is your shade at your right hand.*

<sup>6</sup> *The sun shall not strike you by day,*

*Nor the moon by night.*

<sup>7</sup> *The LORD shall preserve you from all evil;*

*He shall preserve your soul.*

<sup>8</sup> *The LORD shall preserve your going out and your coming in*

*From this time forth, and even forevermore.*

No matter whatever situation you may be faced with – keep your eyes on the Lord – Remember when Peter tried to walk on the water – when he kept his eyes on Jesus – he walked – when he took his eyes off Jesus and became aware of surroundings (the waves, the wind, where he was) – he began to sink. The same happens to us when we take our eyes off Jesus. We have to be careful in the days we are living in to be certain that our eyes are on Jesus – many are here already or coming to deceive you – teachings and ways that are contrary to the Word of God – illustration – if a plane is 1 degree off course you only realise how far off the mark/your destination you are when you come to the end of the journey. What is our destination heaven – be careful that you make it there.

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

We see a picture of families worshipping God – This does not happen today because Jesus stopped being cool after the Sunday School years for children – Parents and elders remind

young people to seek the Lord - otherwise do not blame him when things start to fall apart – remember the saying – Know God – Know Peace – No God – No Peace.

<sup>14</sup> 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.

Some people do not like to believe or accept the workings of the Holy Spirit – this is a biblical truth – When a God fearing child of the Lord is led by the Spirit of the Lord – they speak correction, direction or blessings from the Lord. If you are doubtful if someone is operating in the Spirit check for these outward signs

#### Gifts of the Spirit -

1. The Word of Knowledge 2. The Word of Wisdom 3. The Gift of Prophecy
4. The Gift of Faith 5. The Gifts of Healings 6. The Working of Miracles
7. The Discerning of Spirits 8. Different Kinds of Tongues 9. The Interpretation of Tongues

#### Fruit of the Spirit.

- 1 – Love 2 – Joy 3 – Peace
- 4 – Longsuffering 5 – Kindness 6 – Goodness
- 7 – Faithfulness 8 – Gentleness 9 – Self-control

Just some thoughts: Gifts can be given but never used – sometimes the wrapper is still on them or they are forgotten and covered by clutter. Gifts are only useful if you open and use them.

Fruit – you get lovely, delicious tasty fruit or you get blemished, tasteless, rotten fruit. Sometimes they are deceiving they look good but taste bad – they sometimes even have worms inside.

Today more than ever we must be the real thing – people are getting tired of fakes.

<sup>15</sup> 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.’ <sup>16</sup> Tomorrow go down against them. They will surely come up by the Ascent of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the brook before the Wilderness of Jeruel. <sup>17</sup> 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.”

Are you tired of facing day in and day out on your own and it looks like there is no way out – are you tired and helpless – are you battling and seems to be a losing battle: I am here to tell you – “**Do not be afraid-for the battle is not yours, but God’s**” – be obedient follow his commands and remind him of his promises and His Word – your victory is close. The bible also warns us that we must not be anxious or fearful – God has a plan for your tomorrow he can only give it to your if you are on the same page as him or in the same province,most times God is waiting for us but we are somewhere else – preoccupied with the cares of this world.

We all understand earthly investments, share purchases, and dividends. What about investing in your eternity – what are your returns going to be when you get to heaven – have you made any contributions.

<sup>18</sup> And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with *his* face to the ground, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem bowed before the LORD, worshiping the LORD. <sup>19</sup> Then the Levites of the children of the Kohathites and of the children of the Korahites stood up to praise the LORD God of Israel with voices loud and high.

*This is the perfect picture of:*

2 Chronicles 7:14

*if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land*

How we all long for this for our country.

<sup>20</sup> So they rose early in the morning and went out into the Wilderness of Tekoa; and as they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, “Hear me, O Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem: Believe in the LORD your God, and you shall be established; believe His prophets, and you shall prosper.” <sup>21</sup> And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed those who should sing to the LORD, and who should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army and were saying:

“Praise the LORD,  
For His mercy *endures* forever.”<sup>[c]</sup>

Let me tell you a secret that the modern Christian generation does not know or seem to have forgotten – there is power in praise and worship – this creates the climate for something great to happen – when you are feeling sad,lonely,depressed – start singing meaningful worship songs to God for long periods and test if this does not change your atmosphere – when you do this - the focus is off you(horizontal what you see) and you look to God (vertical – up to him) – if the atmosphere in your life is as per His Word and he sees your heart yearning for his intervention - he needs to answer, he must answer, he needs to help you – he will deliver you from whatever you are facing.

<sup>22</sup> Now when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushes against the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; and they were defeated. <sup>23</sup> For the people of Ammon and Moab stood up against the inhabitants of Mount Seir to utterly kill

and destroy *them*. And when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, they helped to destroy one another.

<sup>24</sup> So when Judah came to a place overlooking the wilderness, they looked toward the multitude; and there *were* their dead bodies, fallen on the earth. No one had escaped.

What an incredible event – all Judah’s enemies killed each other – just imagine if that happened to all our enemies – it can - we just need to be obedient to God and he will destroy all of the enemy’s plans against us. We need to be faithful and not grow tired of doing good and serving him. If you believe the battle is the Lord’s you can experience supernatural victory – problems and delays arise when we take control and we try to fit God into our schedule or time slot.

<sup>25</sup> When Jehoshaphat and his people came to take away their spoil, they found among them an abundance of valuables on the dead bodies,<sup>[d]</sup> and precious jewelry, which they stripped off for themselves, more than they could carry away; and they were three days gathering the spoil because there was so much.

Imagine that abundance of valuables and jewels in the spoils – not scrap metal and spare body parts – who carries valuables and jewels to a battle – 3 days to gather up the spoils – that was an abundance of treasure, God will bless those that are faithful to him and who obey his commands. Blessings or deliverance can only come after a certain amount of conditions are met – come to the realisation that without Him we can do nothing, we need to fast and pray to unlock the Ears, Heart and Hands of God, the bible also commands us not to forsake the assembling of the Saints – we are very powerful when we corporately worship God in spirit and in truth – praise and worship Him so that the blessings, answers and deliverance is sent to you who diligently seek him. We cannot receive from God unless you move God through fasting, prayer, worship and spending time with his Word. Conditions have to be met before he acts. He always does his part – what about you doing yours.

<sup>26</sup> And on the fourth day they assembled in the Valley of Berachah, for there they blessed the LORD; therefore the name of that place was called The Valley of Berachah<sup>[e]</sup> until this day.

<sup>27</sup> Then they returned, every man of Judah and Jerusalem, with Jehoshaphat in front of them, to go back to Jerusalem with joy, for the LORD had made them rejoice over their enemies.

<sup>28</sup> So they came to Jerusalem, with stringed instruments and harps and trumpets, to the house of the LORD. <sup>29</sup> And the fear of God was on all the kingdoms of *those* countries when they heard that the LORD had fought against the enemies of Israel. <sup>30</sup> Then the realm of Jehoshaphat was quiet, for his God gave him rest all around.

Giving thanks to God is also very important – remember the story of the lepers – 10 lepers were healed only 1 came back to give thanks to Jesus – he was not a Jew but a Samaritan – the lesson – we must be careful not to become complacent and think that all our help from the Lord is a right and forget to present ourselves as living sacrifices to the all Powerful King. When we do our part we will live in the rest and peace of God. Judah returned to the House of the Lord where it started in fasting and prayer to offer a thanksgiving of praise to the Lord.

A picture of perfect obedience – they sort God, God met their needs they returned to give Him thanks.

What a lovely event recorded for us – about the faithfulness of God to his obedient children and their rewards for being faithful and trusting him wholly and only.

Unfortunately it does not stop there – it always happens we start off all good and serve God follow in his ways and then we want to be the boss and start to control things and the future.

## The End of Jehoshaphat's Reign

<sup>31</sup> So Jehoshaphat was king over Judah. *He was* thirty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned twenty-five years in Jerusalem. His mother's name *was* Azubah the daughter of Shilhi. <sup>32</sup> And he walked in the way of his father Asa, and did not turn aside from it, doing *what was* right in the sight of the LORD.

<sup>33</sup> Nevertheless the high places were not taken away, for as yet the people had not directed their hearts to the God of their fathers.

We always have a time of just sitting in the Lords presence and enjoying life but if we do not get rid of the old man and his old habits – and also some cleansing of the old idols – they will come back to affect us – worshipping Jesus becomes religious and routine and not a lifestyle – We also have a responsibility in our homes to ensure that Jesus is taught, worshipped and followed every day.

We also sometimes become extreme in our holiness and forget that this whole thing started because of love.

*John 3:16 New King James Version (NKJV)*

<sup>16</sup> *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

We need to treat people with love, dignity and respect and try not to be offensive – when they see some of these loving qualities in us they are seeing Jesus in us - then they too are going to want what you have - **Jesus** – that is what we are here for to introduce the name of Jesus to this dying world – not my name and your name – our names just have strife and discord. His name is all powerful and destiny changing.

<sup>34</sup> Now the rest of the acts of Jehoshaphat, first and last, indeed they *are* written in the book of Jehu the son of Hanani, which *is* mentioned in the book of the kings of Israel.

<sup>35</sup> After this Jehoshaphat king of Judah allied himself with Ahaziah king of Israel, who acted very wickedly.

Sometimes when everything is going well – instead of enjoying Gods rest we become bored and make alliances with ungodly people – and we become influenced by them and they take us down a destructive path – in unholy alliances – they do not pray for you or seek Gods favour for your life – they are just there to manipulate, irritate and use and abuse you – just remember you bring this on yourself.

Why – we are called to align ourselves to the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit not to man – the bible warns – “the arm of flesh will fail you”.

<sup>36</sup> And he allied himself with him to make ships to go to Tarshish, and they made the ships in Ezion Geber. <sup>37</sup> But Eliezer the son of Dodavah of Mareshah prophesied against Jehoshaphat, saying, “Because you have allied yourself with Ahaziah, the LORD has destroyed your works.” Then the ships were wrecked, so that they were not able to go to Tarshish.

These ships never left the harbour a storm arose and destroyed them.

Our God is a jealous God – when you align yourself with him you will have the victory – turn away from him at your own peril. Always fast and pray and seek the Lords direction for anything you need to do concerning your family, work, future or business – I warn you today do not keep him out of the loop it will be detrimental for you.

God sets before you blessings if you obey Him and his Word or cursing’s if you want to be in charge and run your own life.

### ***Deuteronomy 28 New King James Version (NKJV)***

#### ***Blessings on Obedience***

*28 “Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the LORD your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. <sup>2</sup> And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the LORD your God:*

*<sup>3</sup> “Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the country.*

*<sup>4</sup> “Blessed shall be the fruit of your body, the produce of your ground and the increase of your herds, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flocks.*

*<sup>5</sup> “Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl.*

*<sup>6</sup> “Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out.*

*<sup>7</sup> “The LORD will cause your enemies who rise against you to be defeated before your face; they shall come out against you one way and flee before you seven ways.*

*<sup>8</sup> “The LORD will command the blessing on you in your storehouses and in all to which you set your hand, and He will bless you in the land which the LORD your God is giving you.*

*<sup>9</sup> “The LORD will establish you as a holy people to Himself, just as He has sworn to you, if you keep the commandments of the LORD your God and walk in His ways. <sup>10</sup> Then all peoples of the earth shall see that you are called by the name of the LORD, and they shall be afraid of you. <sup>11</sup> And the LORD will grant you plenty of goods, in the fruit of your body, in the increase of your livestock, and in the produce of your ground, in the land of which the LORD swore to your fathers to give you. <sup>12</sup> The LORD will open to you His good treasure, the heavens, to give the rain to your land in its season, and to bless all the work of your hand. You shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow. <sup>13</sup> And the LORD will make you the head and not the*



*tail; you shall be above only, and not be beneath, if you heed the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you today, and are careful to observe them. <sup>14</sup> So you shall not turn aside from any of the words which I command you this day, to the right or the left, to go after other gods to serve them.*

### ***Curses on Disobedience***

*<sup>15</sup> “But it shall come to pass, if you do not obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes which I command you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you:*

*Will you make a commitment to walk in the ways of the Lord today!!!!!!!!!!*