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Go and make disciples!

E-votional 98

He Trains My Hands

Psalm 144:1-2 (ESV),

Blessed be the LORD, my rock, who trains my hands for war, and my fingers for battle; he is my steadfast love and my fortress, my stronghold and my deliverer, my shield and he in whom I take refuge, who subdues peoples under me.

This Psalm was written by none other than King David, who by the way wrote a great many of the Psalms. An interesting key to understanding this passage of Scripture is concerning the life of David. He started a meager shepherd boy and defeated Goliath. From there he went on to be King of Israel, anointed by God. On the way to his overall destiny, he had the testimony as a man after God's heart who would do all His will. On his journey, David faced many difficulties.

To start while tending the sheep as a shepherd boy David had encounters with a lion and a bear. After learning how to fend off large wildlife from taking from the flock of sheep David grew in his dependence on God. When the time came and his brothers were out with the armies of Israel David brought them food. While there David heard Goliath taunting the armies of Israel and her King who was Saul at the time. David said this priceless statement in 1 Samuel 17:26,

“What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?”

There it is, who is this that he should defy the armies of the Living God. You see David exhibited great faith in His God. It is remarkable because none of the armies of Israel had this same faith nor did they have the courage, yet here comes a meager shepherd boy raised and trained by God for the task. Hallelujah! David did the unthinkable and the impossible because with God all things are possible.

The main thing that I wanted to point out here to encourage you with is that of

how the Lord used these circumstances in David's life to make him who he was. I have to often pause and reflect on my life in a like manner and try to see the handiwork of God. There are times I get so overwhelmed at the circumstance surrounding my life that I forget that God is a God that still does the impossible and still works all things together for good to those who love Him and are called by Him. Now, of course, this does not mean we have a free for all to do anything that we want, nor does it mean that God will cause our life to go smooth all the time. But it does mean that God who works all things according to the counsel of His will is interested in equipping His people. Notice, David said, "*who trains my hands for war, and my fingers for battle.*" In David's life, this was clearly realized when we look at how David fought a bear and a lion before fighting with Goliath. After Goliath David was on the run from King Saul. Again, God did not remove the conflict and make everything go smooth for David. Rather God used these very things to train David's hands for war and his fingers for battle.

The Lord could have just taken David supernaturally from the sheepfold to the Kingship, but He didn't. The Lord allowed this great deal of conflict in David's life to train him for the purpose and will of God in his life. If this is true for David, I wonder about you or me. Isn't it possible that the same God back then in David's life is the same God for us today? And isn't it also true that since it is the same God that He will also work in like manner in our lives? What should our response be then to the difficulties we face in life?

Well, very simply, we should have an awareness first of God's control over every aspect of our lives for He alone is Sovereign and works all things according to the counsel of His will. Next, we should submit to the things God allows into our lives with reliance upon Him and a heart that seeks His mind and will on any given situation we may encounter. It may be that the Lord is preparing us for some unforeseen event or role in our life in the future. I tell you the truth about my life, it seems that God has allowed a lot of circumstantial and spiritual difficulty in my life. Yet at the same time, He has provided me a level of training that I would not have gotten otherwise. The Lord has been faithful and has taught me so much that I often marvel at His majesty. I say this because I have realized that none of this would have been possible if I went it on my own apart from Him and His will. Sure there are times that I would have liked to at the moment had an easier way to do things, yet at the same time, there is just so much joy in relying on the Lord to train me and equip me for His role and purpose for my life and I pray it is the same for you as well.

You have a lot of potential in God's Kingdom brothers and sisters. Only do not seek the easy way out. Instead, ask the Lord why he has you where he has you in this season of your life and ask Him for wisdom to learn everything He is

teaching you. I tell you the truth it is an exciting and an empowered Christian walk when you have this mind. It is exciting and empowering because it really opens you up to God in a way that you would have never before known or experienced.

O praise God for His faithfulness and His Sovereignty over all His creation to do according to His will and good pleasure!

Brothers and sisters, it truly is a joy and a blessing to share with you what God has laid on my heart. I pray that our Lord Jesus Christ would reveal Himself to you more and more each day as you grow in His grace and knowledge, in Jesus name Amen.

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In Christ's Love,
Chris and Jeanne
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