

army and drove him out of Jerusalem. When Absalom was later killed, David wept for days and nothing could comfort him (2 Samuel 11-20). Most of us can take what wrongdoing does to us, but when it hurts the people we love, the pain becomes almost unbearable,

Power In hard times we learn valuable lessons and become stronger. If we need more faith, God does not pour it down on us like water. He sends us giants like Goliath to face.

One Easter Sunday, the church was singing, "Because He lives, I can face tomorrow." A little boy noticed a lady singing with tears on her face and with her eyes closed. He whispered and asked his mother why she sang that way and they didn't. The mother said, "Her 12 year-old son was killed a month ago. We sing it like we do, because we choose to believe the truths of the Bible; but she sings it like she does, because she has to believe them to find a reason for living.

It is easy to have faith when the bank account is full; the bills are all paid and our job is secure. But let us lose our job, and we have to depend on God. Right now, we have to trust God as a nation, because we face two problems we cannot solve that can bring our country down – a pandemic and racial unrest. On each end are the extremes of anger and in the middle is confusion. It is not a matter of who is right; it is that, confusion between good Christian people, keeps us from solving the problem. Abraham Lincoln said before the Civil War, "A house divided cannot stand."

Three Principles David learned three great lessons in the wilderness, that made him a better king. He learned to trust God. The God of his childhood, who protected him from lions and bears, met his needs in the wilderness. He kept him safe from Saul and led people to send him food and supplies. He sent men to be with him, who would later become his elite soldiers.

David learned to obey God. Two times he had the opportunity to kill Saul and return home; but didn't do it because God told him it was wrong (1 Samuel 24).

David learned the necessity of prayer. When Saul's army was close, David went to live with the Philistines without praying about it. They allowed him to do it because he and his soldiers became part of their army.

They returned from battle one day and found their city burned to the ground and all their family and friends taken captive. His soldiers, in their grief, were talking about stoning him.

When the outlook was bad, David took the up-look. He prayed and even asked God if he should try to rescue them. God told him, yes, and enabled them to save every person. He had learned his lesson (2 Samuel 27-30).

We don't have to pray about every little thing; but we do need to, when it comes to life's large decisions. If we don't, God will let us marry the wrong person; take the wrong job; etc. and have pains He never intended us to have.

A Singer... Seventy-three Psalms are attributed to him. They show us that life has its ups and downs. He says in Psalm 40, "He heard my cry. He lifted me / and set my feet on a rock". / He says in Psalm 22, "O my God, I cry by day, but Thou dost not answer / I have no rest".

Our walk with God is not based on feelings. It is based on faith. Sometimes we sing, "My God is real, for I can feel, Him in my soul." But we can also sing, "My God is real, when I CAN'T feel, Him in my soul".

A Senior... Like most of us, David died with his family around him (1 Kings 2). He was not afraid in the "valley of the shadow of death" because God was with him (Psalm 23); and he also believed God had a table prepared for him in his heavenly home (Psalm 23/John 14:1)

A tombstone had this written on it:

"Pause stranger, as you pass by /
As you are now, so once was I /
As I am now, so you will be /
So be prepared to follow me".

(Someone added this below it.)

"To follow you, I'm not content /
Unless I know, which way you went."