

THE BATTLE IS THE LORD'S

During the rest of the month of August, we will study a new series of lessons entitled, "The Lion's Mouth." These lessons will teach us how to win over adversities in the CWL that challenge the believer's faith.

Our first lesson involves a teenage believer's faith being challenged with an adult type of adversity. To lose meant to be caught in the lion's mouth. To win meant to be delivered from the lion's mouth by applying the faith cycle.

Our lesson text comes from a conversation between the shepherd boy, David, and King Saul at the front lines of a war with the Philistines. It is the famous Bible story of David verses Goliath.

FIVE aspects of how to make the battle the Lord's and to be delivered from the Lion's mouth every time you are engaged in adversity to the CWL.

1. As a young spiritually advancing teenage believer, David was confident in how to make the battle the Lord's in order to win over adversity in life.

We will examine three homiletical points that David used to win over adversity.

Truth - "The battle is the Lord" (2 Chron.20:15-17) [Jehoshaphat verses coalition army]

"Who is the King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle." (Ps.24:8)

Test - The battle is between the Lord and the lion, NOT YOU!

- **Human viewpoint** "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are but a youth while he has been a warrior from his youth." (2 Chron.17:33)
- **Divine viewpoint** "The Lord will deliver me." (2 Chron.17:37) [to Saul], (2 Chron.17:46) [to Goliath]
"And that this assembly may know that the Lord does not deliver by sword or by spear; for the battle is the Lord's and He will give you into our hands." (2 Chron.17:47)

Trust - "The Lord will delivered me" – "The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." (2 Chron.17:37)

These three points are important to completing the faith cycle.

2. David understood how to get a repeat performance of overcoming adversities in CWL by the Lord.

David had confidence in the Lord's ability to deliver from adversity – "The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine."

"And being fully assured that what He had promised, He was able also to perform." (Rom.4:21)

THE FAITH CYCLE

Hearing (Rom.10:17)

Completion (James 2:22)

Believing (Heb.4:2)

Applying (2 Cor. 5:7)

3. **The battle must always be given to the Lord.**

Especially whenever you think you can handle it in your own strength and wisdom. (Matt.14:28-31) [Peter on stormy water and under stormy water] (James 1:5-6) [being double-minded].

Suppose David's confidence had been, "I can beat the lion and the bear and I can beat Goliath." I can deliver myself. Do you know why this would have been spiritual defeat and not victory?

Where was David's confidence in victory over adversity of life?

_____ (2 Chron.7:37) _____ (2 Chron.7:47)

The fight is ours but the battle to win is the Lord's. "I fought the good fight." (2 Tim.4:7) "Fight the good fight of faith." (1 Tim.6:12)

"When a lion or bear came out and took a lamb from the flock, I went out after him and attacked him, and rescued it from the mouth; and when he rose up against me, I seized him by his beard and struck him and killed him." (2 Chron.7:34-35)

4. **Whenever faith takes our weaknesses to the Lord's strengths, then the battle becomes the Lord's.**

Only then are we able to take the offensive and not be defensive regarding our adversities (2 Cor.12:9-10).

Truth - "For My (Christ) power is made perfect in weakness (2 Cor.12:9a).

Test - Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me (2 Cor.12:9b)

Trust - That's why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong (2 Cor.12:10)."

"For we walk by faith and by sight." (2 Cor.5:7)

5. **Paul understood that our adversities may change (i.e. the lion, bear, and Goliath tests), but the source of victory remains the same (The Lord).**

It doesn't matter if you are dealing with youthful, middle or older age problems, the source of victory is always the same - "The battle is always the Lord."

It doesn't matter how often the adversity changes or intensifies, the source of victory is always the same - "The Lord will deliver me."

What matters is that the spiritually advancing believer keeps cycling faith to the adversity until the Lord delivers either from it (David) or through it (Job).

**No matter what the challenge,
TO WIN
The fight will always be ours, but the battle must always be the Lord's!**