

The Battle Is of the Lord

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Mike Miller

Straight Paths Bible Church

2 Samuel 5:17-25 But when the Philistines heard that they had anointed David king over Israel, all the Philistines came up to seek David; and David heard of it, and went down to the hold. The Philistines also came and spread themselves in the valley of Rephaim. And David inquired of the LORD, saying, Shall I go up to the Philistines? wilt thou deliver them into mine hand? And the LORD said unto David, Go up: for I will doubtless deliver the Philistines into thine hand. And David came to Baal-perazim, and David smote them there, and said, The LORD hath broken forth upon mine enemies before me, as the breach of waters. Therefore he called the name of that place Baal-perazim. And there they left their images, and David and his men burned them. And the Philistines came up yet again, and spread themselves in the valley of Rephaim. And when David inquired of the LORD, he said, Thou shalt not go up; but fetch a compass behind them, and come upon them over against the mulberry trees. And let it be, when thou hearest the sound of a going in the tops of the mulberry trees, that then thou shalt bestir thyself: for then shall the LORD go out before thee, to smite the host of the Philistines. And David did so, as the LORD had commanded him; and smote the Philistines from Geba until thou come to Gazer.

- I. David truly believed that God governed this world.
 - A. We all say we believe this but we do not live as though we do.
 - B. We do not see God's hand in all the small insignificant things around us.
 - C. We look for signs and wonders and great things to confirm our feelings and desires and miss the hand of God in the basic everyday realities of life.
 - D. We allow ourselves to be guided by circumstances and not the voice of God, and then try to pretend that it is God who is leading us.
 - E. We live our lives reacting to circumstances in our human nature rather than divine guidance.
 - F. This was another great thing about David that set him apart from other men.
 1. He didn't determine whether to fight an enemy or not by sizing up the numbers and strength and estimating his chances.
 2. It did not matter how many they had or he had, the only thing that mattered was what God told him to do.
 3. And he always won the battle with this kind of strategy.
 - G. What a different church we would have if we all fought our battles this way instead of our own way!

- II. The way of man is to find out what works and keep doing it, but sometimes the same things have to be done different ways.
 - A. David had defeated the Philistines once by simply charging them head on.
 - B. Most men would be of the opinion that it worked well that way the first time, so we will do it the same way this time.
 - C. But David was listening for counsel from God and therefore knew to not try that way this time.
 1. He was to "fetch a compass behind them" – sneak around behind them and wait for the signal from God to attack.
 2. God told him the place: "over against the mulberry trees."
 3. The signal was to be a "going in the tops of the mulberry trees."

- D. This was something that would not get the attention of the Philistines, or the men that were with David – it was a signal to David to go after the Philistines – only he would know when to charge.
 - 1. This is the way it works – what seems insignificant and meaningless to the multitude may be God’s signal to the spiritual man who is listening for his voice. (Saul of Tarsus, also)

III. We will likely have to fight the same enemy over and over.

- A. David had just defeated the Philistines and ran them off, and burned all their idols they had abandoned, but now they have returned in strength again already.
- B. We must face this fact without losing faith and hope in God and his leading in our battles with this enemy.
- C. Just because the enemy returns does not mean that we missed God or that we didn’t fight the battle like He told us to.
- D. We realize that we are involved in a warfare and a war consists of many battles – not just one – so we keep fighting and in each battle we seek the Lord’s guidance.
- E. We do not question the Lord about why He allows them to keep coming back and blaming God or ourselves for this nuisance and problem in our life.
- F. We should adopt David’s rule of life for our own:

That we should embark on nothing — no plans or projects started — no movements made — without first consulting the will of God: seeking His approval, and placing ourselves under His guidance.

Psalm 37:5 Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.

- G. We should not be as most men are and try to live our spiritual life and fight spiritual battles with carnal weapons and means.

1 Corinthians 1:22 For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom:

IV. It seems that many people think that it was easier for David (and others in the OT) to discern the will of God because God spoke to them.

- A. But we know that each successive dispensation of God in his dealings with man has been better than the one that preceded it.
- B. We now have the Holy Spirit to “guide us into all truth.”
- C. We have the written Word of God preserved forever to carry in our hands and read with our eyes.
- D. We have all the history of God’s revelation to man from the Garden of Eden until now.
- E. We have millennia of godly examples and ungodly examples to look at and compare and learn from.
- F. So the problem is not really discerning the will of God, but the problem is more about bringing our will into submission to the will of God.
- G. David’s circumstances or means available to him were not superior to what each of us has right now to discern the will of God and be lead by God in the battles of life.

V. Do not look in for extraordinary, mystical, wonderful things to guide you, but look in the commonplace natural things – that is where God will speak to you.

- A. Be guided by the truths of the Word of God and not by things that fascinate, excite, or thrill your senses.
- B. The revelation of God given to us in our soul through the working of the Spirit of God by the Word of God is to be our guide, our light, our strength for the battles of life.