

Never Alone
Our Ever-Present God
Enduring Faith

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2 Samuel 23 New Living Translation

This chapter speaks of David's mighty men. Men who stood out amongst many others who fought alongside David. It shares a story of one man who was left alone in the middle of a field to fight against an oncoming army and how he trusted God for the victory.

I think that we have all had times when we've felt alone, but as followers of Christ, we're never truly alone. The presence of God in the person of the Holy Spirit is always with us. Jesus promised that, before He left this earth

⁸ These are the names of David's mightiest warriors.....

11 Next in rank was Shammah son of Agee from Harar. One time the Philistines gathered at Lehi and attacked the Israelites in a field full of lentils. The Israelite army fled, 12 but Shammah held his ground in the middle of the field and beat back the Philistines. So the LORD brought about a great victory.

1. These men were not born warriors.
2. Many learned the art of battle by following David.
3. They were able to see in David a man faithful to God.
4. And they followed David and God delivered them all.
5. They became part of David's elite special forces.
6. Shammah was not intimidated by the fact that the Israelite army had fled and left him alone.

David wrote in Psalm 144:1 *Praise be to the LORD my Rock, who trains my hands for war, my fingers for battle. He is my loving God and my fortress, my stronghold and my deliverer, my shield, in whom I take refuge, who subdues peoples under me.*

7. David understood that it was the Lord who trained his hands for battle and his fingers for war.
8. No Doubt that David taught his men about his Love for his country and His God.

Let me give you 3 principles that I find in this narrative.

- I. **Your attitude should not be determined by your circumstances; it must be the result of your relationship with your God.**

1. 2 Sam. 23:11b – 12a*The Israelite army fled, 12 but Shammah held his ground in the middle of the field.....*
2. Everyone ran except for Shammah.
3. **Shammah's attitude or mindset was that he knew where his strength came from.**

THE IMPACT OF ATTITUDE

The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of Attitude on life.

Attitude to me is more important: than facts, than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, than what other people think or say or do, than appearances, than giftedness or skill.

It will make or break a company...a church...a home.

The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the Attitude we will embrace for that day.

We cannot change our past.

We cannot change the inevitable.

The only thing we can do is play on the one thing we have, and that is our Attitude.

I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it.

And so it is with you...*"We are in charge of our attitudes."* (Charles Swindoll)

II. Your identity is not determined by what others say, but by what God says about you.

1. **In the book, Biblical Names, the meaning of the name Shammah is:**
Loss, desolation,
2. **Loss**---Action of losing or losing oneself
3. **Desolation**—A feeling of sinking or emptiness caused by great anguish, pain, or sadness.
4. With a name like that, Shammah should have been living a life of defeat.
5. But His name has another meaning.
6. **AMAZEMENT** - a feeling of great surprise or wonder, great astonishment, wonderful, awe-inspiring, admiration, dazzling, surprising, dumbfounded (bewildering by surprise)
7. How could a name have such different meanings? I DON'T KNOW.
8. However; I do know that when God comes into your life.... EVERYTHING CHANGES!!

9. The world identifies you by your past mistakes.
10. God identifies you by your relationship with His Son.
11. Galatians 2:20 *My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*
12. Someone said...
 - a. Your Past and Your Present cannot occupy the same place.
 - b. Your sin and God's forgiveness cannot occupy the same place.
 - c. Your defeat and your victory cannot occupy the same place.
13. Many Christians feel defeated, burned-out and frustrated; because their identity is in their past mistakes' vs their present, grace filled redemption.

Romans 3:24 Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins.

III. You fight the battles, but God works the victory.

1. *v12 But Shammah did not give ground in the middle of the field and drove the Philistines back. **So the LORD gave him a great victory.** [2 Sam. 23:11-12].*
2. God is looking for a men and women, who are determined to stand firm,
 - a. Who will not run.
 - b. Who will not doubt.
3. When God is in the middle, there is no need to fear.!!!

Nahun 1:7 The Lord is good, a safe haven when trouble comes. He is close to those who trust him.

4. The moment comes when a brave believer says.....
 - a. This is the end of the abuse.
 - b. This is the end of the enemy's attack on my family,
 - c. This is the end of the enemy's attack on my marriage,
 - d. This is the end of my battle against fear, anxiety, sin....

5. **Where you gave up in your past,..... Stand your ground today.**
6. Your destiny is not determined by what's in front of you, It's determined by who's inside of you...
The Spirit of God.

Conc.

FAITH FIGHTS

Habakkuk 2:4 Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: **but the just shall live by his faith.**

I heard a story about a midwestern farmer 50 years ago. The farmer went to the bank to borrow money to buy seed to plant his whole farm in corn. He fired up the old tractor and plowed for many days. He disced the ground. He spread fertilizer over the whole farm... and planted the corn.

The rains came and the corn grew. In one day millions of grasshoppers flew on to his property and his precious crop was being consumed by the grasshoppers.

One Sunday at prayer meeting the farmer cried out to God... Father, we will loose the whole farm, I owe money at the bank...

The farmer got up from prayer in GREAT FAITH... As he walked home, his heart kept saying, let the chickens out...

Now the farmer pondered: HOW WILL LETTING THE CHICKENS OUT HELP ME?

The next day the farmer was up at dawn, he opened the doors to the chicken house...The chickens came out and ate the grasshoppers...

The chickens thrived... there were many baby chickens hatched. The eggs were plentiful.

The farmer started loading up the eggs and chickens and traveled the area selling the chickens...

No, the farmers faith never saved the crop, but GOD HAD A BETTER IDEA. For several years the farmer made his living from the chickens that God blessed...

I want to tell you --- FAITH FIGHTS...

FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT OF FAITH...

How God wins the Battle is up to Him.

Our part is to stay in the fight.

