

Morning Devotions - Psalm 18

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I. Introduction. (Psalm 18)

II. Heart preparation for battle. (Psalm 18:23-24)

A. David exposed himself to the Word of God. Sin will keep you from the Word, or the Word will keep you from sin.

B. All of us have a besetting sin, so David wanted to get his straight as the first thing. (Hebrews 12)

C. David also had a resolve to do something positive. Salvation is three-fold; we are delivered from the penalty of sin, being delivered from the power of sin, and will be delivered from its presence in the future. (2 Corinthians 1:10)

1. Having turned from sin he felt cleanness.

2. He experienced something like the New Testament doctrine of justification by feeling blameless.

3. He experienced Christ's imparted righteousness.

4. He experienced exuberance as a result of this.

D. David calls God a rock showing his greatness in comparison to others. (Deuteronomy 32)

III. Mental and psychological preparation for battle.

A. Humble.

B. Haughty.

1. David had to deal with pride.

2. Pride is the only disease that makes everyone sick except the one who has it.

3. An example where pride was not a weakness. (2 Samuel 3:38)

4. God opposes the proud and gives grace to the humble right now. (1 Peter 5:5)

5. The example of a speaker who proudly went to the podium and delivered a poor speech. If he had went up as he had gone down, he would have fared better.

C. Advance.

1. There needs to be a focus on attack rather than defense so that Christians can take strongholds for God.

2. These strongholds include godless education, media, government, etc.
3. David's attitude was that with God's help, he could advance. (Philippians 4:13)
4. No wall is too great a barrier.

IV. Skill preparation for battle.

- A. David has toned up his muscles so that he and his men would have extraordinary muscles.
- B. God does not set us on high places without giving us a sense of balance first. (Psalm 18:33)
- C. God broadens the path so that the rocky hazards are not a threat in bad terrain. (Psalm 18:45)
- D. The testimony of one successful commander: his men knew that they had the best equipment, they had all of their affairs in order, and they knew their equipment perfectly.
- E. The bottom line: heart and skill are required for battle.

V. God's involvement in the battle.

- A. David never lost a battle.
- B. David had considerable resources on hand as God got involved.
 1. God gave David a glimpse into what He was doing behind the scenes supernaturally.
 2. Elijah too was given a glimpse into the supernatural armies of the Lord. (2 Kings 6:17)
- C. Today there is another battle on a different realm - God is sending us to open the eyes of the blind and turn them from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God. (Acts 26)
 1. The greatest spiritual warfare and victories are when God delivers an individual out of the power of Satan and into the kingdom of God into His power.
 2. David's battle is a picture of a much greater battle.

V. David and his warriors' involvement in the battle.

- A. David gave the credit to God for the success of the battle.
- B. The lesson from Gideon: God had him mobilize an army to deliver the Israelites from the Mideonites. Those without heart for the battle and without skill for the battle were sent home. The Mideonites were defeated by thinking that there were more Israelites than there actually were.
 1. God is looking for front men with the heart and skill for the battle. (Judges 7:21)
 2. David and his men had heart that melted the lion-hearted.

C. Christ is recruiting valiant followers with heart and skill. They are front men whose willingness provide a stage for God's magnificent intervention for His glory. In order to manifest His glory, God uses those who have a heart and skill for the battle.

Application questions.

1. What type of preparation was required of David before the battle? How is this like the preparation that is required of Christians in engaging in spiritual warfare?

2. What was the source of David's strength? Why is information essential and applicable to us?

3. Do you have a heart and skill for the battle? What will you do to prepare yourself for invading "strongholds" for God's kingdom?
