

**February 24, 2019**  
La Jolla Christian Fellowship  
**The CROWN : Episode 6**  
**Faith & Victory**  
Pastor Adam Stadtmiller

## **2 Samuel 5:17-25**

<sup>17</sup>When the Philistines heard that David had been anointed king over Israel, they went up in full force to search for him, but David heard about it and went down to the stronghold. <sup>18</sup>Now the Philistines had come and spread out in the Valley of Rephaim; <sup>19</sup>so David inquired of the LORD, "Shall I go and attack the Philistines? Will you deliver them into my hands?"

The LORD answered him, "Go, for I will surely deliver the Philistines into your hands."

<sup>20</sup>So David went to Baal Perazim, and there he defeated them. He said, "As waters break out, the LORD has broken out against my enemies before me." So that place was called Baal Perazim. <sup>21</sup>The Philistines abandoned their idols there, and David and his men carried them off. <sup>22</sup>Once more the Philistines came up and spread out in the Valley of Rephaim; <sup>23</sup>so David inquired of the LORD, and he answered, "Do not go straight up, but circle around behind them and attack them in front of the poplar trees. <sup>24</sup>As soon as you hear the sound of marching in the tops of the poplar trees, move quickly, because that will mean the LORD has gone out in front of you to strike the Philistine army." <sup>25</sup>So David did as the LORD commanded him, and he struck down the Philistines all the way from Gibeon to Gezer.

**"Man is born free but everywhere is in chains."**

- Jean Jacques Rousseau

### **David's run of victories after becoming king display faith in action.**

- We often underestimate victorious momentum, meaning that one victory makes the next easier to achieve.

### **David was not willing to be a slave of anyone other than God.**

**A Biblical Truth:** You will never have peace without victory and you will never have victory without being willing to fight.

- After defeating his enemies, David experiences a season of peace.
- 2 Samuel 7:1 *After the king was settled in his palace and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him.*

### **Observations from life:**

1. Few are willing to totally vanquish the foe.
2. When you make a truce with your enemy, you risk becoming their slave.

### David's three-fold plan of victory:

1. David knew where to go.
2. David knew whom to consult and who would ultimately win the battle for him.
3. David never abandoned faith.

#### 1. David knew where to go.

**Vs. 17** *When the Philistines heard that David had been anointed king over Israel, they went up in full force to search for him, but David heard about it and went down to the stronghold.*

- A stronghold is a place that exponentially quantifies your strengths.
- We often chose to leave ourselves exposed rather than seeking refuge in the stronghold.

#### 2. David knew whom to consult who would ultimately win the battle.

- **Vs. 20** *So David inquired of the LORD, "Shall I go and attack the Philistines? Will you deliver them into my hands?" The LORD answered him, "Go, for I will surely deliver the Philistines into your hands."*
- Inquiry is a powerful tool of victory.

#### 3. David never abandoned faith.

- God can't let you ultimately win a battle without faith. If you can "ultimately" win a battle without faith, you don't need God. Thus, God would be made a liar. This is why every spiritual victory in your life will have a moment of uncertainty.
- A study of scripture will show why this is. If we cannot win the ultimate battle of complete righteousness before God without faith, than how can we expect to win any other without the faith component being central.

**Galatians 2:21** *I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!"*

- **To win this battle, David has to trust the supernatural.**
- **Vs. 23** *So David inquired of the LORD, and he answered, "Do not go straight up, but circle around behind them and attack them in front of the poplar trees. <sup>24</sup>As soon as you hear the sound of marching in the tops of the poplar trees, move quickly, because that will mean the LORD has gone out in front of you to strike the Philistine army."*

**Food for the journey:** These questions are for deeper personal reflection or for discussion in one of our small groups.

1. Pastor Adam mentioned the momentum of victory. Have you ever seen other difficult challenges conquered in your life once you overcome one?
2. Asking God for direction is a powerful spiritual weapon. How do we go about this?
3. How do you discern when God is speaking to you and are you comfortable with the necessity of faith? *Meaning, there will always be a moment of uncertainty in a spiritual victory.*
4. David trusted the supernatural for victory. How do we do that in a modern world?
5. David went to the stronghold when under assault. Where is your stronghold?