

## FAITH THAT IS ALIVE

### 2 Chronicles 20:1-30

**Introduction:** As you read the Bible, there is one fact that stands out very often, revealed in many ways in the lives of people. This one fact is especially important during times of darkness, difficulty and discouragement. This great fact is FAITH. Faith can always count on God and God will always answer faith. How would you grade your faith? Strong all the time? Strong some of the time? Medium? Weak? Jehoshaphat's kind of faith is one that bears looking into.

### I. THE PROBLEM FACING JEHOSHAPHAT

1. **vv 1, 2:** This was no ordinary, every day problem. An invading army made up of the descendants of Lot and Esau was near at hand.
  - Israel was broken as the 10 tribes were arguing with each other and things looked gloomy.
  - Regardless of the situation, God is always there and can always be counted on.
  - Jehoshaphat knew that God was always there so he went to God at once.
2. **vv 3-7:** Here was faith for God had given the land to Israel (through Abraham) forever.
  - God's gifts and His callings are forever and on this and this alone faith can take its stand.
  - God never changes and God had made the covenant with Abraham, not by man's laws but by His promise.
  - On this promise Jehoshaphat took his stand.
  - Acts of faith are always noticed and appreciated by God.
    - The bolder the act, the more welcome to God.
  - God delights to be trusted and he delights to be trusted completely.
3. **vv 8-12:** Jehoshaphat was showing that his faith was alive.
  - Most people will say that they have faith, but when their faith is put to the test it often fails.
  - Faith brings God to the scene.
  - **v 12ff:** Here is the key to faith - meet God on God's ground for the devil will fill you with doubts and fears. He will try anything to keep you from getting on God's ground.
  - Our only source of power is in God.
4. Where do you stand? Where is your faith? Is your faith alive?
  - Can you say that you are on God's ground?
    - If Jehoshaphat wasn't sure whether he was on God's ground or not, then he was in deep trouble.
    - Note, he didn't say "I hope I am, or I'm not quite sure I am" no, his eyes rested on God and God alone.
  - Jehoshaphat was aware of his nothingness before God. He knew he was in the right place.
    - Can you say that right now?
    - Is everything about you settled on God's ground?
    - All must be on God's ground if you are to have victory over your enemies.

- Here is where most people are weak. Their confidence in God is not clear and sure.
  - There are moments when all is well that their faith is fine but when things begin to go wrong, clouds gather, sin comes along, then they begin to question this and that and soon slip into unbelief and then into despondency.
  - All this dishonors God and shows that one's foundation is not anchored on God's ground.
- How can one be sure that he/she is on God's ground?
  - Is it something that can be felt? No for faith can't be felt.
    - True faith rests only on the testimony of the Bible, not feelings.
  - What if Abraham followed his feelings? Or Moses?
  - We have today the very same authority, the same ground to base our faith upon that Abraham, Moses, Noah, Peter and Paul did and that is the Word of God.
  - The Word of God is sufficient for all our needs.
- Is your life filled with unbelief, uneasiness, lack of faith?
  - Turn and look solely, simply to the living God and turn your eyes away from everybody and everything else.
  - Put everything into the hands of God as did Jehoshaphat.

## **II. JEHOSHAPHAT FOUND THE ANSWER HE NEEDED**

1. **vv 15-17:** What an answer - God was going to fight the battle in their place. No question to the outcome of that battle.
  - Faith put the problem, the burden, the trial into God's hands and God never refuses to respond to such an act of faith.
  - When we come to the same realization as Jehoshaphat did, and when we come humbly to God, then God will act.
    - We don't need man's word to prove that God's Word is true. What is man's word compared to God's Word?
      - Sadly this is a major problem with many, taking man's word first instead of God's word and then wanting proof before trusting.
    - The only solid thing to stand on is God's Word. If God's Word is not enough for us then we are lost, adrift, with nothing to base our faith upon and are plunged into doubt and uncertainty and are most miserable.
  - The resting place of faith is on God's Word which is the Bible, the Scriptures.
    - Strong faith comes from rejecting man's authority and interpretations.
    - Nothing more is needed for genuine, everlasting faith but God's Word.
  - This kind of faith enabled Jehoshaphat to bow his head in complete confidence in God.

## **III. JEHOSHAPHAT'S FAITH BROUGHT ASTOUNDING RESULTS**

1. **v 22:** Can you imagine God using military strategy? That's what God did.
2. **v23:** This was the end of that "great company of a million and more" that Jehoshaphat faced.
  - A million more would not have made any difference to God.
  - Circumstances are nothing to God. Remember that!

3. **vv 24-26:** This will always be the result of a living, daily walk kind of faith with God.
  - Over 2500 years have passed since this event in Jehoshaphat's life but God hasn't changed a bit.
  - Faith is still answered by God.
  - *"Those who believe shall be established and shall prosper."*

## **CONCLUSION:**

1. Where is your faith? Do you have the kind of faith that Jehoshaphat had? If not, you can.
2. Read God's Word, Believe every Word. Don't take any man's word as proof for God's Word does not need proving and who is man to say he can?
3. If you have to have more than God's Word, then you surely cannot take any person's word for anything.
4. Believe with simple, unmoving faith in the Word of God - this is the key to strong, living faith.