



Psalm 23: Confidence & Bravery in Battle
Lesson 3: Warfare Strategies

1. Introduction and review

We in the previous lesson that David wrote this Psalm in the face of danger as a reminder of his covenant with God.

Psalm 23 is what you need when you are facing an attack of the enemy – you need to remind yourself of your covenant with God!

Psalm 23 was possibly written right before David fought Goliath.

Psalm 23 is all about the relationship of a shepherd with his sheep.

At the time of the story of David and Goliath, David was still a shepherd.

Psalm 23:1

This is the mentality of warfare.

The Lord IS my shepherd therefore, I shall not want

In other words, because of who the Lord is (because of His nature and His character) I can count on the fact that certain things will be a reality in my life.

Psalm 23:2

David is rejecting fear!

He is saying, “I don’t need to be afraid. My chief, my boss is leading me. He will lead me to a safe place.”

When you are facing the enemy, _____

Psalm 23:3

The “soul” in this verse represents, not just your mind, but the total person – your life.

Not only does God promise to be by your side, but he will also bring refreshing to your life!

It means that God revives and reinvigorates my life when it is exhausted and weary.

God renews me and refreshes me when I am weary from the battle.

2. God will lead us in the right paths.

Psalm 23:3

God will lead us in right paths, or right ways.

He will never lead me into a place that would end up in my destruction or ruin.

Definition of PATHS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS: _____

What does it mean – “For His name's sake”? – For His own sake; or, that His name may be honored

Psalm 37:23

Psalm 37:23 – Amplified Bible

The steps of a [good] man are directed and established by the Lord when He delights in his way [and He busies Himself with his every step]

3. Fighting from a position of victory.

Psalm 23:4

Remember, David wrote this Psalm right before he went to fight Goliath in a valley.

It is important to understand that he wrote in verse three that God only leads him in the right paths.

Your battle does not mean you got off course or you are on the wrong path!

He is there to face the enemy with us.

We must still fight, but we know we have the victory. We fight from a position of victory.

Ephesians 2:4-6

We are seated with Christ. But where is He seated?

Ephesians 1:21

This is where Christ is seated. This is where we are seated with Him!

We are seated far above all demonic spirits.

Many Christians do not understand this. They do not understand their position.

If we lived and prayed from a revelation of our _____ in Christ, no demon in Hell would be able to stand against us.

4. What do we know about being able to stand confident during a fight from this verse?**Psalm 23:4**

First, we recognize that God, our Shepherd, is with us.

Definition of WITH: _____

Because of the truth that God is with us – we have no fear!

We reject fear because God is right there along with us. He is by us. He has taken our battle upon Himself.

There is a great truth here – During the battle, the enemy will constantly try to inject fear into you. You cannot receive it. You must walk by faith!

Fear comes through words:

- Words from the enemy
- Words from people

Faith comes from words. – _____

Rejecting fear is a decision you must make daily, sometimes hourly, as you go through a battle.

Deuteronomy 31:6

5. The rod and staff bring comfort during the battle.

Some commentaries tell us that the rod and the staff were the same thing. Some say that they are two separate things.

Whichever it happens to be, most agree with this:

- The rod was used by the shepherd to defend the sheep.
- The staff was used by the shepherd to guide the sheep.

Both things are important in warfare. They both bring confidence during a battle.

- _____

Psalm 5:11

Why can we rejoice? – Because God is defending us.

Why is He defending us? – Because we are putting our trust in Him.

God is moved by faith. He is moved by trust.

Psalm 7:10

Definition of DEFENSE: _____

The New Testament tells us that our shield is activated by faith.

Psalm 59:16

Psalm 62:2

Walking into battle I have confidence that God is my defense, and I am not moved.

Definition of MOVED: _____

- We have confidence that God will guide us.

Isaiah 49:10

Isaiah 58:11

Both verses speak of God guiding us during a difficult time (time of drought).

The shepherds staff guides the sheep.

The staff was given to a shepherd for a lifetime! It became a diary that included markings of important events in the life of the shepherd.

Before fighting Goliath, David would have looked at his staff. The markings on the staff reminded him of the time he killed a lion and the time he killed a bear. The things that God did for him in the past brought him comfort as he faced his next enemy.

This is a principle of warfare. Remind yourself of what God did for you in the past so that you have comfort, strength, and faith to face the giant standing in front of you now!

This is the power of thanksgiving. We do not think about thanksgiving as a weapon of war, but it most certainly is exactly that.

6. Thanking God releases power.

2 Corinthians 2:14

Just before Jesus fed the five thousand, He gave thanks.

Mark 8:6

Jesus gave thanks and then the miracle happened.

Thanking Him brings us to _____

Luke 17:12-19

All ten lepers went away and were healed. Only one returned to give thanks. What happened to him?

Luke 17:19

Your faith has made you well.

The faith that was already inside of him was _____ as he gave thanks!

This is a warfare strategy. When you give thanks for all God has done for you in the past, as an act of worship, it will stir up your faith for the battle standing in front of you.