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VOL. XXX
NO. 1
January 4, 2015

Tower of Strength

**“The name of the Lord is a strong tower
The righteous runs into it and is safe.”**

—Proverbs 18:10

Like An Army of God

Jesus Christ is calling for men!

Not just any men. Faithful men. Diligent men. Brave and reliable men who will serve Him with an undivided heart, and who are confident enough to expect the same from the people under their charge.

Men like those described in 1 Chronicles 12, a passage that recounts the heroic deeds of faith performed by David’s followers. Since all things in the old are written to inform the new, we can expect that the sorts of men that supported David will be exactly the sorts of men that will support the greater Son of David, that is, Jesus Christ.

Men Who Are Committed to Jesus as Lord

The passage begins,

These are the ones who came to David at Ziklag, while he was still restricted because of Saul the son of Kish; and they were among the mighty men who helped him in war. They were equipped with bows, using both the right hand and the left to sling stones and to shoot arrows from the bow; they were Saul’s kinsmen from Benjamin.

Ziklag was a wilderness town that David stayed in briefly, while on the run from Saul's troops. David had been anointed the rightful king by the prophet Samuel, but, years later, appearances suggested otherwise. Saul was the one living in the comfy palace, sitting on a throne and holding a scepter. David was living in dirty caves, an exile in the wilderness. At this point, the smart money was still on Saul.

But those who loved God knew that David was the rightful king (11:10), and saw that David was going about doing good, protecting the innocent, and supporting the cause of righteousness. David was the true shepherd of God's people. Thus, godly people abandoned allegiance to Saul and transferred allegiance to David. Furthermore, they were doing so at great personal risk and cost. But supporting David was so important, they were willing to leave their homes and follow him through difficult times. In fact, even some of Saul's own family from the tribe of Benjamin were putting their trust in David, because in their minds what was right was more important than what was convenient.

Fast-forward to today. Satan is presently the god of this world. Jesus is the true king, but all His enemies have not yet been subjected to Him. Jesus is calling for followers to join Him, not for the promise of physical comforts, but for the spiritual blessings of doing the work of God. People may think you strange for striking out into the wilderness to serve Christ, even turning your back on your own tribe. Jesus demands such loyalty! Jesus needs men who will not give up when the going gets tough. Men who know that the kingdom of Christ is bigger than themselves, and is worth any sacrifice they have to make. That Jesus is bigger than baseball, bigger than TV, bigger than sleep. The rewards will be worth the cost of serving Him!

Men Who Develop the Skills to Fight for Jesus

From the Gadites there came over to David in the stronghold in the wilderness, mighty men of valor, men trained for war, who could handle shield and spear, and whose faces were like the faces of lions, and they were as swift as the gazelles (12:8).

The most effective warriors in the kingdom of Christ know the word, the sword of the spirit. They have taken the time to read it and absorb it. They also have made themselves useful in areas such as leading worship, teaching classes, counseling the wayward, and supporting the sick.

Men Who Let Nothing Stop Them from Serving Jesus

These of the sons of Gad were captains of the army; he who was least was equal to a hundred and the greatest to a thousand. These are the ones who crossed the Jordan in the first month when it was overflowing all its banks and they put to flight all those in the valleys, both to the east and to the west (12:14–15).

Even those who develop the skills to fight spiritual battles must take advantage of the opportunities to fight. Life happens. Children come, activities compete for time, mortgages must be paid. Nevertheless, warriors for Christ will put the kingdom first. This is uncommon valor!

When the men of Gad sought to join David, they found an obstacle blocked their path—the Jordan River was raging in flood. Rather than say, “We tried,” they bravely risked their lives to cross. As a result, “Day by day, men came to David to help him, until there was a great army like the army of God” (12:22).

Let the warrior for Christ make no excuses! Let no obstacle prevent us from answering the call. If there’s a place where the Lord wants us to go, that’s where we will be. Imagine a church made up of such men!

Men Whom Jesus Can Count On Always

Of Zebulun, there were 50,000 who went out in the army, who could draw up in battle formation with all kinds of weapons of war and helped David with an undivided heart (12:33).

Jesus and sin don’t work together! It’s hard to serve in Christ’s army with one foot in world and one foot in church. Having an undivided heart means that Christ’s soldiers won’t get distracted or go AWOL.

Men Who Will Support the Cause of Jesus

They were there with David for three days, eating and drinking, for their kinsmen had prepared for them. Moreover those who were near to them, even as far as Issachar and Zebulun and Napthali, brought food on donkeys, camels, mules and on oxen, great quantities of flour cakes, fig cakes and bunches of raisins, wine, oil, oxen, and sheep. There was joy indeed in Israel (12:40).

Such an army must be fed. In the work of the church, when everyone chips in and helps, there is excitement and joy. Some will preach, but others must make copies and manage websites. Some will go to foreign lands, and others must support them. Cooking meals, giving rides, writing cards, holding the hands of the sick, are all vital works, often done behind the scenes.

Men Who Can Lead Jesus' Church Through Modern Times

Of the sons of Issachar, men who understood the times, with knowledge of what Israel should do, their chiefs were 200; and all their kinsmen were at their command (12:32).

All the skilled warriors in the world aren't effective without great leadership. This comparably small group of men was perhaps the most vital to David's success.

In the church, there is a desperate need for leadership. Men who are not stuck fighting battles of former generations, but who understand the present times, and who know how to apply God's unchanging word to it. Who know how to guide individuals, families, and congregations through the challenges of modern America.

The church of Jesus Christ can have great success in any community with men like these! Who will answer the call?! —*John Guzzetta*

Quote of the Week:

“He that will steal a paperclip will steal a car.”

—*author unknown*