

Monday, June 22, 2020

Devotional Thoughts from Pastor Jim Murr...

"Blessed be the Lord, my Rock, who trains my hands for war, and my fingers for battle; he is my steadfast love and my fortress, my stronghold and my deliverer, my shield and he in whom I take refuge, who subdues peoples under me."

Psalm 144: 1-2

King David wrote many of the Psalms. David had a passion for God. God was everything to him. No matter what was going in his life, David saw God's hand involved. Several of David's Psalms, including Psalm 144, touches on the theme of "battle" or "militaristic" overtures. This was not simply intended for metaphorical rhetoric. Much of David's life revolved around literal battles and militaristic realities.

David did not compartmentalize his relationship with God. At first consideration, one might think that it would be inappropriate to bring God into the conversation about wars and battles with one's enemies. But for David, God was his everything. Here in Psalm 144, David considered his military expertise to be the result of God's training and direction. This was literally true. It was God who was the "Commander-in-Chief" when it came to the battles that David would be engaged in. In fact, it was through a battle that we are first introduced to David – his battle with Goliath.

David's life was pretty much defined by his military conquests, which were done in the name of Yahweh. But even when David was dealing with other issues in his life, David dealt with them in light of his relationship with God. We can see this in many of the Psalms that he wrote. Again, David did not compartmentalize his relationship with God. David did not have God wait "at church" while he went into battle. Even more than being defined by his military life, David's life was more so defined by his relationship with God.

You and I may not be engaged in militaristic battles in a literal sense, but we certainly do face battles of various kinds in our lives. Whatever our battles are in life, God does not want us to leave Him "at church" while we deal with the battles of life. He wants to be directly involved in whatever challenges we are dealing with in life. In fact, if we involve God in our struggles, He "trains (our) hands for war, and (our) fingers for battle." He will teach us how to face the challenges of this life. And He does this by guiding us through the pages of Scripture, the Bible.

It is in God's Word that we learn the skills of dealing with life's battles. Whatever issues you are dealing with in life, don't leave God on the sidelines. There is no topic of life that is inappropriate in which to involve God. He's interested in every part of your life. He cares about the things that may be keeping you from experiencing His peace and joy. He sent His Son to win eternal peace and joy for us. Let God be your rock!

God's peace!

Pastor Jim