



## How Can I Fight for God's Purposes Like King David? Warriors of God Series

**1 Chronicles 17:16: (NASB) *Then David the king went in and sat before the LORD and said, Who am I, O LORD God, and what is my house that You have brought me this far?***



David was a hero and was anointed to become the king of Israel. Long before he assumed the throne, he defeated Goliath in battle, contributed to the sovereignty and protection of Israel and faithfully served under King Saul. All this happened before he was 25 years old. Though he became a fugitive when King Saul turned on him, he never betrayed the king or God. Many years later he finally became a mighty king and God-focused leader. This almost sounds like a happily-ever-after story, but it is not. David committed some horrible sins along the way that created havoc and cost many lives. His sins are some of the most well known in

all of Scripture! With so many bad choices, how did David maintain a godly perspective? How did he continue to fight for God's purposes? What can we learn from the rollercoaster of David's life that will encourage and enhance our attempts to be warriors for God?

recap  
recap

The world is pretty stressful right now, so we wanted to pause and do a series of podcasts diving into lessons about the life of David in the Old Testament. We were surprised at how relevant his examples are to us. Our last podcast, Episode #1129, covered the life of young David when he famously fought Goliath. We talked about facing our own Goliaths - circumstances that seem impossible - but we know the battle is the Lord's and He has the ultimate victory. We also talked about a special covenant friendship David had with Jonathan. This unlikely friendship was because Jonathan's father was King Saul, who at various times was trying to kill David. Our lesson was: Choosing the right friends can save our life, in more than one way. With godly friends, we are not in this alone.



Many stories about David are great for children to learn about. We have created two very special **CQ Kids videos: Who Was David? (Parts I and II)** found at [ChristianQuestions.com/youtube](https://ChristianQuestions.com/youtube). We have an entire library of CQ videos for kids, parents, homeschoolers or Bible class teachers.

We are now at the point where David has overcome many obstacles and adversities to become king. He was now a man of great wealth, honor and respect. But along with great success undoubtedly comes great temptation...something we all deal with.

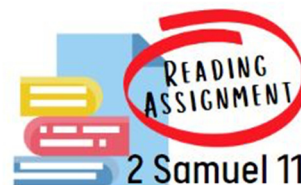


**Sins of desire dishonor God and the blessings He gives.**

The story of David and Bathsheba is an infamous cautionary account, revealing the major sins of David and his painful fight back to redemption. Satan is predictable in that he repeats himself, as mankind keeps falling for his same old traps. He presents to us opportunities that appeal to our natural, basest desires. We all know better but can have a hard time actually doing better.



We highly recommend reading the entire chapter of 2 Samuel 11, even if you are already familiar with the story of David and Bathsheba.

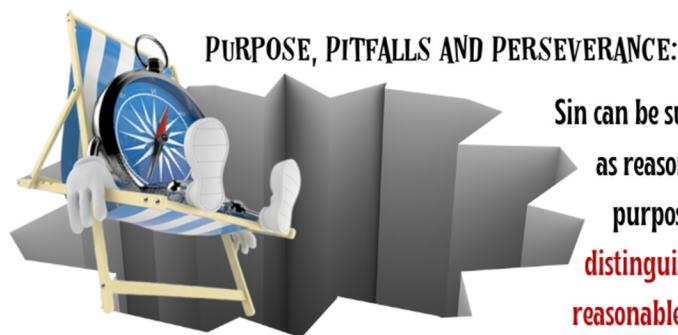


**At spring time, go to war...**

2 Samuel 11:1: (NASB) *<sup>1</sup>Then it happened in the spring, at the time when kings go out to battle, that David sent Joab and his servants with him and all Israel, and they destroyed the sons of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. But David stayed at Jerusalem.*

David was getting weary and older and did not go to war one spring. His army was highly trained and well-equipped. He sent his nephew Joab to take his place in battle. Kings and warriors on both sides stayed at home in the winter. Springtime made for better roads, and it was easier for troop movements.

What is our purpose? What kind of pitfalls do we have in front of us, and how do we persevere?

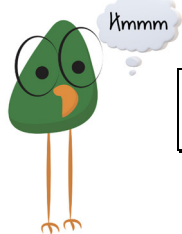


Sin can be subtle and often masquerades as reasonable rest. Keeping our purpose before our mind will distinguish between our rest being reasonable or our rest being reckless.

**This was when David was idly strolling on his rooftop and spotted Bathsheba:**

2 Samuel 11:2-5: (NLT) *<sup>2</sup>Late one afternoon, after his midday rest, David got out of bed and was walking on the roof of the palace. As he looked out over the city, he noticed a woman of unusual beauty taking a bath.*

David lost his perspective. He was a king and his army was on the battlefield. So, he takes his daily nap! Really? Is that leadership? *He noticed a woman of unusual beauty* because he was not where he was supposed to be!



How does this relate to us as Christians? Are we where we are supposed to be, or are we taking that “reckless rest” rather than resting in God?

<sup>3</sup>He sent someone to find out who she was, and he was told, She is Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite. <sup>4</sup>Then David sent messengers to get her; and when she came to the palace, he slept with her...Then she returned home. <sup>5</sup>Later, when Bathsheba discovered that she was pregnant, she sent David a message, saying, I'm pregnant.

David was not where he was supposed to be. As king, he was supposed to lead his troops in battle. David was focusing on his desires, committing adultery, then trying to cover up his adultery by deceiving Uriah and murdering him. This was followed by the death of the baby, the blot on his reputation and the agony before the Lord in begging forgiveness. ALL OF THIS WOULD NOT HAVE HAPPENED IF HE WAS JUST WHERE HE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE.



**The true followers of Christ are referred to as kings and priests. We, too, must lead in battle:**

**Revelation 1:6:** (KJV) *And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.*

As kings and priests, we have work and responsibility.

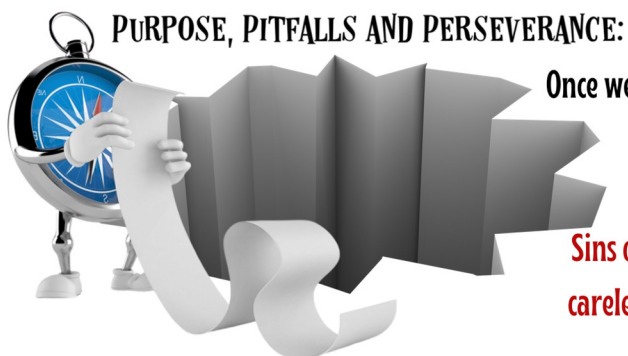
**We have been warned:**

**1 Peter 5:8:** (NKJV) *Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.*

Vigilance in the service of God is always required.

**Who can Satan not devour? The one who keeps himself sharp before the Lord and is attentive to His voice through the word of God:**

**1 John 5:18:** (ASV) *We know that whosoever is begotten of God sinneth not; but he that was begotten of God keepeth himself, and the evil one toucheth him not.*



**PURPOSE, PITFALLS AND PERSEVERANCE:**

Once we begin with a sin of ill-advised comfort,  
it is only a small step to sins  
of ever-greater proportions.

**Sins of desire often begin with rationalized  
carelessness while tending to our priorities.**

Be aware and learn from the experiences of David. His great sins came from small things, being in the wrong place and not doing what he was supposed to do in God's service.

This is downright scary. Even our small decisions can begin to build us up or begin to break us down. Think!

**This needs more discussion. What steps should we  
be taking to steer clear of subtle temptations?**

Think of temptations like bait on a hook or a mousetrap. The mouse sees cheese and thinks, that looks pretty good. Smells good, too. One step too far and it is over.



Temptations rarely look as dangerous as they are. From the roof of his palace, David saw a beautiful woman bathing. What he did NOT see was a dangerous situation that could damage the rest of his life. He did not want to see that sin was right in front of him.



**Unrepented sins create a slippery slope away from God's blessings.**



How do we arm ourselves against  
this slippery slope that can  
crash and burn our lives?

1. Take an honest assessment of what and where our personal traps are. *Remember your priorities!*
2. Pray for God to reveal to us or protect us from the traps we never guessed were a problem. This takes courage. *Remember your priorities!*
3. Stay away from people and situations that are tempting. *Remember your priorities!*
4. Be where you are supposed to be. Do what you are supposed to do. *Remember your priorities!*
5. When facing our Goliaths, know the battle is the Lord's. *Remember your priorities!*
6. Choosing the right friends can save your life in more than one way. With godly friends, we are not in this alone. *Remember your priorities!*

Our priorities put us in the right place.

Too often we look at things through how we feel rather than what we know. There is nothing more powerful in the midst of sin than a moment of pause to refrain ourselves. Our passions are fast and furious, and crumble because they have no substance.

We need to understand the "why" in our lives. Knowing our "why" means understanding our purpose and motivations in life.



Honor God! If my life is not honoring God in any particular moment, I need to reassess my priorities.

Gratitude! I want to be so thankful for all God has given me that I stop and think, is this action, response or activity showing God how grateful I am? Psalm 116:12: *What shall I render unto the Lord for all His benefits toward me?* We have a team of CQ volunteers who create inspirational graphics for our social media accounts. Our handle is "cqbiblepodcast." We create many graphics for "Thankful Thursday." I am on that team. I sit for a few hours each week and recall what I have been thankful for and make graphics to share.



Be an instrument to bring praise, honor and glory to our heavenly Father and help others to do the same.





Our “why” is something we return to no matter what the circumstance we are in. It needs to be easy to remember and customized to our own heart and mind.

To help deal with temptation issues, please see CQ Episode 986: How Do I Deal With Enticing Temptations?

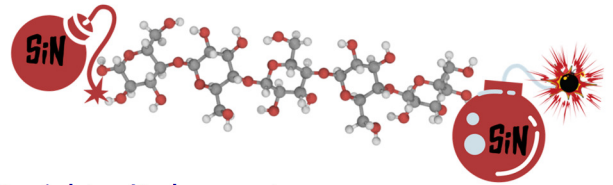
In Psalms 139:23-24, King David realized it is often difficult to examine ourselves realistically, and he prayed for God to help him see himself as he really was. *Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.*

May we pray in a similar way for God to help us examine ourselves properly, so that we may see ourselves as He sees us. We want to purge out that which is unbecoming or needs improvement.

We really like the example of the mousetrap. Sometimes temptations are hard to detect until we are already trapped.

**One sin can quickly lead to another.**

The remedy is: one priority can quickly lead to another. We can either degrade or upgrade.



We need to pause to get our priorities straight. It does not come naturally.

David's blind sensuality would lead to a desperate and guilty cover-up. David gave Uriah a letter to Joab, instructing him to put Uriah on the frontline where the battle was the fiercest. Then Joab was to pull back the other men so Uriah would be left alone and be killed.

**Uriah was killed in battle:**

2 Samuel 11:22-25: (NASB) <sup>22</sup>So the messenger departed and came and reported to David all that Joab had sent him to tell. <sup>23</sup>The messenger said to David, The men prevailed against us and came out against us in the field, but we pressed them as far as the entrance of the gate. <sup>24</sup>Moreover, the archers shot at your servants from the wall; so some of the king's servants are dead, and your servant Uriah the Hittite is also dead.

Think about the fear the messenger must have felt reporting to the king that his mightiest warrior had died in battle.

**When the news came back to David he gave a callous and flippant acknowledgment:**

<sup>25</sup>Then David said to the messenger, Thus you shall say to Joab, Do not let this thing displease you, for the sword devours one as well as another; make your battle against the city stronger and overthrow it; and so encourage him.

The man after God's own heart had devolved into a man after his OWN heart, which was filled with lust and guilt.

Heart contrast: David grieved deeply for his rivals Saul and Abner (2 Samuel 1 and 3:31-39), yet here Uriah was dead, a loyal man with a strong character.



David had spent so much time repeatedly sinning and trying to cover up what he was doing that HE NO LONGER FELT GUILTY FOR HIS ACTIONS.

May we all see our temptations for what they really are - ugly traps that derail us. Our temptations have the power to bury our priorities.

We have been matching up the six "Warrior David Lessons" with the six pieces of battle armor the Christian should be wearing.

A quick review from Episode 1129 last week:



Lesson 1: **When facing your Goliaths, know the battle is the Lord's.** This lesson corresponded to the **HELMET OF SALVATION**. The helmet protects our head and our mind. We have to understand and accept the ransom of Jesus.

Lesson 2: **Choosing the right friends can save your life, in more than one way. With godly friends, you are not in this alone.** This lesson corresponded to the **SHIELD OF FAITH**. Shields can be an offensive weapon to push back an enemy but can also be lined up, side-by-side, to provide a portable wall of defense.

Now onto Lesson 3: **At springtime, go to war. One sin can quickly lead to another!**

## the ARMOR OF GOD

Ephesians 6:15 says to have our feet shod with the preparation of the **GOSPEL OF PEACE**. We should be spreading the gospel message with us wherever our steps take us. We cannot carry peace to anyone if we are lying and sinning and trying to cover it up, leading a double life. In addition, the shoes of a soldier help them run from danger and retreat when it is necessary to regroup. To walk in the right path, we need to be where we are supposed to be, doing what we are supposed to be doing.



**We should be spreading the gospel message wherever our steps take us.**

David's army was fighting for the peace of Israel. That is similar to preparing for the kingdom of peace. Our battles must be fought, but the goal is peace. Even in war we can have peace of heart if our confidence is in God, like it was with David.

Our feet determine our location, so we need to be where we are supposed to be!



## PURPOSE, PITFALLS AND PERSEVERANCE:



Stand up to temptation! Entertaining sinful thoughts easily leads to sinful actions.

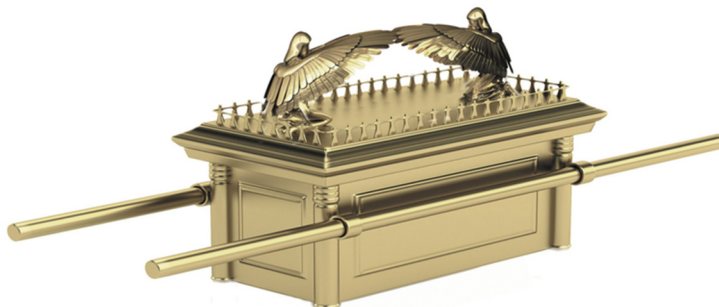
**Harboring sinful thoughts preserves potential sinful actions.**

Remember to keep your godly priorities in the front of your mind. Rest in God, not in selfishness.

Temptations can be far more dangerous than we would like to think. Do not let yourself get trapped - prepare!

**We have seen David's sins of passion. How did he apply his passion in caring for the things of God?**

The ark of the covenant was the symbol of the divine presence in Israel, and as such it was the most sacred (and thanks to pop culture with the movie, *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, the most famous) thing contained in the Tabernacle. Interestingly, this powerful artifact just vanished from Scripture. We now look at David's experiences with this ark.



**Know how to take care of holy things, for they are blessings from God.**

A simple question about how to carry the ark of the covenant provides a powerful lesson (2 Samuel 6:5-7). First, a little history about the ark leading up to the time of David:

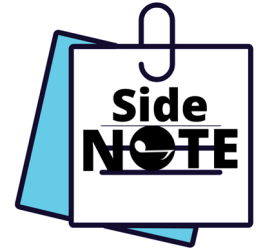
For more on the tabernacle and the ark of the covenant, please see CQ Episode 1099: Should Christians Care About the Jewish Tabernacle?

In this episode, we unlocked secrets and symbols God gave to ancient Israel. We also discussed the importance of the furniture pieces in the Tabernacle and their importance to us as Christians.

The Old Testament Law guarded the ark against irreverent handling and also from being seen by the people. Only Aaron the high priest and his sons were permitted to see or to touch it. Before being moved, they carefully covered it. It was to be hand-carried only by the Levites using two wooden staves put through rings on the sides (Exodus 25:10-15).



There was precedent for Israel to take the ark into battle, as they had a history of victories with the ark. In Numbers 10:33-35, when the people of Israel went into the Promised Land the ark was carried in first and the inhabitants of the land fled with terror. When crossing the Jordan River, the presence of the ark caused the waters to dry up. When the children of Israel went into the land in Joshua 3:9-11, their enemies fled. Having the presence of God was the most powerful weapon in the universe.



Having the ark was a physical representation of God's presence.

Fast-forward many years later when Eli was the high priest. The Philistines were at war with the Israelites.

**Following the will of God was not common at this time in Israel, and they brought the ark into battle even though it was not commanded by God:**

1 Samuel 4:10-11: (NASB) *<sup>10</sup>So the Philistines fought and Israel was defeated, and every man fled to his tent; and the slaughter was very great, for there fell of Israel thirty thousand foot soldiers. <sup>11</sup>And the ark of God was taken; and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, died.*

The Philistines captured the ark and it signaled an utter defeat for Israel. **THEY PRESUMED THE LORD WANTED TO DO THINGS THEIR WAY.**

How demoralizing this was! Their most prized possession of incalculable importance was in enemy hands. Eli, the high priest, hears about this and literally falls over and dies, and his two sons are dead. BUT wherever the ark went, the Philistine people were plagued. Their final solution was to put it on a cart and ship it back to Israel, to the town of Beth Shemesh (also called Beit Shemesh). See the account to learn about the unusual way this was accomplished.

The Jewish people in the town saw the returning ark and rejoiced. Can you imagine? "The Philistines are bringing it BACK to us!" The problem was, it was not covered, and only priests were allowed to look at it. 70 men died as a result.



Some older translations say 50,070 were slain. The Lord slew 70 men, or 50 out of 1,000. Josephus reports the population of Beth Shemesh was about 1,400 people. 50 out of 1,000 would come out to 70 people. He slew 50 out of every 1,000; 70 died out of 1,400.

**Do not treat what is holy as though it is common:**

1 Samuel 6:20: (NASB) *The men of Beth-shemesh said, Who is able to stand before the LORD, this holy God? And to whom shall He go up from us?*





In other words, who is going to take this ark? No one wanted it because no one knew how it was supposed to be used. They just knew it was super-powerful and people died around it, but they did not know why.

1 Samuel 7:1-2: The ark was brought to the house of Abinadab whose son Eleazer took care of it for decades. The home was isolated and set on a hill far away. It was aloof and distant from the people, gathering dust, not being used in the way it was intended. Israel mourned because it seemed as though the Lord had abandoned them.



Do not ignore what is holy as though it does not matter!

How often in our Christian lives do we ignore that which is holy? Remember, know how to take care of holy things, for they are blessings from God.



All holy and sacred blessings from God deserve appropriate respect and honor.

Do not be alienated from God.

**NEVER SET HIM ON A SHELF**

in a far-off place, aloof and distant from our lives. His presence with us is a blessing to us.

God's presence will not be a blessing to us unless we are in recognition of it.

King David wanted to bring the ark to the center of the city to bring the people of Israel back to a hearty and reverent worship of God.

2 Samuel 6: He gathered 30,000 of his best men and there was a grand procession, celebrating with pipers, drummers and singers. David called for the priests and the Levites (note: all priests were Levites, but not all Levites were priests) including the children of Aaron, the original high priest. David wanted to celebrate the return of God's presence.

There was great joy in the celebration as they brought the ark out of the house of Abinadab. However, no one studied how to properly move the ark. Uzzah and Ahio, two sons of Abinadab, drove it out on a *new cart* just like the Philistines.

The Philistines wanted the ark out of their presence because it brought them trouble. They did not want to be careless. They respected its power, but did not know what it was because it was not for them. Israel was expected to be reverent, but the Philistines were not. But here is the problem - transporting the ark on a cart was specifically against God's command. It was to be carried (Exodus 25:12-15) and only by Levites (Numbers 4:15). This was a good thing but done in the wrong way. The Philistines improperly handled it by transporting the ark on a cart, but they were not God's chosen people and were not expected to know or follow His laws.

# Knowledge BREEDS RESPONSIBILITY!



A desire to honor God is not  
an excuse if their is  
**inappropriate care in doing so.**

Sometimes you just get the feeling that things are going to go badly. God wants us to do things correctly.

**Having a deep desire to serve and honor God is good,  
but it is not enough! What else do we need?**

True devotion to God is far more than just a feeling. It must be based on deliberately applying whatever knowledge of God we have to our actions. David was about to be taught this in a sad but dramatic way.

 **Know how to avoid carelessness when seeking to honor God's blessings.**

Uzzah and Ahio had lived with the ark most of their lives. Maybe they were too casual with it because they lived with it so long. The oxen stumbled and Uzzah put his hand on the ark to steady it. He was immediately struck dead!

**They were not to touch this holy thing by penalty of death:**

Numbers 4:15: (NASB) *When Aaron and his sons have finished covering the holy objects and all the furnishings of the sanctuary, when the camp is to set out, after that the sons of Kohath shall come to carry them, so that they will not touch the holy objects and die. These are the things in the tent of meeting which the sons of Kohath are to carry.*

Some might think, all Uzzah did was touch a piece of furniture. Look what happened when "all Eve did was eat a piece of fruit." Reducing it to the lowest common denominator misses the point of obedience. Reducing it to its lowest common denominator is "taking a nap" when we are supposed to be in battle!

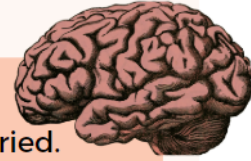


*UZZAH'S ERROR WAS MORE THAN JUST A REFLEX OR INSTINCT*

**GOD STRUCK UZZAH BECAUSE HIS ACTION WAS  
BASED UPON A CRITICAL ERROR IN HIS THINKING.**

Uzzah erred in thinking...

- it didn't matter who carried the ark.
- it didn't matter how the ark was carried.
- he knew all about the ark because it was  
in his father's house for so long.
- that God couldn't take care of the ark Himself.
- that the ground of Nachon's threshing floor  
was less holy than his own hand.



Source: Bible Commentary by David Guzik

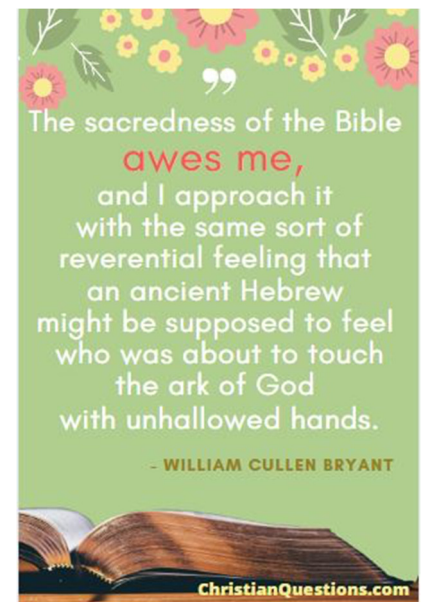
He saw no difference between the ark and any other valuable article. *Appropriate reverence* for God is even more important than the *desire* to have reverence for God.

David became angry at the Lord! He was confused and needed to figure out how to appropriately bring the ark into the city. He took it aside to the house of Obed-Edom, a Levite family. The Lord blessed Obed's household and the ark stayed there for three months.

Treating the ark (representing God's presence), as holy meant blessings followed. Treating it carelessly was disastrous. Carelessness usually comes from complacency. God requires reverence, and anything less is disobedience!

**Knowledge  
BREEDS RESPONSIBILITY!**

Remember, David threw a big celebration for the entire land, and everyone was watching what happened. They were ready to bring the ark into the city and Uzzah dramatically dies. David is embarrassed and angry at the Lord. But look at how David recovers. Instead of putting the ark back on the hill, far away from the people, he temporarily took it to the house of a Levite. He stopped to learn about how he would be able bring it into Jerusalem properly. This shows a good heart.





My grandfather was a minister and I remember going to his house and he had a big desk where he researched and wrote all of his sermons. I would sit in a chair in front of him on the other side of the desk. And in this prime little piece of real estate on the desk on my left was his Bible. Inevitably - I don't know why - I would place whatever I was showing him - my schoolwork, or a book or whatever - right on top of the Bible. He would stop, hand it back to me and firmly say, "Nothing goes on the Bible." I don't know what it was about that magnetic area, but I would do it again and again and every time he would firmly say, "Nothing goes on the Bible." It's funny, he never said, "I've told you a million times, don't do that!" Nope. Just "Nothing goes on the Bible." After at least 25 times over the years, I finally learned...what? That's right. Nothing goes on the Bible. And now I have my own desk I study at, and to my left is my Bible and...nothing goes on the Bible. It is the living, breathing word of God that I owe my life to. It is not something that gets lost in a pile. This is sacred. I think of how many Christians never had the benefit of a written Bible, and how many people have been murdered just for trying to read it. We are one of the relatively few people in all of human history that can pick it up whenever we want. It is very sobering.



### **Know how to avoid carelessness when seeking to honor God's blessings.**

Despite his hurt over the death of Uzzah and his embarrassment with all that went wrong, David focused on doing better. He carefully studied the proper procedures before moving the ark to a tent in Jerusalem. This brought the worship of God back to Israel due to David's example and expectations.

David regrouped and did not give up. He consistently went back to God and wanted to serve him, even though at times he needed to be reminded. This was a man after God's own heart.

David brought the ark into the city properly. It was covered and carried on the shoulders of Levites with poles as Moses commanded. It was put where it belonged in the tent David erected for it.

### **David comes through with appropriateness in his reverence:**

**1 Chronicles 15:1-3,13:** (NASB) <sup>1</sup>Now David built houses for himself in the city of David; and he prepared a place for the ark of God and pitched a tent for it. <sup>2</sup>Then David said, No one is to carry the ark of God but the Levites; for the LORD chose them to carry the ark of God and to minister to Him forever. <sup>3</sup>And David assembled all Israel at Jerusalem to bring up the ark of the LORD to its place which he had prepared for it. (NKJV) <sup>13</sup>For because you did not do it the first time, the LORD our God broke out against us, because we did not consult Him about the proper order.

David studied what went wrong and does what is right. We look at all of the difficulties, trials and temptations of David, but we have to look at his heart. He could have just safely left the ark with Obed, embarrassed in front of all of the people for Uzzah's mistake. David's meek and godly heart desired to get things right in order to have God's presence with them.

The people celebrated even more than before. See 1 Chronicles 13:1-14, 15:1-25 and 2 Samuel 6:1-23.



For Christians now, what is holy? What do we need to handle with appropriate reverence?



## GOD'S NAME is holy

Mentioning the name of God should always be done in the most respectful way.

Matthew 6:9: (KJV) ...pray ye, *Our Father which art in heaven, **hallowed** <37> be Thy name.*

**Hallowed**: Strong's #37, *hagiazō*, to make holy, i.e. (ceremonially) purify or consecrate; (mentally) to venerate: —hallow, be holy, sanctify

We should avoid saying, “Oh, my God!” or “OMG!” This is NOT respectful!



## JESUS' NAME is holy

Hebrews 7:26: (NASB) *For it was fitting for us to have such a high priest, **holy** <3741>, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners and exalted above the heavens;*

**Holy**: Strong's #3741, *hosios*, properly right (by intrinsic or divine character)

**Thayer's Definition**: Undefiled by sin, free from wickedness, religiously observing every moral obligation, pure holy, pious

Jesus is another name people take in vain.



## WE are holy through JESUS

1 Peter 1:15-16: (NIV) *But just as he who called you is **holy** <40>, so be **holy** <40> in all you do; for it is written: (quoting Leviticus 11:44) be **holy** <40> because I am **holy** <40>.*

**Holy**: Strong's #40, *hagios*, sacred (physically pure, morally blameless or religious ceremonially consecrated - (most) holy (one thing), saint

We should do the most holy thing in all circumstances.



## OUR TEMPLE is holy

**What goes INTO our temple? What goes OUT from our temple?**

1 Corinthians 3:16: (KJV) *Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the spirit of God dwelleth in you?*

Ephesians 2:21: (NASB) *In whom the building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord,*

What is going into our temple? Alcohol? Vaping? Pornography? Sugar? Fat? Poor nutrition? How are we treating our holy temples? This is the vessel we have to serve the Lord. We need to devote a reasonable amount of time to keeping it healthy and not mistreating it - like taking our car to a mechanic when it needs service.



**Proverbs 25:16:** (KJV) *Hast thou found honey? Eat so much as is sufficient for thee, lest thou be filled therewith and vomit it.*

Let's eat what is sufficient, not in excess.

Think about the bigger things in life where we need to maintain our holiness.



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We received an email from a listener facing serious life challenges. Part of our advice was to look at our lives like a chapter book. What has happened in the past are the chapters already read. Today is a new chapter. Let's call that chapter, "Just for today." Just for today, Lord, give me the strength to cope with this particular trial, this particular temptation, that particular desire. Just for today. When tomorrow comes, a new chapter starts, "Just for today." We might think we are not getting anywhere, but we are. We are daily becoming more victorious in managing this holy temple God has given us.

**Our temple is holy. What about that which comes OUT FROM our lips:**

**Hebrews 13:15:** (KJV) *By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.*

**Proverbs 12:22:** (KJV) *Lying lips are abomination to the LORD: but they that deal truly are his delight.*

**Psalms 141:3:** (KJV) *Set a watch, O LORD, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips.*

Is what comes out of our mouths holy, or does it not show gratitude to the Lord for all He has done for us?

If something unholy is coming out of our mouths, where did it come from? We need to manage our physical being with reverence, as David did.

Know how to take care of holy things because they are blessings from God.

## the ARMOR OF GOD

**Ephesians 6:14** describes the **BELT OF TRUTH**. It holds the **SWORD OF THE SPIRIT** and holds up the *other pieces of armor*. If we do not understand the truth, we will fall prey to the lies of the devil. If our belt is on crooked, we will have difficulty getting to our sword of the spirit. The belt neither protects nor attacks; it simply holds everything else in place. Having proper reverence for God, what He deems holy, and His EXACT instructions are what holds everything in our life together.



PURPOSE, PITFALLS AND PERSEVERANCE:

Carelessness and complacency are easy,  
but they are not godly.

A flippant attitude of "This is good enough"  
will never draw us to God.

In its place, God simply wants our best efforts!



Learn the lesson of David: Backtrack, learn and reapply.

To appropriately reverence God is to walk a demanding path. It is not for the faint of heart and it is worth it.

**David's heart for God is obvious.**

**What will he do when God rejects his desire to honor Him further?**

We have seen how David's personal passions destroyed lives and how his godly passions preserved life. Now that the ark is back in the city - now that God is "present" with Israel again - David's passion for God deepens. His goal? To have Israel honor and revere God as completely as possible.

Do you want to see what you have learned from today's podcast? We are now creating **Bible Study Questions** for every new episode released. You can find these at [ChristianQuestions.com](http://ChristianQuestions.com) on the individual podcast pages. Or from our home page, just click on:

**BIBLE STUDY**

to see the library.

## Study QUESTIONS

David was distraught that he lived in a beautiful cedar palace when the ark, which was where God's presence dwelt in Israel, only had a tent. He wanted to build the Lord a magnificent house. God said "no" but redirected him instead to make preparations for the Temple. There is a beautiful lesson for us in this little fact. We need to pause and consider what we are learning here.



**Appreciate God's blessings by using all of what is available to you.**

We talked about our priorities and what is important to us, but this is suggesting that we *use all that God has made available to us*, rather than dwelling on what He has stopped us from doing. This is how we can better appreciate His blessings.

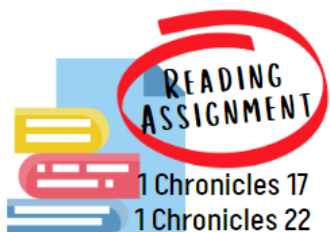
It sounds harsh when we said in our opening question for this segment that God rejected David. God saying no, was actually a *redirection* for David to perform a different aspect of service. The Lord clearly spoke to David through the prophet Nathan. We do not have the privilege of our own personal prophet. We must try to discern God's will for us to understand if the answer is "no" or something else. "No" does not necessarily mean "end of subject;" it may mean "pay attention." There may be another opportunity of service for us.

**God's love for David was shown in *disallowing* some things and *blessing* others:**

1 Chronicles 17:10-13: (NASB) ...<sup>10</sup>Moreover, I tell you that the LORD will build a house for you.

**God is talking about David building his own "house," his own incredible lineage. Jesus, the Messiah, will be born from the line of David:**

<sup>11</sup>When your days are fulfilled that you must go to be with your fathers, that I will set up one of your descendants after you, who will be of your sons; and I will establish his kingdom. <sup>12</sup>He shall build for Me a house, and I will establish his throne forever. <sup>13</sup>I will be his father and he shall be My son; and I will not take My lovingkindness away from him, as I took it from him who was before you.



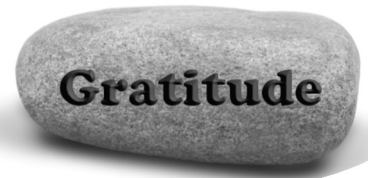
1 Chronicles 17  
1 Chronicles 22



**David was overwhelmed by this promise, and his response was a pouring out of extreme gratitude:**

**1 Chronicles 17:16-18:** (New Living Translation)

*<sup>16</sup>Then King David went in and sat before the LORD and prayed, Who am I, O LORD God, and what is my family, that You have brought me this far? <sup>17</sup>And now, O God, in addition to everything else, You speak of giving your servant a lasting dynasty! You speak as though I were someone very great, O LORD God! <sup>18</sup>What more can I say to You about the way You have honored me? You know what Your servant is really like.*



**This is humility and reverence. This is David honoring the most important thing in his life, his God, his Lord and his Master:**

**1 Chronicles 22:1-10:** (NASB) *<sup>1</sup>Then David said, This is the house of the LORD God, and this is the altar of burnt offering for Israel. <sup>2</sup>So David gave orders to gather the foreigners who were in the land of Israel, and he set stonecutters to hew out stones to build the house of God. <sup>3</sup>David prepared large quantities of iron to make the nails for the doors of the gates and for the clamps, and more bronze than could be weighed;*

We have come full circle - there is now enough iron from the Philistines. In our last podcast, Episode 1129, we saw King Saul weak and demoralized when David slayed Goliath. In 1 Samuel 13:19-21, the Philistines would not even allow the Israelites to sharpen their own farm implements, let alone make weapons. Now, the Israelites prospered so much under David militarily, they gained all the iron they needed, and the Philistines were subdued. David's preparations for the Temple have a firm foundation for moving forward.

*<sup>4</sup>and timbers of cedar logs beyond number... <sup>5</sup>David said, My son Solomon is young and inexperienced, and the house that is to be built for the LORD shall be exceedingly magnificent, famous and glorious throughout all lands. Therefore now I will make preparation for it. So David made ample preparations before his death.*

**David dedicated himself to a work he would not even see started. If he could not *build* the Temple, he was going to fully *prepare* for the Temple:**

*<sup>6</sup>Then he called for his son Solomon, and charged him to build a house for the LORD God of Israel. <sup>7</sup>David said to Solomon, My son, I had intended to build a house to the name of the LORD my God. <sup>8</sup>But the word of the LORD came to me, saying, You have shed much blood and have waged great wars; you shall not build a house to My name, because you have shed so much blood on the earth before Me.*

Bloodshed is what was expected of a king in those days. This was not a criticism from God; it was a stated fact.

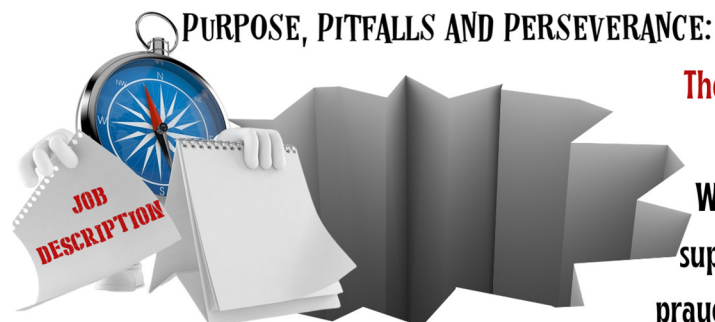
The Temple was a picture of the true church. It had to be built by a man of peace. The true church is built by Christ, the Prince of Peace. We preach the gospel of peace.

*<sup>9</sup>Behold, a son will be born to you, who shall be a man of rest; and I will give him rest from all his enemies on every side; for his name shall be Solomon, and I will give peace and quiet to Israel in his days. <sup>10</sup>He shall build a house for My name, and he shall be My son and I will be his father; and I will establish the throne of his kingdom over Israel forever.*





David was a man of *war* ([1 Chronicles 28:3](#)); Solomon was a man of *rest* ([1 Chronicles 22:9](#)). God named Solomon as the builder and promised peace in the land under his reign. Solomon was able to rest in David's victories, living and ruling without the threat of the surrounding nations attacking Israel. He could be the man of peace needed by God to build His Temple. God overruled that David would clear the way, set everything up for the Temple, and Solomon could then do the building.



**There may be someone more suited for a particular job.**

**We can still receive blessings from a support role or even a role of simple prayer for those who are doing that job.**

We may have really wanted a certain job of service to God, but maybe someone else got it who is more suited. Do we do all we can to support this person because this opportunity of doing something for the Lord is so important? It is important that we do because then we will be a David!

David gathered the materials, paid for many of them and established Israel's national peace with surrounding nations. He found and paid for the site through his punishment for numbering the people ([2 Samuel 24](#)). He commanded all the leaders to help Solomon, hired the foreign workman, made detailed plans for each room and each piece of furniture. He planned the administration and worship services and the rotation schedules for the musicians. He put it all in place for the temple, even though he did not build it. With all that, it was still called "Solomon's Temple." And David was okay with that.





Perhaps David included his own Psalms into the musical rotations. He made special instruments for the Levites to play as they sang the Psalms. The schedules for the musicians and for the service rotations of the Levites continued down through the centuries until the Temple was destroyed in 70 CE.

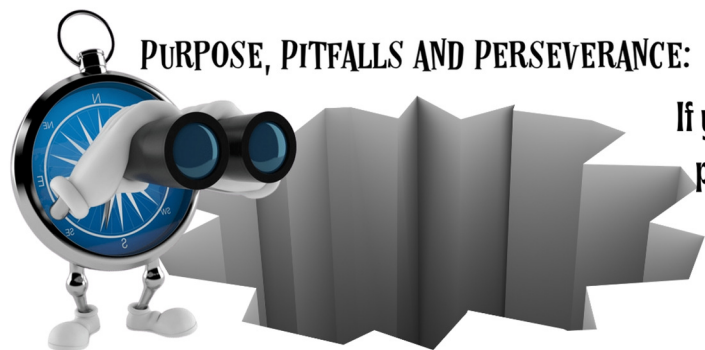
In Luke 1:5,8-23 we are told that John the Baptist's father, Zechariah, was serving in the Temple (*in the course of Abia* - his family was Abia, or Abijah, and they had duties in the Temple in Jerusalem twice a year) when John's birth was foretold.

## the ARMOR OF GOD

If you are not allowed to build a temple, provide the plans and materials for it. Focus on what God IS granting you, and accept when the answer is no.

Ephesians 6:17 tells us about the **SWORD OF THE SPIRIT**. The sword allows us to wield a great power. We can properly use God's word, the Bible, with His spirit. This helps us to deal when the answers are "no." We do not want to put down the sword and get upset that we are not able or allowed to do something we want - especially if it is something positive in His service. The other armor is fastened to us - but this sword is our decision to pick up and carry or to put down.

David's attitude of making the preparations and accepting the "no" answer when it came to the actual construction fits nicely with the picture of the sword. He did exactly what he *could* do, in the way he *could* do it. He was outfitted to *prepare*, and so he did it with his whole heart. What an incredible example!



If you are not allowed to build a temple, provide the plans and materials for it.

By focusing on what you **CAN** do, that "no" answer becomes a godly opportunity!

## the ARMOR OF GOD

We are left with one last piece in the armor of God. Ephesians 6:14 tells us about the **BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS**. That word righteousness is where Abigail shone brightest. She brought a righteous solution to David, and he listened. But this important story is a lesson for another day...tune in to next week's podcast!



We started this podcast with David's deep and dark mistakes and bad judgments, but we ended it with the greatest architecture a man could envision. We can see incredible differences in character from the beginning to the end. Which one of these defines David? It is easy to define him by his mistakes. Few know about how he poured his soul into the Temple, a home for the ark, a home for the presence of God. Few know the deep humility he showed when God told him through Nathan that his lineage would bring the Messiah - our theme Scripture, 1 Chronicles 17:16.

All David cared about was his God and how to honor Him. This was *a man after God's own heart*. We want to be a David, a man or woman after God's own heart.

*So, how can I fight for God's purposes like King David?  
For Jonathan and Rick (and Julie) and Christian Questions...  
Think about it...!*



Join us next week for our podcast on June 22, 2020  
Ep. 1131: What Does it Mean to be a Warrior for Truth?  
David and Abigail - Warriors of God Series

*A life spent making mistakes is not only more honorable, but more useful than a life spent doing nothing. — George Bernard Shaw*

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# Study QUESTIONS

## Ep. 1130: How Can I Fight for God's Purposes Like King David?

<https://christianquestions.com/character/1130-king-david/>

See:  CQ Rewind  
SHOW NOTES

1. Why would it have been better if David had gone to war “*as kings were wont to do in springtime*”? (See 2 Samuel 11:2-5). How can we apply this principle to our lives?
2. How can we avoid the slippery slope of unrepented sin? What is the thing we must *always* do? How does Psalms 139:23-24 tie into the six points discussed?
3. What purpose and motivation runs through your decisions? What is your “why” in life? How should this “why” anchor your actions? (See 1 Peter 5:8, 1 John 5:18)
4. Why is it important to pause when overtaken in a temptation? What should we do during that pause? What do temptations do to our priorities? When have you been overtaken in temptation and how could that “pause” have changed your actions? What will you do next time?
5. What was the purpose of the ark of the covenant? Why was this sacred box considered the most holy object in the Tabernacle (and in all of Israel)? (See Exodus 25:22, Numbers 10:33-35, Joshua 3:9-11) What motivated David to want to bring the ark back into prominence in Israel instead of leaving it safely in the care of Abinadab, isolated off on a hilltop?
6. How did David treat the ark of the covenant? What are some of the holy things in your life? How should you be treating those things? Why is it important that we do not ignore holy things, and that we are careful in how we handle them? (See 1 Samuel 6:5-7, 19-21)
7. What did David do after he reconsidered what God was telling him with the death of Uzzah? (See 1 Chronicles 13:1-14, 15:1-25, 2 Samuel 6:8-15) How did he change his approach in moving the ark the second time?
8. What did David want to build for the Lord? How did he react when the Lord told him “no”? (See 1 Chronicles 22:1-10) What take-away do we have from this lesson in our lives?
9. What did God promise David instead of letting him build a temple for God? (See 1 Chronicles 17:10-14) How did David feel about the Messiah coming from his lineage? (See 1 Chronicles 17:16-27)
10. What will you have to do to be like David, “*a man after God's own heart*”?