



*Unlocking Lives | Guiding Futures*

## Covered Regardless!



*And again David asked the Lord what to do. “Do not attack them straight on,” the Lord replied. “Instead, circle around behind and attack them near the poplar trees. When you hear a sound like marching feet in the tops of the poplar trees, be on the alert! That will be the signal that the Lord is moving ahead of you to strike down the Philistine army.”*

*2 Samuel 5:23-24 (NLT)*

I'm guilty! I typically decline to ask for help when lost. Men are prone to this, just ask a woman (but men won't... we're afraid to ask!) My pride has led to many extended journeys, painful disappointments too. This is yet another reason I admire King David. He asks God, "What should I do?" The Lord loves to be asked and, not only is he glad to instruct, he'll position his armies for victory!

*"You go before me and follow me. You place your hand of blessing on my head. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too great for me to understand! King David (Psalm 139:5-6)*

On top of this, he sweeps up after us when we mess up... consider the significance of this. We're covered regardless... Indeed, too wonderful to understand!

### **Reflect: Am I prone to ask God first... yet?**

Look at your track record, how's it gone when failing to ask God first? For me, it's become obvious that forging ahead without first asking almost always leads to a hard climb to a dead end. At times I've wondered, "will I ever learn?"

And I have learned... partially. For years now, I've conversed with God regularly throughout the day and I am more prone to ask. And he has set me on the right path, my Mission, but I'm still prone to attack before I hear the "*sound like marching feet in the tops of the poplar trees.*"

*"Zeal without knowledge is not good; a person who moves too quickly may go the wrong way." Proverbs 19:2*

What if David, full of confidence and zeal, had plowed ahead before

the signal? Amid attack, though following the right plan, he'd suddenly become aware that he's surrounded by Philistines and ask, "Where is God's promised army?" A recurring story for me... pride again! At times I've wondered, "will I ever learn?"

**Consider: Will I wait for the Lord's signal before attacking... next time?**

Look at your track record, how's it gone when failing to wait for the Lord's signal? Honestly, I've found waiting particularly difficult. Bolstering my confidence, I persuade myself to "be strong and courageous." The Lord goes ahead of me after all, right?!

*"Be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid of them! The LORD your God will go ahead of you. He will neither fail nor forsake you."* Moses (Deuteronomy 31:6)

I'm reminded of the Israelites going up against the armies of Ai. The Lord had already promised the land to Israel, their Mission was clear. But, coming off the miraculous victory over Jericho, the Israelite's confidence swelled. The spies convinced Joshua that only a small number of fighters was needed. Plowing ahead, the Israelites found themselves wondering, "Where is God's promised army?" Painful results!

Leveraging the opportunity, the Lord used pain to show them that they were harboring a sin.

*"You will never defeat your enemy until you remove these things." The LORD (Joshua 7:13)*

Is there a better teacher than pain? I've learned that when I go to battle ahead of God (and he allows me to), he converts it into a purifying

step. Ugh. Tail between my legs, I draw back to regroup and ask God, "Where is my sin?" It soon becomes obvious.

***Imagine: As I learn to ask and wait, a sweet peace comes over me.***

Praise the Lord! For when we plow ahead, having failed to ask and wait, and stumble before our enemies, he grabs us by the hand and sets us back on Mission. Along the way, he never misses the opportunity to purify us.

*"The steps of the godly are directed by the LORD. He delights in every detail of their lives. Though they stumble, they will not fall, for the LORD holds them by the hand." King David (Psalm 37:23-24)*

Strangely, though I know I haven't yet learned completely, I've developed a sweet sense of peace as I go. It's too wonderful to know that the Lord has me...

### **Covered Regardless!**

Go off the grid and ask these questions:

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#### **Coach's Questions**

- How will I be sure to stop and ask God first more often?
- When I've found that I plowed ahead without God, what will I do to confess my sin and return to him?
- What prevents me from experiencing peace in knowing that the Lord has me covered?

## Spirit Talk

Post this where you will see it regularly.

**I'm covered wherever I go.**

*"This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged.*

*For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."*

*The LORD | Joshua 1:9*

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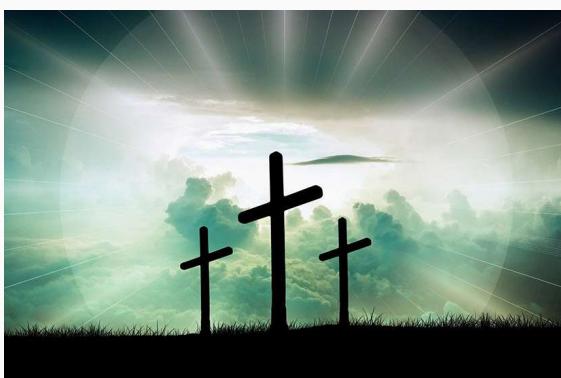
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