



Take Heart

Day 4: Verse 2

Do you remember singing
Back when you were younger
He's got the whole world in His hands
Well, that's still true
I hold your family, all your friends, and all your loved ones
And even when you're barely holding on
I'm holding you

Scripture Reference

This is what the Lord says to you: "Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God's...Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the Lord will give you..."

– *2 Chronicles 20:15, 17*



Today, we enter again in the midst of a battle scene. Judah and Israel are about to defend their land against a vast army of Moabites and Ammonites. King Jehoshaphat prays to God in verse 12 "Our God, will you not judge them? For we have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you." In a time of fear and trouble, the king sought his true King and Protector. He admitted in their own humanly flesh they did not know how to succeed, so they would turn towards their Most High.

Where do you turn when calamity is all around? In whom are you relying? Where do you affix your eyes? Do you try to rely on yourself and your own strength?

The Lord responds through His prophet "Do not be afraid or discouraged." Oh, dear one, isn't that such tender reassurance to us in our own calamity? God himself told Judah and tells us today that we do not need to be afraid or discouraged. Whenever we are facing trials, troubles, or just something plain scary, if we turn to God and affix our eyes on our perfect Savior, He is faithful to reassure us.

Take a moment to soak in the gracious comfort the Lord is providing you today: Do not be afraid or discouraged. Share your heart with Jesus today - speak of any discouragement you have faced this week as you've gone through this devotional or any discouragement you've faced recently for other reasons. Remind yourself of His encouragement and faithfulness. Fix your eyes on Him.



Why did God say to not be afraid or discouraged? Because the battle was not theirs, but God's. Today, God tells us the same thing: the battle is not ours; it is not yours; it is God's. Just as Judah did not have to fight the battle, neither do you. Stand firm and see the deliverance of your faithful God. He's got this; He's got you. Even when you're barely holding on, He's holding you. Take heart, He has overcome the world.

List some ways you can recognize God holding you up right now in a trial you are facing. If no present trials come to mind, list some ways you recognized God holding you up previously. What does it mean that the battle is not yours, but God's? Let the gravity of that truth sink in.

2 Chronicles 20:18-29 goes on to tell the very real provision and security God provided the people of Judah and Jerusalem. Take a few minutes to read through this. The scripture tells us that the Lord set ambushes against the enemy. They literally destroyed one another. While that in-and-of-itself shows us how gracious and mighty a protector our Father is, there is something just as precious to not miss. Prior to finding the enemies destroyed, the people of God praised and sang to the Lord. As they prepared to enter the battle, they reminded themselves of God's greatness. They reminded themselves they were in God's very capable hands. And He was faithful to hold them through the entire battle.

Do you praise God as you're going through your challenges? How do you praise Him? List some tangible ways you can continue to praise Him in your trials. End today in prayer praising Him for his gracious and powerful protection over you.
