

## **Trusting In The Lord**

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths" (Proverbs 3:5-6). These words of wisdom are words of excellent advice. Many find heeding these words of advice difficult during certain times in their lives. Such is the case with Joab.

We have been studying in First Samuel. Continuing into Samuel's second recording we read of Joab and see one who seems to consider the wisdom in what Solomon would record. Joab finds himself facing a difficult battle. He urged his men to wage war to the best of their ability and most importantly, to trust in God. Seemingly, the odds were against him and his men. However, with God all things are possible. Joab declares, "Be of good courage, and let us be strong for our people and for the cities of our God. And may the Lord do what is good in His sight" (2 Samuel 10:12).

Trusting God when the situation or circumstance does not seem in our best interest is difficult. Certainly, Joab and his men felt the extreme difficulty of the situation. Reading in the context of Second Samuel 10, note that God did not remove the problem they were facing. The opposing, well-armed enemy came at them from both directions. Regardless of what they faced, Joab brings to his and his men's mind the most important thought for them to focus upon, "May the Lord do what is good in His sight." Basically, Joab is encouraging thought as the Proverb writer wrote - "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding."

There will come a time, or perhaps the time has already come or is currently happening, when life will do what life will do. Moreover, what life will do is not always pleasant. When such occurs, or if it is occurring, remember Joab. Remember also Paul, who three times asked God to remove the thorn from his side (2 Corinthians 12:7-8). Yet, God left the difficulty in place. Remember as well Christ, who ask God, if possible, to remove what He was about to suffer through (Matthew 26:39). Still, God did not remove that which Jesus would eventually suffer through and die.

When life is at its toughest, we need the faith and courage exhibited by Joab, Paul, and Jesus. We cannot waiver when the devil throws his hardest shots at us because our eternal home is at stake. God promises that if we resist the devil, he will flee from us (James 4:7). Let us always be reminded that the trials of life we successfully overcome through God, we become stronger and better servants (James 1:2-4).