

A Message of Encouragement **“Lord , it is Nothing for You”**

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Most of you know by now that I developed a Cataract in my Right eye over the last couple of months.

A cataract is a hardening of the lens of the eye where it becomes cloudy over time and eventually you just go blind.

My particular type of Cataract was of the fast developing variety that progresses very quickly.

I was born blind in my left eye since birth, so the prospect of losing sight in my Right eye was very troubling to say the least.

This past week Melinda and I traveled to Phoenix to have the surgery performed on my right eye.

As the doctor examined the cataract, he told me that if I do not do the surgery now that I very likely would be blind within six months.

The doctor told me that there was also a chance that I could lose the sight in my eye as a result of the surgery itself.

He told me that for a person with sight in just one eye, this kind of surgery was very risky. He asked me if I was sure if I wanted to proceed or just wait until the cataract got worse.

We felt that since it was not ever going to get better and I am in excellent health now, the risk of losing the sight in my eye was less now that it might be later should my health not be as good.

That night back at the hotel, I was a mess. I was scared, full of anxiety, going back and forth over whether or not I really should get the surgery done.

Wondering if it was better to have sight for another six months that was clouded, rather than do the surgery now and risk not being able to see at all.

The next morning, I rose at about 6 am and spent time with the Lord in the Word. I read the chapter in Matthew 12 where Jesus entered the synagogue on the Sabbath to teach and there was a man present with a withered hand.

The Scribes and the Pharisees were also there and were watching Jesus to see whether or not He would heal this man on the Sabbath, which was illegal according to their traditions.

It was interesting to me, that whenever Jesus entered the church, He always was focused on the person in the church that had the greatest need.

There might be hundreds of others there that day, and Jesus loved all of them the same, but if

there was one there who had a greater need on that particular day, like this desperate man with the withered hand, Jesus would want to go to that person and meet their need. Then Jesus told the man to stretch out his hand and He healed his withered hand.

As I read those verses, the Lord began to tell me that on this day, as He looked around at His church, He was looking at me and noticed that I had a great need.

Then He told me to reach out my hand towards Him and He would take away all the anxiety and fear and give me peace to go through with this surgery.

I got up and went in to take a shower, as the water began to flow over my head and wash down upon my body, I lifted my hands up to the Lord and surrendered myself to Him.

At that moment, the Holy Spirit descended upon me and washed over my entire body with complete calm and amazing peace.

From that moment on, there was not a hint of any fear or anxiety upon me.

We drove to the surgeons office and I went into the operating room.

As the Surgeon completed the removal of my old lens and inserted the new lens, I began to praise and thank the Lord for what was happening to me at that moment.

Within a few minutes the surgery was over and they wheeled me out into recovery.

4 hours later when the bandages were remove, I could already see, and by the next morning, I could see better than I had seen since I was about 16 years old when I began wearing glasses.

Today my world is all new and bright and shinny and I see better than I ever imagined possible.

We serve an Amazing, Might God in whom nothing is too hard...

The Lord gave this incredible gift of being able to restore sight to that surgeon, and He used the talent the Lord gave him to heal my sight, and I am truly thankful!

My distance vision that I had been wearing corrective glasses for the past 35 years, is now just about perfect just 4 days after the surgery. It should continue to get better over the next 4-6 week, and stay that way for the rest of my life.

All I need now is just a little help with reading glasses for things close up, but that may also improve over the next few weeks.

James 1:17

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

After David Died, his son Solomon built the temple for God in Israel, and the entire

kingdom grew and prospered.

When Solomon died, the kingdom of Israel was divided into two parts, Israel to the North and Judah to the south.

There were a succession of kings in both Israel and Judah, most of them were terrible kings leading the people away from the Lord, but there were a few who sought the Lord and as a result to people were blessed.

Among the good kings who followed the Lord, was Asa.

2 Chronicles 14

2 Asa did what was good and right in the eyes of the LORD his God,

3 for he removed the altars of the foreign gods and the high places, and broke down the sacred pillars and cut down the wooden images.

4 He commanded Judah to seek the LORD God of their fathers, and to observe the law and the commandment.

2 Chronicles 14

7 Therefore he said to Judah, "Let us build these cities and make walls around them, and towers, gates, and bars, while the land is yet before us, because we have sought the LORD our God; we have sought Him, and He has given us rest on every side." So they built and prospered.

Asa encouraged the people to see the Lord while there was still an opportunity to do so, and to remind them that the best the Lord has for us is still ahead of us...

2 Chronicles 14

8 And Asa had an army of three hundred thousand from Judah who carried shields and spears, and from Benjamin two hundred and eighty thousand men who carried shields and drew bows; all these were mighty men of valor.

9 Then Zerah the Ethiopian came out against them with an army of a million men and three hundred chariots, and he came to Mareshah.

10 So Asa went out against him, and they set the troops in battle array in the Valley of Zephathah at Mareshah.

11 And Asa cried out to the LORD his God, and said, "LORD, it is nothing for You to help, whether with many or with those who have no power; help us, O LORD our God, for we rest on You, and in Your name we go against this multitude. O LORD, You are our God; do not let man prevail against You!"

Asa cried out to the Lord for His help and you know what? The Lord heard and answered Asa.

"Lord it is nothing for you to help us...whether it is with many, or whether it is with just a few who have no power in themselves...Help us our God!"

Difficulty is always measure by the capacity of the one that is doing the work.

If it is the Lord doing the work, then it will always be easy... for nothing is too hard for Him!

- ☞ **Sometimes we forget** this important fact when we pray.
- ☞ **If you pray for someone** who has a cold, secretly inside our heart we know that in a few days they are going to get better anyway.
- ☞ **If someone asks us to pray** because they are going blind in their only good eye, we pray an extra forceful prayer:

“Oh Lord please, don’t let Rob lose his eyesight, Lord please we beg you for your help, we know Lord that you can heal this eye if you will only touch it Lord...”

When the need is much greater, we pray with that much more seriousness...

- ☞ **We understand** that this need is beyond the help of man, it is going to take an absolute miracle from the Lord.
- ☞ **So, in these cases**, our prayers take on a more earnest and sincere method.

What if someone without an arm or a leg comes to us and asks us to pray that the Lord would grow them a new arm or leg, we may even be hesitant to pray for them at all.

Do we realize that each of these prayer needs is at the same level of difficulty for the Lord?

“Nothing is too hard for the Lord...”

Matthew 19:23-26

23 Then Jesus said to His disciples, “Assuredly, I say to you that **it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven.**

24 And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.”

25 When His disciples heard it, they were greatly astonished, saying, “**Who then can be saved?**”

26 But Jesus looked at them and said to them, “With men this is impossible, **but with God all things are possible.**”

Maybe you are faced today with a seemingly insurmountable obstacle in your life, and you just don’t see how the Lord could possibly overcome this for you.

- ☞ **Consider** that the one that you are asking, placed those 70 Sextillion stars our there in their place and knows each one of them by name.
- ☞ **Scientist estimate** that the total number of stars in the Universe is just about the same number as all of the grains of sand on the earth, about **10²⁵**

- ☞ **If you began counting stars** at the second of your birth and counted one star each second of your life until your death at 100 years old, you would only count about 3 Billion Stars.
- ☞ **There are 100 times** this many stars just in our Milky Way Galay.
- ☞ **You would have to live** for Trillions and Trillions of years to be able yourself to list all the stars by name, **and yet David declared that this is not too hard for the Lord.**

Psalms 147:4

He counts the number of the stars; He calls them all by name.

So here in Second Chronicles, Asa has an army of 300,000 men in Judah, and 280,000 from Benjamin, and these are only foot soldiers carrying bows and shields.

- ☞ **Before Asa** is a massive army of over **1 million men with 300 fierce Chariots.**
- ☞ **A chariot back then** was equivalent to a Battle tank today, they were fierce against an army of foot soldiers.
- ☞ **One Chariot** could kill hundreds of foot soldiers at once.

What would you do if you were up against these kinds of odds?

Have you ever been in a seemingly impossible set of circumstances in your life?

I have, just last week was one of the biggest ones for me...

What do we do when it seems hopeless, and there seems like there is no way to overcome?

1 Chronicles 14

11 **And Asa cried out to the LORD his God**, and said, "LORD, **it is nothing for You** to help, whether with many or with those who have no power; help us, O LORD our God, for we rest on You, and in Your name we go against this multitude. O LORD, You are our God; do not let man prevail against You!"

1. **Asa cried out to the Lord.** *"Lord this is nothing to you."*
2. **He affirmed the Lord power...**
3. **Your help Lord does not depend on my resources or my understanding of how you could do this.** *"Whether by many of with those who have no power..."*
4. **Peace comes through surrender to the Lord's power and abilities:** *"We rest on you Lord."*
5. **Asa did not try to fight against his circumstances with his own power, wisdom or abilities:** *"In your name we go against this multitude."*

Asa said, *"This is not my problem Lord, this is your problem. I belong to you, so this is your battle, not my own..."*

And in response Asa's attitude towards his problem, notice what the Lord did:

2 Chronicles 14

12 **So the LORD struck the Ethiopians before Asa and Judah, and the Ethiopians fled.**

13 And Asa and the people who were with him pursued them to Gerar. So the Ethiopians were overthrown, and they could not recover, for they were broken before the LORD and His army. **And they carried away very much spoil.**

14 Then **they defeated all the cities around Gerar, for the fear of the LORD** came upon them; and they plundered all the cities, for there was exceedingly much spoil in them.

15 They also attacked the livestock enclosures, and carried off sheep and camels in abundance, and returned to Jerusalem.

Asa had a son after him who became king in his place, Jehoshaphat.

2 Chronicles 17

1 Then **Jehoshaphat his son reigned in his place**, and strengthened himself against Israel.

2 And he placed troops in all the fortified cities of Judah, and set garrisons in the land of Judah and in the cities of Ephraim which Asa his father had taken.

3 Now **the LORD was with Jehoshaphat, because he walked in the former ways of his father David; he did not seek the Baals,**

4 but sought the God of his father, and walked in His commandments and not according to the acts of Israel.

5 **Therefore the LORD established the kingdom in his hand;** and all Judah gave presents to Jehoshaphat, and he had riches and honor in abundance.

6 And **his heart took delight in the ways of the LORD;** moreover he removed the high places and wooden images from Judah.

7 Also **in the third year of his reign he sent his leaders,** Ben-hail, Obadiah, Zechariah, Nethanel, and Michaiiah, to teach in the cities of Judah.

8 And with them he sent Levites: Shemaiah, Nethaniah, Zebadiah, Asahel, Shemiramoth, Jehonathan, Adonijah, Tobijah, and Tobadonijah—the Levites; and with them Elishama and Jehoram, the priests.

9 So **they taught in Judah, and had the Book of the Law of the LORD with them; they went throughout all the cities of Judah and taught the people.**

10 And the fear of the LORD fell on all the kingdoms of the lands that were around Judah, so that they did not make war against Jehoshaphat.

It is so very easy for all of us to begin to fall away from the Lord and begin to give our time, affections, money and heart to the things of this world.

Under the reign of Jehoshaphat, the worship of all of these false things were destroyed.

But notice a very important fact here concerning Jehoshaphat:

☞ **He didn't just** tear down the false idols.

☞ **He replaced them** with something very important.

- ☞ **They began** to teach the Word of God to the people.
- ☞ **Jehoshaphat dispatched** his best men to go out to the cities of Judah and teach the people what the Word of God said.

And here is what is really amazing, the study of the Word of God inspired them to true worship.

John 4:23

But the hour is coming, and now is, when **the true worshipers** will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for **the Father is seeking such to worship Him.**

How many of us would really like to get to that place of honest and sincere worship of God?

- ☞ **Here is the answer how we can accomplish this:** By getting back to just reading and studying the Word of God ourselves not just on Sunday and Wednesday, but reading it for our selves everyday.

And then a short time later, Jehoshaphat also had a battle that he was facing, like his father Asa.

2 Chronicles 20

1 It happened after this that the people of Moab with the people of Ammon, and others with them besides the Ammonites, came to battle against Jehoshaphat.

2 Then some came and told Jehoshaphat, saying, "**A great multitude is coming against you** from beyond the sea, from Syria; and they are in Hazazon Tamar" (which is En Gedi).

3 And Jehoshaphat feared, and **set himself to seek the LORD**, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah.

4 So **Judah gathered together to ask help from the LORD**; and from all the cities of Judah they came to seek the LORD.

5 Then Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the LORD, before the new court,

6 and said: "O LORD God of our fathers, **are You not God in heaven, and do You not rule over all the kingdoms of the nations, and in Your hand is there not power and might, so that no one is able to withstand You?**

7 **Are You not our God, who drove out the inhabitants of this land before Your people Israel, and gave it to the descendants of Abraham Your friend forever?**

8 And they dwell in it, and have built You a sanctuary in it for Your name, saying,

9 "If disaster comes upon us—sword, judgment, pestilence, or famine—we will stand before this temple and in Your presence (for Your name is in this temple), **and cry out to You in our affliction, and You will hear and save.**"

12 O our God, will You not judge them? **For we have no power against this great multitude that is coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are upon You.**"

13 Now all Judah, with their little ones, their wives, and their children, **stood before the LORD.**

14 Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, in the midst of the assembly.
15 And he said, "Listen, all you of Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem, and you, King Jehoshaphat! Thus says the LORD to you: **'Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours, but God's.'**

Did you get that? *"The Battle is not yours, it is the Lord's"*

- ☞ **Whatever situation you find yourself in**, it is not about you and what you can or cannot do, it is about the Lord you serve and what He is able to do.

Ephesians 3:20

Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us

Did you notice what the Jehoshaphat told the people to do when they were afraid?

2 Chronicles 20

17 **You will not need to fight in this battle. Position yourselves, stand still and see the salvation of the LORD, who is with you**, O Judah and Jerusalem! Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them, for the LORD is with you."

"Stand Still"

- ☞ **That's it**, Stand Still?
- ☞ **You mean when I am afraid** and I don't know what to do, just stand still, do nothing?
- ☞ **That is right**, for when you stand still, that is the Lord's signal to begin working.
- ☞ **When you are moving all over the place** trying to rescue yourself, and fight all your own battles, The Lord stands still and lets you...

Isn't it great to know that the Lord of Heaven is fighting your battles for you?

- ☞ **When it looks like** you are going down in certain defeat, *stand still and see the salvation of the Lord.*
- ☞ **You do not need to fight**, or panic, you don't have to be afraid and run away.
- ☞ **Just stand still** in your position with Jesus Christ and trust Him.
- ☞ **Then He** will fight for you.

2 Chronicles 20

18 And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem bowed before the LORD, worshiping the LORD.

19 Then the Levites of the children of the Kohathites and of the children of the **Korahites stood up to praise the LORD God of Israel with voices loud and high.**

20 So they rose early in the morning and went out into the Wilderness of Tekoa; and as they went out, **Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Hear me, O Judah and you inhabitants of**

Jerusalem: Believe in the LORD your God, and you shall be established; believe His prophets, and you shall prosper.”

21 And when he had consulted with the people, **he appointed those who should sing to the LORD, and who should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army and were saying:**

**“Praise the LORD,
For His mercy endures forever.”**

22 Now **when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushes against the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; and they were defeated.**

23 For the people of Ammon and Moab stood up against the inhabitants of Mount Seir to utterly kill and destroy them. And when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, they helped to destroy one another.

24 So when Judah came to a place overlooking the wilderness, they looked toward the multitude; and there were their dead bodies, fallen on the earth. No one had escaped

As Jehoshaphat positioned his men to go out to battle, he takes an most unconventional approach to war.

*...He appointed those who should sing to the LORD, and who should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out **before** the army.”*

Jehoshaphat put the singers first in front of the soldiers, they went before the army praising and singing to the Lord of his great power and love, and the enemy could not take it, he utterly collapsed.

When satan sees us praising and thanking the Lord in the midst of our terrible trials, he gives up and turns away...

I have faced many giants in my life in the past few years, the Loss of my home by fire, the loss of my wife in death, the loss of my sight recently, **but in all these things, the Lord stood up for me and gave me the victory.**

- ☞ He gave me a new house.
- ☞ He gave me a beautiful wife who loves me.
- ☞ He restored my sight better than it was before.

What do you need from the Lord this morning, surely there must be something that you need to ask Him to do in your life!

Do you know how great his powers is to help you, no matter how difficult of how small the task is.

- ☞ **Do you have enough faith** to just stand still this morning and call on Him to do for you what you cannot do for yourself.
- ☞ **Will you position yourself** with praise out front of the battle and before anything

else happens, just begin to thank Him and praise Him for what you believe He can do?