WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO

II Chronicles 20:1-12

The passage begins, "It happened after this . . ." Jehoshaphat the king turned from his long history of trusting God and turned aside to trust a man. Thus we see "after this" that the king and all the people found themselves surrounded by enemies, Moabites, Ammonites, and others who had come up to do battle.

When we make mistakes that we know disappoint God and then turn from God and run toward others, the mistake is worst.

Lord God, we repent of doing things that distance us from You. When we find ourselves surrounded by the enemy and in a crisis, thank You that, as believers, we do not face a "crisis" but an "opportunity" - a promotion test to the next level in life. Praise the Lord!

Lord, we recognize that fear comes when we are out of control; all sin is rooted in fear. We read in v.3: "And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah." "Judah" means "Praise" and all of Judah came together to seek the Lord.

Lord, like Jehoshaphat, we join with those who have PRAISE in their mouths, and together set our faces to seek You in the midst of our problems. We PRAY to You, Lord God, for You are bigger than any problems. We PRAISE Your holy name!

We read in v.6a "... O LORD God of our fathers, are You not God in heaven, and do You not rule over all the kingdoms of the nations . . ." We cry out, "Are You not God in heaven . . . ?" We thank You, God, that we can call upon You. You are "LORD God of our fathers" - Bishop Eddie L. Long and others - for You are Creator God, the One who made heaven and earth and who rules over every nation!

Thank You, God, for You are the One who can take what is nothing and turn it into something. We cry out to You, O God, and say in the midst of our problems, "Are You not our God. . . ?" We will not worry, though we may mess up calling out Your many names, O Jehovah . . . but because we have our experience(s) with You, God, we know who You are. We know that we know that we know, and so declare, IT IS WELL!

We thank You, for we have heard what You did for our fathers and mothers. "Did You not?" O God, we now stand here before Your presence and proclaim Your faithfulness to every generation:

You give us peace that surpasses all understanding. Thank You, God!
You protect us even when we don't know we are in danger. Thank You, God!
You deliver us, as You did David, from our own 'Goliath' - every giant obstacle. Thank You, God!
We will not forget what You have done before; what You did then You'll do now. Thank You, God!
We bless You for all souls who confess Your holy Name; who receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord of their lives. For those who at Your calling exit out of the darkness and into Your light; who identify with You! Hallelujah! Thank You, God!
We name our blessings one by one, and give You all the praise, honor, and glory!

We confess that we are powerless against the great hordes that confront us; we don't know what to do. Too many times we're 'too strong' for You, O God, to do anything in our life, but we will no longer keep up this facade before others. We cry to You, God and thank You for rushing in when we no longer depend on our degrees, or connections, or skills, or intellect! We cry unto You, "Will You not. . .?"

We read in v.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."

We declare O God if it is written in Your Word, we can depend on it. Thank You, God!
O God, You know what it is we stand in need of; we praise You for clarity and direction needed to move forward. Thank You, God!
O God, we are not like many in this nation that are "bent out of shape" and don't know what to do and are looking to Democrats and Republicans to solve problems. As believers we TRUST You and declare Your word in Isaiah 60:1-3: "Arise, shine; For your light has come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you. For behold, the darkness shall come to your light, And kings to the brightness of your rising."

We declare, "Our situations have not come to kill us but to make us shine brighter so that kings can see who You are." All our help comes from You, O God! Therefore, we receive Your command (v. 15b): "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."

We trust in You, O LORD.
We walk in righteousness.
We stand on Your Word.
This battle is not like the others; we will not need to fight . . . God is breaking forth like never before!
We thank You, O God, and praise You for hearing the cry of Your people!
We thank You, O LORD for Your Word in Psalm 34:17,19: "The righteousness cry out, and the LORD hears, And delivers them out of all their troubles . . . Many are the afflictions of the righteous, But the LORD delivers him out of them all."

The Message version declares in the next verse (v20): "He's your bodyguard . . . "
"Bodyguards can deter "stuff" . . . but sometimes [they] have to deliver you, to get you out of a situation. TRUST GOD that He loves you enough to do what's best for you." For Jesus says: "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away" (Matthew 24:35 NKJV).
Lord God, we stand on Your Word; we stand firm and hold our position, to see Your salvation on our behalf. Thank You, God!
We know, O God, that You do not have any crises; nothing takes You by surprise and You already know what was/is going on. We rest in knowing that the battle is not ours; it is the Lord's.

Lord God, we will trust You; for You are on our side and we are on Yours. We surrender to Your will, O God. Let Your words written in Your Word come to life in us and fulfill our JOY!

We receive Your command in II Chronicles 20:19-21: "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. So they rose early 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. 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.'"

We bless the Name of the Lord with LOUD VOICES! HALLELUJAH!
We are more than conquerors through Him who loved us (ref. Romans 8:37).
We praise God . . . and thank God for the victory!

From the message by Pastor Tommy Powell, Sunday, July 31, 2016