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The Mindset of a Champion
Pastor Charles Mendenhall

What do champions think and how do they react? We look at people in different ministries and wonder how they were able to attain the position that they have, not realizing that they are overcomers and there is a price to be paid for having that type of ministry. It has been obtained by their walking by faith and paying the price upfront.

1 Sam 17:51 "Therefore David ran, and stood upon the Philistine, and took his sword, and drew it out of the sheath thereof, and slew him, and cut off his head therewith. And when the Philistines saw their champion was dead, they fled" KJV

Goliath was the champion of the Philistines. Champion means a strong man, a valiant man, to be courageous, a warrior, someone who is strong and a mighty, standing out among others.

Joshua chapter 1 talks of speaking face to face with the Lord, the Lord telling Joshua to be strong and very courageous, a champion, a mighty man because the people that he was to lead were stiff necked and hard hearted. Joshua had served Moses for 40 years, had never tried to take his place. Joshua must be able to stand out above others and be strong.

Eph 6:10-18 "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. 11 Put on the whole armour of God that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. 13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; 15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: 18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;" KJV

v. 10-Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

The power or anointing means a painting or smearing of the Holy Spirit, to envelope, to cover oneself, being led by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit wants to come and cover us where we look totally different. This is what happened to Gideon, because of feeling inadequate, the spirit of the Lord clothed him.

Judges 6:34-35 "But the Spirit of the Lord clothed Gideon with Himself and took possession of him, and he blew a trumpet, and [the clan of] Abiezer was gathered to him." AMP

This is what is required to become a champion and stand out. God wants this for us, to be a winner or a mighty person filled with great faith, but we must allow Him to take control of our lives, taking steps together with him.

v. 16-Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

King Asa mentioned in 2nd Chronicles did some outstanding feats in leading Judah and because of trusting God, he was able to accomplish much as a champion, however, in his later days he failed to trust God, he hired another king to help him in fighting with Israel, but the prophet told him that he had missed the mark by doing this and God was not pleased with him.

2 Chron 16:9 "For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars." KJV

The Lord is looking for someone who will be receivers today, "God is no respecter of persons, but He is a respecter of faith because it is done unto us according to our faith." If we are to become champions then we must become a respecter of the Lord. Are we receivers? He is ready in the spirit to give to the receivers, he has the answers, but faith receives from the hand of God that which is being offered so freely, faith accesses the abundance of God.

v. 11-Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

Wiles means the devil has a settled plan in which to bring defeat to us, it will be deceit, trickery or craftiness. In order to stand against the devil and become a mighty man, we must put on the armour of God and there must be some preparedness. Preparedness will equip us to stand successfully against the wiles of the devil. If we could see into the spirit world, we would be seeing all kinds of harassing things to cause us problems. By putting on the whole armour of God we can become the mighty man and will be able to stand.

Saul offered his armour to David when he was ready to take on Goliath, but David refused because he knew that he was covered with the armour of God and gave examples of how God had delivered him. He was truly a mighty man, a champion.

In studying the history of the early warriors going into battle in the Old Testament, these words were on their shields and as they charged into battle they would shout them out; Rak meaning only victory, Chazak the whitening of knuckles, muscles taunt and ready, Amats meaning full speed ahead, no defeat. This is how David proceeded into battle with Goliath.

Putting on the armour of God requires discipline on our part, taking the shield of faith, which will quench **ALL** the fiery darts of the enemy. The shield has Rak, Chazak and Amats, only victory, we are ready to engage and plunge headlong into the most difficult situations knowing that it will turn around for us.

v. 12-For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

A strong man knows where his opponent is at, but many times believers miss it, thinking that their enemy is other people, but the word tells us that it is not flesh and blood but the devil and his cohorts. When illnesses, adversities and poverty come, we must know who they are, where they come from and how to stand against them. Using the power of the word of God and the name of Jesus, when spoken in faith. We had better know about Rak, Chazak and Amats. When anything negative comes along, move over into Gods ability, headlong because there is no plan B.

v. 13-Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Because it is a spiritual battle that the natural eyes cannot see, the angels want to assist and give ability, the evil spirits want to get in, harass and break our stride in the race that we are running. The emphasis in this verse is "having done all, to stand", becoming ready to do battle again, a mighty man of God being able to help others in trouble. There is not just going to be one battle that we face, but having conquered all, we stand ready to conquer again. This is God's plan, His mindset. Be sure to have the shield of faith mentioned in verse 16, faith is the victory that overcomes the world.

1 John 5:4 "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith." KJV

v. 14-Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

v. 15-And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

Verses 14 and 15 give us the other pieces of armour and what part they have in preparing us for the upcoming battles we face in life.

v. 17- And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

This verse indicates there is something we need to do to protect our minds, putting on the helmet. Salvation means safety, soundness, preservation, deliverance and healing. Jesus has provided all these things for us. Praying and reading our bibles being the way to accomplish this. Mighty men will do something about being strong in the word of the Lord. The word mentioned here is "rhema", meaning the spoken word of God. The word proceeds out of our mouths, talking about the bigness of God and all that He has done for us as we face the many challenges in our lives. Mighty men have mountain moving experiences and faith. That is what God sees in us, the greatness on the inside of us.

If believers could get ahold of the truth, then rak, chazak and amats would become a part of their lives. Get up mighty man, greatness is on the inside, speak the word, take the sword of the spirit on purpose and pray with all different kinds of prayer. A mighty man is a person of prayer.

v. 18- Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints

The story of Eric and his desire to play baseball was shared, even though he didn't seem to have any talent in the natural, it was found out that night after night he practiced hitting the ball thrown by his sister. He had been preparing in order to fulfill his desire to play ball and because of his preparedness he was put into a game and was successful. No one knew that he had been preparing this way, later in his school time he was able to succeed in winning, not only in high school but into college. His perseverance paid off in the long run.

When we sow seeds we sow into our future, when we speak the word we sow into our future and we are determining the outcome. When we start being strong now, while weak and stumbling, but getting up speaking the word, we are determining our outcome. Anyone can lay

down and quit, but mighty men don't quit, they may be down for a time, but they get up and go forward, they don't quit.

Paul asked for prayer for utterance; utterance means a message from God delivered by the power of God, with an anointing on it.

The sound of the battle cry is going forth; God specializes in doing that which is impossible through men who are weak. He took the weak things of the world to confound the mighty.

Where are the receivers? God is looking for receivers, are we ready to receive from Him? God is greater, no matter what the devil tries to throw our way.

Talk big about God and little about the devil, cowards never start but fall by the wayside. But mighty men if they fall they get up and never quit.