

Inquire of God

From the Life of King David

“17 But when the Philistines heard that they had anointed David king over Israel, all the Philistines came up to seek David; and David heard of it, and went down to the hold. 18 The Philistines also came and spread themselves in the valley of Rephaim. 19 And David enquired of the LORD, saying, Shall I go up to the Philistines? wilt thou deliver them into mine hand? And the LORD said unto David, Go up: for I will doubtless deliver the Philistines into thine hand. 20 And David came to Baalperazim, and David smote them there, and said, The LORD hath broken forth upon mine enemies before me, as the breach of waters. Therefore he called the name of that place Baalperazim. 21 And there they left their images, and David and his men burned them. 22 And the Philistines came up yet again, and spread themselves in the valley of Rephaim. 23 And when David enquired of the LORD, he said, Thou shalt not go up; but fetch a compass behind them, and come upon them over against the mulberry trees. 24 And let it be, when thou hearest the sound of a going in the tops of the mulberry trees, that then thou shalt bestir thyself: for then shall the LORD go out before thee, to smite the host of the Philistines. 25 And David did so, as the LORD had commanded him; and smote the Philistines from Geba until thou come to Gazer.” (2 Samuel 5:17-25 KJV)

What do you think to yourself, under whom you are moving and who is directing the affairs of your life? How you manage the cross roads that you face daily and how you make your choices? The lord Jesus Christ promised His disciples the following: **"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."** (John 16:33 NIV) **Jesus promised that there will be troubles, problems, and even enemies, but he made it clear to everyone that He, Jesus overcame the world, and the power of darkness, so we today can overcome.** The lord Jesus Christ came down from heaven. He died on the cross for our sins, He was buried but rose from the dead on the third day to give eternal life to those who believe in Him and follow His steps in their lives.

The scripture that we use speaks about the life of David. After he was anointed as king over the people of God he was attacked by the enemy, the philistine. **That teaches you that when you are anointed with the Holy Spirit to do God's work the enemy will oppose you and fight against you with full forces because they are against God and against His works.** They came up searching for David in full force, to oppose the task that God entrusted to him. David heard about that and he went down to the stronghold not hiding because he is afraid but he went there so he will have time and space to inquire from the Lord. **The same is what what we need to do: When we face a big trouble, or when we are attacked, we need to go to God in prayer. We have to lay the whole issue in front of the lord and enquire of Him of how to deal with the situation as David enquired of the lord,** **“And David enquired of the LORD, saying, Shall I go up to the Philistines? wilt thou deliver them into mine hand? And the LORD said unto David, Go up: for I will doubtless deliver the Philistines into thine hand.”** (2 Samuel 5:19 KJV)

The Philistines encamped in the valley of Rephaim, **“The Philistines also came and spread themselves in the valley of Rephaim.”** (2 Samuel 5:18 KJV) **The meaning of Rephaim is giants. The enemy will come against us with whatever power they can bring in order to intimidate us to make us afraid to stop us and hinder us to achieve God's purpose.**

The devil, our enemy, when he attacks, he tries to cause us one or more of the followings:

1. **Confusion, to mislead us.**
2. **Discouragement, to lead us to surrender to his evil will.**
3. **Reaction, and lead us to do impulsive things and sin against people and against God.**
4. **Wrong decisions, in deceiving us and convincing us with wrong solutions.**

Therefore, we need to be aware of that very well and follow what David did, who asked God specific questions that guided him to decide clearly what he need to do. The same for us today, we have a certain issue and we need to decide about it.

We have a certain problem and we need to inquire about it. We have to inquire of God about the matter and ask Him questions that are critical and pertinent to the problem, that when God answer us, then that will be the time for us to move on the ground and achieve the task entrust to us and receive the victory that we have in Christ Jesus our lord.

Put this in your mind: When we enquire of God, and when the Lord Himself gives us the prove to go forward, He will not leave us alone but He will go ahead of us and fight the battle for us. David moved after he got the permission from God, and the Lord defeated his enemies as water break out, therefore this what David said, **“as the breach of waters. Therefore he called the name of that place Baalperazim.”** (2 Samuel 15: 20 KJV) **In the same way, if we want to deal with our enemies as God ordained we need to inquire of God before we do anything and wait for His correct and exact answer.**

The meaning of Baalperazim is the great destruction. David not only defeated the Philistines but he burned all their idols, **“And there they left their images, and David and his men burned them.”** (2 Samuel 5:21 KJV) **The devil always will attack us and will try to introduce his idols into our lives and in the life of God's church; therefore we need to be aware. The same event mention in other place and it is mentioned that David burned their gods,** **“And when they had left their gods there, David gave a commandment, and they were burned with fire.”** (1 Chronicles 14:12 KJV) **We are called by God to wage warfare against the gods of this world and move them away from our lives.**

The following are some of these idols that we need to be persistent to fight against.

1. The idol of lust in the form of sexual immorality in the form of dating and courting, having boyfriend and girlfriend, fornication, adultery, unlawful marriages in the form of accepting marriages with non believers, accepting divorce with remarriage, and accepting a single father or a single mother to marry someone other than the mother or the father of his or her child or children.
2. Idols and the food sacrificed for idols as described here.
 - The celebration of Christmas after the sun god of the heathen. With its Santa Claus, the tree, laziness with the long holidays of 2-3 weeks, the exchange of gifts, the banquets, and lavish spending, all this was done by the pagan for their sun god in

their celebrations. That feast of pagans was Christianized by the Catholic Church and till this day the Christian churches are infected with all the above mentioned practices that are totally not Biblical.

- The celebration of birthdays and wedding anniversaries, events and celebrations glorifying men and not God. Again such celebrations have taken its roots from the world and not from the Scriptures and got adapted into God's church.
- Father's Day and Mother's Day celebrations, taken from the world and introduced into the church.
- Halloween (Harvest), All Saints Day, Valentine's Day, Pastor's Month, First girl celebration, and you can add more to the list, for almost every culture and ethnic group had added certain idols and days for celebration, without any Biblical reason, into the life of the church.

3. The idol of greed, the love of money, and covetousness, ***"For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God."*** (Ephesians 5:5 KJV) ***"Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry."*** (Colossians 3:5 KJV)

After the first victory that David got from the first incident, David was attacked again by the same enemy for second time. Our enemy the devil will repeatedly attack us to hinder us, but let us learn from King David. King David before he did anything in the second attack he enquired of the Lord again. In such a way he did the right thing. *Some time when we face problem and we solve it after we inquire of the Lord, the same problem may be repeated with the same people or with some other people. But the solution for this new problem is not the same solution for the previous problem even if we are dealing with the same people, same reason, and even if the problem happened in the same place.*

Still we need to inquire of the lord again to lead us and direct us of how to deal with the new and fresh problem.

Truly David faced the enemy again for the second time and he did not fail to inquire of the Lord and God told him ***"Thou shalt not go up; but fetch a compass behind them, and come upon them over against the mulberry trees."*** (2 Samuel 5:23 KJV)

"Therefore David enquired again of God; and God said unto him, Go not up after them; turn away from them, and come upon them over against the mulberry trees." (2 Chronicles 14:14 KJV) God showed David that he should take different direction and He gave David the exact time and when and where he needs to attack the enemy. God told David the followings:-

1. ***You shall not go up.*** God forbid him this time to go and face the enemy
2. ***Fetch a compass behind them.*** God instructed to turn behind them.
3. ***Come against them over against the mulberry tree.*** God told David that as he go behind them he need to reach them at the mulberry trees.

God clearly described to David the following: ***"And let it be, when thou hearest the sound of a going in the tops of the mulberry trees, that then thou shalt bestir***

thyself: for then shall the LORD go out before thee, to smite the host of the Philistines." (2 Samuel 5:24 KJV) God gave David very accurate plan; not to go and face them straight, but to turn away from them, and compass behind them and be positioned in the mulberry tree, and there David needed to wait till he hear the sound of marching of the army of God over the trees; at that time David needed to rise up for the battle, for he knew that the Lord had gone ahead of him to smite the enemy.

Even today, the Lord shall give us the same details, the exact time, place and direction, and even more if we will not neglect to inquire of the lord and asked of Him the permission to go on and invite Him to go before us, and ahead of us to fight the enemy on our behalf.

God will give us all what we inquire of and more than that, the victory over the enemy. The Holy Spirit will speak to us and the Word of God will instruct us with more details of how we need to conduct ourselves while the battle is going on.

"Therefore David enquired again of God; and God said unto him, Go not up after them; turn away from them, and come upon them over against the mulberry trees." *2 Chronicles 14:14 KJV) The Hebrews word for Mulberry trees is 'Baka' which mean weeping. The same word is mentioned in Psalm 84 in verse 6.

"1 How amiable are thy tabernacles, O LORD of hosts! 2 My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the LORD: my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God. 3 Yea, the sparrow hath found an house, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, even thine altars, O LORD of hosts, my King, and my God. 4 Blessed are they that dwell in thy house: they will be still praising thee. Selah. 5 Blessed is the man whose strength is in thee; in whose heart are the ways of them. 6 Who passing through the valley of Baca make it a well; the rain also filleth the pools. 7 They go from strength to strength, every one of them in Zion appeareth before God. 8 O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer: give ear, O God of Jacob. Selah. 9 Behold, O God our shield, and look upon the face of thine anointed. 10 For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness. 11 For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly. 12 O LORD of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee." (Psalm 84:1-12 KJV) This psalm used for the pilgrimages of the Israelites in their journey to reach Jerusalem. The men of Israel in their journey to reach Jerusalem to join their annual feasts and reach the temple of God, they will pass through the valley of Baca where the Mulberry trees are located. The valley of Rephaim and the valley of Baca (the places that King David met and fight his enemies) according to commentaries are the same. David, as if he was in journey to draw near to God and in pilgrimage to reach the temple of God in Jerusalem, but the enemy was trying hard to hinder him. From such description we can learn the followings:

1. *The enemy will fight against us to hinder us from drawing near to God.*
2. *The enemy will fight against us to hinder us from drawing near to reach God's temple, His church.*
3. *Therefore we need to be consistent in trials not to go away from God and His church, but to draw nearer to Him and to take more active part in God's service and ministry. During trials let us delight to get more in God's church, "10 For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness."* (Psalm 84:10 KJV)

God had promised the Israelites that He will enlarge their territory and would protect them from the other nations. The men of Israel were required to go to the Temple of God in Jerusalem three times in a year to attend the Passover feast, the feast of the weeks and the feast of the tabernacle. God had promised them that when their men are moving to attend the three feasts of the Lord he will protect them and he will protect their borders, their houses, their families, their lands, and He will not allow the enemy to penetrate or take any territory from them as we can read here: **"23 Thrice in the year shall all your menchildren appear before the LORD God, the God of Israel. 24 For I will cast out the nations before thee, and enlarge thy borders: neither shall any man desire thy land, when thou shalt go up to appear before the LORD thy God thrice in the year."** (Exodus 34:23-24 KJV) Therefore as we continue to attend our duties and our ministries during trials, taking our stand and position against the tactics of the enemy, doing our ministries and assignments in full, the Lord shall protect us, protect our houses, our families, our wives our husbands, our children and all our belongings, and He reward us and enlarge our territory.

4. The attacks of the enemy will be repeated every now and then. Therefore we need to be ready and prepared our minds about that. Therefore we need always to enquire of the Lord and not to do our own when we are attacked.
5. During the battle, we need to be in the valley of Baca, **"Who passing through the valley of Baca make it a well; the rain also filleth the pools."** (Psalm 84:6 KJV) During the battle, we need to be in the valley of Baca, in the valley of weeping, where we shed tears of repentance, where we cry out to God to receive help, wisdom, direction, and support from Him, "O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer: give ear, O God." (Psalm 84:8 KJV) The Lord will hear our cry and see our repentance and will vindicate us, **"For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly."** (Psalm 84:11 KJV)
6. During the battle we need to trust God for He will bless us, He will reward us, and guide us and tell us of what we need to do and how to fight the battle. "O LORD of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee." (Psalm 84:12 KJV)

My dear and beloved: The Lord Jesus said, **"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."** (Matthew 11:28)

Many of your troubles and the difficulties that you face in your life are because you had not yet come to the lord or drew near to Him.

Many of your troubles and the difficulties that you face in your life because you didn't ask of the Lord or inquired of Him of how to solve the problem when you face troubles.

Many of your troubles and the difficulties that you face in your life because you are not willing to draw near to God and make yourselves involves in God's church and God's ministry.

It is the right time for you to draw near to God and to come near to Him and start to get involved in God's church and God's ministry. The more you are excusing yourself the more you are in trouble. Therefore now it is the right time for you to repent from such kind of sin and start to serve Him.

Now is the time to rely fully on God and enquire of Him in regard to all what you face from troubles. Then He will be the one to guide you in all your struggles and give you all what you need, and directs you in all what you ought to do.

My Prayer: Father God, I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life.

Forgive me Lord my sins.

Let us confess our sins unto the Lord _____.

Lord forgives me that I did not draw near to you.

Forgive me that I refused to serve you.

Forgive me that I acted before I inquire of You when I face troubles.

Forgive me Lord that I trusted myself and not rely on you.

Lord I enquire of you how to face this problem _____. Lord speaks to me and directs me as you spoke to David and instructed him how to have the victory over the enemy.

Lord teach me your ways, and guide me in all your truth, for You are God my Saviour and I put my trust in You. Deliver me from the evil one, spare me troubles, go before me and fight my enemies.

Lord I pray for my Brothers and Sisters who committed their lives and ways unto you, Lord direct them of what they need to do, and give them aid and the victory against their enemies.

Lord helps us as a church in our troubles. Lord we enquire of you how to face this problem _____.

Lord fill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the spiritual gifts that will help us to serve you and be effective and fruitful in our ministry. Lord help us to evangelize and to reach new people with the gospel of Jesus and help us to plant more Bible studies and new congregations for the church. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.