

*Finding Strength In The Lord 1 Samuel 30: 1-25  
Peace in the midst of the storm*

Before and After Stories

Do you agree or disagree with this statement:

*The Salvation Experience And Living The Christian Life  
Could Be Described As A Before And After Story*

*Context: Last week we saw David' bout of temporary insanity (The definition of anger) and learned how God saved him from his own actions through the efforts of Abigail. In Chapters 27-29 David goes over to the Philistines to escape from Saul. As the Philistines prepare for a final climactic battle with Saul's army, David is sent home to Ziklag because of a lingering distrust of him by the Philistine's leader ship. Arriving Home, David and his men find themselves in the midst of a crisis.*

- 1) When David and his men return home to Ziklag, what do they find? (Vs 1-3)
- 2) How would you describe their emotions? (Vs 4-6)
- 3) In the midst of this crisis, how do you think David "Found strength in the Lord his God"? (Vs 6)
  - a. In what ways can we find strength in the Lord during our times of distress?
- 4) After David found Strength, how does he also find Help from the Lord? (Vs 7-20)
- 5) What is your reaction to the logic of "Because they didn't (or couldn't) go out with us, they will not receive a share of the plunder"? (Vs 22)
- 6) David states "The Lord has protected us and handed over to us the forces that came against us" (Vs 23) Would it be fair or a normal reaction to think:
  - a. God was punishing them
  - b. God made a mistake
  - c. If God could was able to do all that, why did He allow it to happen in the first place?

## Applying it in My Life:

- Think of a time in your life when you were faced with an overwhelming situation. How did you respond?
  - § Fear
  - § Anger
  - § Bitterness
  - § Confusion
  - § Faith
  - § Other
  
- Think of your favorite person in the Bible.
  - § Did they encounter overwhelming situations?
  
  - § How did God help them overcome or use this crisis in their lives?
  
- 2 Corinthians 12: 9-10
  - § How has God's grace been sufficient for you during difficult times?
  - § In what ways have you found God's power made perfect in your weakness?
  
- Do you think that David had a realistic view of what following God entailed?
  - § What are some of the obstacles, difficulties and crises that David has faced since Samuel anointed him as the next King of Israel?
  
  - § What can we learn from David's example?
  
  - § How does David's example give us hope?