

The Second Book of SAMUEL

THE beauty of Israel is slain on high places.
The beauty of Israel is slain.
The mighty has fallen, whom God has anointed,
and someone has come to make claim.
I see the beauty, I see the anointing,
I see real brotherly love.
The love that surpasses the love of a woman;
Tell me, what did you say you have done?

2 SAMUEL I

¹After Saul's death, when David had returned from the slaughter of the Amalekites, and he had stayed in Ziklag for two days,
²on the third day, a man came from Saul's camp with his clothes torn and with dust on his head.

When he saw David he fell to the ground and prostrated himself.

³And David said to him, "Where have you come from?"

And he replied, "I have fled from the camp of Israel."

⁴David then asked, "Please tell me, how did the war go?"

He answered, "From the battle the people have fled, many of the people are fallen down dead, and Saul and Jonathan his son are dead also."

⁵So David said to him, "You say Saul and his son Jonathan are dead, how do you know?"

⁶The young man said to him, "I happened by chance to see King Saul leaning on his spear on Mount Gilboa; and the chariots and horsemen pursued him ardently."

@With a tone so convincing, eyes fixed; no winking.

⁷He said, "Saul looked back and he saw me, and he called me to him,

⁸"He said to me then, 'Who are you?' And I said, 'I am an Amalekite.'"

@"Who are you?" He' is from Amalek, known for this weakness, always taking advantage of the weak and the wronged; they were the nation who plundered David's hapless camp; the very battle David was coming from.

⁹He continued, "Saul said, 'Stand on me and kill me, for anguish has come upon me! But my life still remains in me now.'

¹⁰"So I stood over him and killed him, for I was sure he could not live after he had fallen.

And I took the crown on his head, and the bracelet on his arm, and have brought them here to you my lord. Here is his bracelet and here is his crown."

@He spoke without wincing, but soon he too would be singing

his last words from his very own song.

¹¹The beauty of Israel; David held his clothes and tore them, and so did all the men who were with him.

¹²They mourned, and he wept and fasted until evening,

for Saul and for his son Jonathan and for all Israel who had fallen by the sword.

He had business with the young man, but he would have to wait;

respect and honor was always first place.

¹³Then David said to the young man, "Where are you from?"

And he answered "I am an Amalekite, born of an alien."

¹⁴And David said "How is it that you were not afraid to stretch out your hand to strike the Lord's anointed?"

¹⁵So David said to one of his young men, "Go near and kill him!" And he struck him dead.

¹⁶So David said, "Your blood is on your own head!"

@He was so convincing, now he could not convince them that all he said was a lie.

And David said, "We must believe him, that he had killed the anointed of the Lord, for his own mouth has testified."

¹⁷Then David lamented with this lamentation over Saul and over his son Jonathan,

¹⁸and he instructed them to teach the bow to all Judah;

it is written in the Book of Jashar:

¹⁹"The beauty of Israel is slain on high places; the beauty of Israel is slain!

How the mighty have fallen, whom God has anointed!

He chased him in life but it pained.

²⁰"Do not tell it in Gath, nor publish it in the streets of Ashkelon,

lest the daughters of the Philistine rejoice; lest the daughters of the uncircumcised triumph.

²¹"O mountains of Gilboa, let no dew or rain fall upon you,

let there be no fields of offerings.

For the shield of the mighty was cast away

vilely!

The shield of Saul was not anointed with oil.
22“From the blood of the slain, from the fat of the mighty,
 the bow of Jonathan never turned,
 neither did the sword of Saul return empty.

23“In life, beloved and so pleasant,
 both Saul and his son Jonathan;
 now in death they are not divided.
 They were swifter than eagles and indeed they were stronger than lions.

24“Weep for Saul, you daughters of Israel, for he clothed you in scarlet and luxury;
 fondly remember him, for your clothing he beautified with ornaments of gold.

25“How the mighty have fallen in the midst of the battle!
 Jonathan was slain in your pleasant places.

@*Oh, Jonathan, why did you have to go? Never really had time to know you; I will celebrate your love.*

26“I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan;
 you have been very pleasant to me;
 your love to me was wonderful, much better than the love of women.

27“How the mighty have fallen, and the weapons of war perished!”

@*The mighty have fallen! How have the mighty fallen!*

O Jonathan, I will miss you always!

CWDS Bible Quotes

1. *There is never a moment off from the battlefield of the heart even when you are fighting your own battles; the heart of the righteous will always default to the battlefield with the people of God.*
2. *Not every good news you carry will carry you receptively in every forum; let wisdom guide your tongue.*
3. *The credit you seek for what you did not do will become shocking when you realize what you are credited for doing.*
4. *A true servant of God will always mourn for believers and leaders; even if they caused personal hurt.*
5. *Never exaggerate, build your story and your expectations on the truth.*
6. *A pure heart pushes beyond the rage of an individual to honor their office in death and in life.*
7. *An eulogy focuses on strengths not weaknesses; it magnifies the good and uses it as a covering for the bad.*
8. *A good heart will never desire to see their enemy's weaknesses spread in public; they will hate to see the failures of the people of God taken to the camp of the enemy.*
9. *A good heart honors friendship and covenant and memorializes strength in weakness or death.*

PRAYER POINTS

- King of Glory, Your love for the church is immeasurable; help me never to be so preoccupied with my own problems and pursuits that my mind and my energy is removed from Your people, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

- Spirit of the living God, give me divine wisdom to order my conversation rightly; help me to speak with the right spirit at all times. Amen.
- Spirit of humility, possess my life; Father help me never to exaggerate for credits or approval in the name of Jesus.
- Merciful Father, strengthen the hands of leaders in the body of Christ; let the spirit of David to speak grace to the source of his hurt rest upon every hurt and offended believer, in the name of Jesus. Amen.
- Spirit of honor that eulogizes the anointing without criticism, fall upon the church today, in the name of Jesus.
- Let every spirit that incites and justifies criticism of ministers be fanned away from the body of Christ by the blood of Jesus. Amen.

ONE tribe of Judah against eleven of Israel

May have spoken of the divide to come; But the one tribe with David, king over Judah, made the eleven tribes of Israel to run. What games and what danger to be played among brothers; When each man falls dead then you know. Will brothers be fighting, fighting against brothers, Or will they stop the fighting and go?

2 SAMUEL 2

@*Hand in hand to walk with the Master, seeking His guidance each step of the way.*

¹After this David inquired of the Lord, saying, “Shall I go up to any of the cities of Judah?”

And the Lord said to Him, “Go up.”

And David said, “Where shall I go?”

And the Lord said to him, “To Hebron.”

²When the Lord God directs you are sure to win. So David went up there, and his two wives with him;

Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail, Nabal's widow, the Carmelite.

³And David brought up his men also with their household.

And they dwelt in the cities of Hebron.

⁴Then the men of Judah came and anointed David king over the house of Judah.

And they informed him, saying, “It was Jabesh-gilead who buried Saul.”

⁵So David sent messengers to the men of Jabesh-gilead, and to them he said,

“You are blessed of the Lord, for the kindness you have shown to Saul, in burying him.

⁶“Now may the Lord show His kindness and truth to you.

I will also reward you with kindness because you have done this thing.

⁷“Now then, be strengthened, and be valiant; for your master Saul is dead, and the house of Judah has anointed me their king.”

⁸*But acts of defiance would form an alliance;*

For Abner, son of Ner, captain of Saul's army, took Ish-bosheth, Saul's son and brought him over to Mahanaim;

⁹and he made him king over Gilead, over the Ashurites, over Jezreel, over Ephraim, over Benjamin, and over all Israel.

¹⁰Ishbosheth, the son of Saul, was forty years old when he began to reign over Israel, and he reigned two years;

however the house of Judah followed David.

¹¹And David reigned in Hebron over the house of Judah for seven years and six months.

¹²And Abner the son of Ner, and the servants of Ishbosheth, went out from Mahanaim to Gibeon.

¹³And Joab son of Zeruiah, and the servants of David, went out and met him by the pool of Gibeon.

@What games and what danger being played among brothers;

when each man falls dead, then you will know.

¹⁴And Abner said to Joab, "Let the young men arise and duel before us." And Joab agreed.

¹⁵So they rose up and went over, twelve from Benjamin of Ishbosheth's army; and twelve from the servants of David.

¹⁶This was no game, this was so real.

Each man caught his challenger by the head and thrust his sword in his side deep.

Together they all fell down dead.

Therefore the place is called the Field of Sharp Swords, which is in Gibeon.

This was no playing; it was battle fore-playing;

¹⁷A fierce battle raged on in its wake.

And Abner and the men of Israel were beaten before the servants of David; the servants of David prevailed.

@When one is pursuing, and do so to their ruin, for you can't make them return and go.

When the one who is pursuing dies in the tussle ensuing,

you may say, "Did I not tell you so?"

¹⁸There were three sons of Zeruiah: Joab, Abishai and Asahel.

And Asahel was as speedy as a gazelle.

¹⁹With speed that was stunning, Asahel was running;

to take Abner who was retreating he pursued.

He did not turn to the right hand nor to the left but went straight on; intent on the mission he assumed.

²⁰Then Abner looked behind him, and said, "Are you Asahel?"

He answered in the affirmative, "I am."

²¹And Abner said to him, "Turn aside to your right or left hand,

lay hold on another young man, and take his armour for your spoils."

But Asahel still followed, he would not turn aside.

²²So Abner said to Asahel, "Turn aside from following me,

why should I strike you to the ground? For when you are down,

how should I face your brother Joab?"

²³His words could not stop him, still Asahel

was coming,

so Abner turned and struck Asahel dead.

He struck him under the fifth rib, until the spear came out through him,

and he fell down there dead on the spot.

And all who saw him, when they came to the place he fell,

to gaze upon him they all stopped.

²⁴It was a battle of brethren, fighting with brethren;

after Abner, Joab and Abishai also pursued.

And the sun was going down, when they came to the hill of Ammah,

which is before Giah by the road to the Wilderness of Gibeon.

²⁵Now Abner was strengthened; they were joined by the forces of Benjamin;

and they made a stand at the top of a hill.

²⁶And Abner called to Joab, "Shall the sword always devour?"

Don't you know it will bring about bitterness in the end?

How long will it be before you tell the people to retreat from following their brethren?"

²⁷And Joab said, "As God lives, if you had not spoken,

by morning all the people would have given up pursuing."

²⁸And Joab blew the trumpet then, and all the people stood still and acknowledged;

and they did not pursue or fight Israel anymore.

²⁹And all that night Abner and his men walked through the plain and crossed Jordan, through Bithron until they came to Mahanaim.

³⁰So Joab returned from pursuing Abner, and when he had gathered all the people together; of the servants of David he was missing nineteen men and his brother Asahel,

³¹but the servants of David had smitten of Abner and of Benjamin three hundred and sixty men.

³²Then they took up Asahel and buried him in his father's sepulcher which was in Bethlehem.

And Joab and all his men journeyed all night, and came to Hebron at the break of day.

CWDS Bible Quotes

1. *Not because it is available means it should be assumed; assess your next move by acknowledging God for His accessible directives.*
2. *Bravery and honor will always attract recognition, especially when it is done with pure motives.*
3. *The enemy will acknowledge your God-given rights but it will not prevent them from trying to block you from attaining it.*
4. *Hebron represents your place of frustration before your final destination; never despise the small beginnings and never be content with partial success.*
5. *Hebron is a place you fight recurring battles frustrating your destiny.*
6. *Hebron is the place you fight frustrating battles you have no hope of winning because the de-*

fining target is sitting at home; the root of your problem is in another place.

7. *Hebron is the place you fight internal battles instead of fighting defining and territory expanding wars.*
8. *Your persistent pursuit may lead to your perishing if you are not prepared for success when you arrive.*
9. *You have to breach content to reach contentious; be content to let the quarrel rest, or you may rest in peace.*
10. *There is a time to pursue and a time to withdraw; understand the time and you will not waste time fighting futility.*
11. *Never mistake a battle for a war, never mistake a victory for success; it is just a reason to be grateful and encouragement to believe for all the promises of God.*

PRAYER POINTS

- Spirit of the living God, order my every move; I refuse to pursue opportunities You have not created or to sit on thrones You have not ordered. Amen.
- Let the spirit of boldness to do what is right envelop the youths in the body of Christ today, in the name of Jesus.
- Let the spirit of Abner using its great power of influence to block the advance of the Church and the decrees of God, somersault and die, in the name of Jesus.
- Father, I thank You for Hebron, but I will move on to claim all Your promises to me and about me; I want the fullness, in the name of Jesus.
- By the power in the blood of Jesus, let every recurring battle in my life frustrating my destiny receive divine breakthrough today, in the name of Jesus.

HE was fighting a great battle; he fought for Israel.

He was fighting for his king, or did he fight for just himself?

When kings correct their subjects, should it make their anger glow?

And when in anger they do the right that they had fought and opposed,

It shows that the one that David cried for thought he had the power in his hands

To set up and to put down, to lift up a king's head as he wants.

His own mouth declared it; he knew he fought against God's will.

But David wept because of the covenant, when the fighting man was killed!

2 SAMUEL 3

@He was fighting a great battle; he fought on for Saul's house.

¹The house of Saul warred with the house of David, and the war was long and drawn out. The house of Saul grew weaker and weaker, but David grew in strength.

²And there were sons born to David in Hebron; his firstborn Amnon, whom Ahinoam bore him;

³Chileab his second, by Abigail Nabal's widow; the third Absalom, borne by Maacah, daugh-

ter of Talmai, Geshur's king;

⁴the fourth Adonijah, son of Haggith;

the fifth, Shephatiah son of Abital,

⁵and the sixth, Ibhream, by David's wife Eglah.

These are the sons born to David in Hebron.

⁶Abner was fighting a great battle; for the house of Saul he made himself strong.

He strengthened his control of the house of Saul while the battle was going on.

@And he went in to Rizpah, Saul's concubine; now he was double wrong.

⁷"Why have you gone in to my father's concubine?" King Ishbosheth asked.

⁸And a battle raged in Abner; this angered the fighting man.

@All those who heard Abner must have wondered what was happening.

He said, "Am I a dog's head that belongs to Judah?" *Was he speaking to his king?*

"I have shown kindness to the house of Saul, to his brothers and his friends, and I have not delivered you into David's hand;

now do you charge me with a fault concerning this woman?"

@What was Abner's motive? Let his own confession speak;

he was fighting against God, and he knew it quite well.

⁹He said, "May God do so to Abner, and more also, if I do not do for David as the Lord has sworn to him—

@I knew it, yet I fought it; I had been fighting the Lord's will—

¹⁰to transfer the kingdom from the house of Saul,

and set up the throne of David over all Israel and Judah, from Dan to Beersheba."

¹¹And the king could not answer Abner a word because he feared him.

@The fighter's words cut through him, and Ishbosheth was scared;

if man gives to you a kingdom, then man will put you down from there.

¹²Then Abner sent a message to David, saying, "To whom belongs this land?"

Make a league with me, the fighter, and I will bring all Israel to you; with you I will join hands."

@No, not you, my son, but Michal; she is the one I can't refuse.

¹³"Bring my wife to me," said David, "and I will make a league with you.

Unless you bring me Michal, Saul's daughter, you shall not see my face."

@No, it is not you, my son, who moves me; I already have God's grace.

¹⁴So David sent messengers to Ishbosheth, Saul's son, saying, "Deliver to me Michal my wife;

whom I betrothed to me for a hundred fore-skins of the Philistines; ah yes! I paid the price."

¹⁵And Ishbosheth sent and took her from her husband, from Paltiel, the son of Laish,

¹⁶and behind her to Bahurim her husband went weeping all the way.

"Go back, return Paltiel!" Abner said to him; *this is one battle you cannot fight.*

@No sense in weeping, so he returned; the woman he loved had left his life.

¹⁷Then Abner spoke to the elders of Israel, saying, "In the past you wanted David to be king;

¹⁸"well now, this is the time to do it; God has spoken this of him,

"By the hand of My servant David, I will save my people Israel,

from the hand of the Philistines and the hand of all their enemies."

@Oh yes he knew that all these years he fought, he was really fighting God.

¹⁹Abner also spoke this to Benjamin. Then he went and spoke to David in Hebron, to tell him all this, for it seemed good to Israel, and seemed good to Benjamin along.

²⁰So Abner came to David in Hebron accompanied by twenty men.

And David received Abner and made a feast for him and his men.

²¹And Abner said to David, "I will now go, and gather all Israel to my lord the king, that they may make a covenant with you and you can reign over all that you desire."

So David sent Abner away in peace.

²²At that moment the servants of David and Joab came from a raid; they had great plunder with them.

But Abner was not with David, for he had sent him away in peace before then.

²³When Joab and his troops had come, they told him, saying,

"Abner came to the king, and he sent him away in peace."

²⁴Joab questioned the king's judgment, saying, "What have you done? Abner came to you; why did you send him away, and now he has escaped?"

²⁵"You must realize that Abner came to deceive you; to spy out your movements and to know what you do."

@He was fighting a great battle; he was fighting for his king.

But when you dishonor the king's authority, your fight is marred with sin.

²⁶Without David knowing, he sent messengers after Abner, and they brought him back from the well of Sirah.

This would be the final battle of the fighting man who died.

²⁷When Abner returned, Joab took him aside to speak to him privately in the gate, and stabbed him to death under the fifth rib as Abner's trust turned to dismay.

For the blood of Asahel, Joab's brother, Abner was killed.

@The fighting man could no more set up and do away with kings.

²⁸When David heard about Abner, mournfully he said,

"My kingdom and I are guiltless before God of the blood of Abner, son of Ner.

²⁹"Let the blood rest on Joab, and all his father's house;

let there not fail from the house of Joab, one with a discharge, or a leper, who leans on a staff, or falls by the sword, or who lacks bread."

³⁰So Joab and Abishai his brother killed Abner, because he had killed their brother Asahel in the battle at Gibeon.

³¹Then David said to Joab and to all the people with him,

"Tear your clothes, put on sackcloth, and mourn for Abner."

And king David followed the body to burial.

³²They buried Abner in Hebron.

And the king lifted his voice at the graveside, and all the people with him.

³³And the king sang a lamentation over Abner, saying:

"Should Abner die just as a fool dies?"

³⁴"Your hands and feet were not bound, but you fell, as a man falls before wicked men."

Then all the people wept over him again.

³⁵When the people came to encourage David to eat, he said with an oath,

"God do so to me and more also, if I eat bread or anything else until the sun goes down!"

³⁶And all the people took note of it, and it pleased them well,

for whatever the king did pleased them.

³⁷It was not the king's intention to kill Abner, this all his people and all Israel knew,

If you will honor covenants, all men will honor you.

³⁸Then the king said to his servants, "Don't you know that a prince and a great man have fallen in Israel today?"

³⁹"And although I am anointed as king, I am weak; these men, the sons of Zeruah, are too harsh for me.

The Lord will repay doers of evil according to their wickedness."

@For when you fight your own battles, you will reap evil rewards for success.

CWDS Bible Quotes

1. Not because your progress is stalled means that it is stopped, continue pressing for your opening.
2. Assisting a person to position or in position does not give you the rights of imposition on their leadership.
3. Know your place even if you are used as a pillar; functional authority must submit to positional authority.
4. When a leader cannot correct the ones they lead they are poor leaders but excellent followers; they are being led.
5. When you know the Lord's will and fight against

it to establish yourself you are inconsequential and courting tragedy.

6. The fight is personal (all about you) when you fight the word of God in any position or office.
7. Your great importance is made of small significance when you promise to deliver a kingdom and are reassigned to delivering a woman.
8. When your power to set up and put down has been put down to your ability as an errand boy, know your disregard for God and for authority has been put up for judgment.
9. Whatever your motives are, never be found fighting the kingdom of God and His purposes; an arrow will pierce you on the battlefield of life.
10. Never fight your personal battle on your king's battlefield; never seek personal glory opposing God.
11. The tears of the righteous falls for broken covenants.
12. Your power to set up may be put down by the sword of man, but fear the judgment of God.

PRAYER POINTS

- Power of persistence to move beyond every demonic barrier to my victories, envelop my life now, in the name of Jesus.
- Let every spirit of entitlement opposing leadership in the church, receive divine rebuke today, in the name of Jesus.
- Let obedience to the cross of Christ being divine order in the body of Christ and in the homes of believers, in the name of Jesus.
- Power to lead with strength, yet gentleness and humility, envelop the church, the homes and businesses of believers today, in the name of Jesus.
- King of kings, and the only Lord, let every spirit of Pharaoh resisting You in the earth be devastated and humiliated, in the name of Jesus.

In the eyes of David not everything that glitters is gold;

Look through the eyes of David and you will not say, "If only I had known."

You go and slay his enemy and call it your righteousness,

While his eyes are pained with compassion and are looking down upon your mess.

Save yourself the trouble, for it pays to be wise;

If you will only observe, it just may save your lives.

"God alone makes me established; do not be deceived;

Before you kill go find it; see just what his eyes see."

2 SAMUEL 4

¹When Ish-bosheth, Saul's son, heard that Abner had died in Hebron, his heart and the heart of all Israel with him were troubled.

²Now Baanah and Rechab were captains in the army of Saul's son, they were the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, of the children of Benjamin. (Beeroth was part of Benjamin,

³for the Beerothites fled to Gittaim and lived

there to this day.)

⁴Jonathan, the son of Saul, had a son who was lame in the feet.

He was five years old when news of the demise of Saul and Jonathan came from Jezreel; his nurse took him then and fled.

As she hurried he fell and became lame.

His name was Mephibosheth.

Eyes that were evil, thought they could gain favor by murder!

⁵And so in the heat of the day, the sons of Rimmon, Rechab and Baanah set out, and to the house of Ishbosheth they came.

He was lying on his bed at noon.

⁶They came in to his house as if they wanted to get wheat, and struck him under the fifth rib on his bed.

Then Rechab and Baanah his brother escaped.

⁷For when they came into the house, he was lying on his bed in his bedroom, and they struck him dead; then they took off his head, and all night they ran through the plain.

⁸And they brought the head of Ishbosheth to Hebron to David, and to the king they said, "Here is the head of your enemy, Ishbosheth Saul's son, the one who sought your life; the Lord has avenged the king this day of Saul and his descendants alike."

@In the eyes of David, the Redeemer is One; He is God alone; promotion was not of man.

⁹David replied to Rechab and Baanah his brother, sons of Rimmon, saying to them, "As the Lord lives, who has redeemed me from all adversity,

¹⁰"when I was residing then in Ziklag, and one told me, saying, 'Saul is dead,' thinking he brought me good news, but he did not understand, my heart is bound in God.

The reward he received was not what he would;

instead I seized him and killed him.

¹¹"How much more when wicked men, have killed a righteous person in his own house on his bed?

Shall I not require his blood at your hand and remove you from the earth?"

¹²And David commanded his young men then, and they killed the two of them, and cut off their hands and feet,

and hanged them by the pool in Hebron.

And they took Ish-bosheth's head and buried it in Abner's sepulcher in Hebron.

CWDS Bible Quotes

1. If man gives you authority then man can take it from you; or you will lose your confidence when that man is taken from you.
2. Never run after personal glory or you will find trouble, maintain righteous positioning and glory will find you.
3. Never be preoccupied with pursuing success, pur-

sure God and success will pursue and overtake you.

4. *Wisdom will never plot wickedness to obtain reward or approval from the righteous.*
5. *Demonic wisdom that makes people violate the word and righteous heart of God with expectation of Glory is called delusion.*
6. *When the promises of God assure power, you do not need to use strength or hostility to secure power.*
7. *It takes the heart of a thief or a murderer to take what a thief or a murderer brings as present.*
8. *You become an accessory to the crime if you accept the proceeds of the crime; you become the mastermind by default if you are the main beneficiary.*
9. *Your fury attracts fury to you; your viciousness attracts strong judgment.*
10. *Your patient wait for the promises of God for your life will pay off in the end; a premature delivery is an abortion.*
11. *Be strong and decisive in dealing with sin and the evil that seeks to associate with you.*

PRAYER POINTS

- King of Glory, to You belong all authority; I will wait on You. Amen.
- By the power in the blood of Jesus, let every spirit desiring glory by unrighteous means be exposed and put to shame, in the name of Jesus.
- Power to maintain focus in pursuing the kingdom and the King without distraction be my portion today, in the name of Jesus.
- Spirit of wisdom to find and follow the righteous heart of the living God, envelop me, in the name of Jesus. Father, it is not for me if it is not by You or through You. Amen.
- My Father, my God, I rest secure in You and in Your promises. Amen.

THE Lord gives strategies; the Lord gives the plan.

Seek him in all your battles; let Him guide your hand.

If you lean on His wisdom and seek Him in all you do, after seven years in Hebron He will establish you.

2 SAMUEL 5

@When the Lord gives you strategies, your way is called, "Prepared."

Do not go seeking kingdoms; kingdoms will find you there.

¹Then all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and said, "You are our bone and our flesh.

²"And in the past when Saul was king over us, it is you who led Israel out and brought them in;

and the Lord said to you, 'You shall feed My people Israel and be their ruler'.

Who establishes? God alone.

³Therefore all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and there he made a covenant with them before the Lord.

And they anointed David king over Israel.

Indeed the best strategy is to let go, leave it to God.

⁴David was thirty years old when he began to reign and he reigned a total of forty years.

⁵He reigned over Judah in Hebron seven years and six months, and he reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel thirty-three years.

⁶And the king and his men went up to Jerusalem against the Jebusites who inhabited the land,

and they spoke to David, saying, "You shall not come here, for even the blind and the lame will defeat you."

They thought David could never enter.

⁷However, David took the stronghold of Zion, (it became the City of David).

⁸And on that day David said, "I will make the person who climbs up by the water shaft and defeat the Jebusites (the lame and the blind whom the soul of David hates) chief and captain."

Therefore they say, "The blind and the lame shall not come into the house."

⁹Then David took the stronghold, and called it the city of David.

And he built all around from Millo and inwards.

¹⁰And David became great, and the Lord of host was with him.

The Lord gives favor and open many doors.

¹¹Hiram, the king of Tyre sent messengers to David, and cedar trees and workmen.

And they built a house for David, a house for Israel's king.

¹²And in deep thought he perceived it; the Lord had established him, and He had exalted his kingdom for his people Israel's sake.

¹³And David took more wives and concubines from Jerusalem, when from Hebron he came. Also more sons and daughters were born to him there.

¹⁴Shammua, Shobad, Nathan, Solomon were born to him in Jerusalem,

¹⁵also: Ibhar, Elishua, Nepheg, Japhia,

¹⁶Elishama, Eliada, and Eliphelet.

¹⁷When the Philistines heard that Israel had anointed David to be their king, all the Philistines gathered and went up to seek him.

And David heard it and to the stronghold he went.

¹⁸The Philistines also went and pitched in the Valley of Rephaim.

¹⁹And of the Lord, David inquired.

The Lord is the one who gives strategies, so he lifted up his eyes.

"Shall I go up against the Philistines? Will you deliver them into my hand?"

And the Lord said,

"Go up, without a doubt, David, I will deliver them into your hand."

²⁰So David went up to Baal Perazim, and he

defeated them there; they melted before him. And he said, "The Lord has broken through on my enemies like a breach of water."

So David named the place Baal-perazim.

@Oh, you Philistines, if your gods are mighty why leave them behind?

²¹They left their images there and David and his men gathered them and burnt their gods with fire.

²²They had not learned their lessons, so the Philistines went up once again, and they spread themselves for battle in the Valley of Rephaim.

@The Lord gives you the strategies; shall you just get up and fight?

No! Not so with King David!

²³Once more of God, the man of God inquired.

He must have said, "Thank the Lord I inquired!"

The Lord said, "You shall not go up this time; circle around behind them, and come upon them by the mulberry trees."

The Lord gives strategies if you seek Him, He will lead.

²⁴He said, "When you hear the rustling in the top of the mulberry trees, then you know the time is right.

Get up, go forward quickly, the Lord has gone to lead the fight;

He is gone ahead to strike the Philistines.

²⁵From Geba to Gezer, the Philistines were struck down;

David did just as the Lord commanded, for this the king had known:

@The Lord gives victories; let Him direct each step you take;

every battle that you are faced with is another time to pray.

CWDS Bible Quotes

1. Patient and persistent pursuit of the Presence and the heart of God is the formula for powerful and satisfying breakthroughs.
2. Real breakthrough is when victory fights to reach you instead of you fighting for it; it is when the people break through to find you on your knees rather than you fighting for personal glory.
3. True glory is when God gets the glory from your fight, not just you from your victory; maintain righteousness all the way.
4. Victory comes riding on the back of courage in the face of strong challenges; claim it, take it, possess it and name it; call it by your name.
5. You know the Lord has established you when He increases favor on your life.
6. The enemy will come out in numbers and strength to fight against what the Lord is bringing you into; progress attracts progressive demons.
7. Let them come in numbers, they will fall in numbers and cause you to advance speedily. When you take the test in batches instead of individually, you fast forward your progress.
8. Humility seeks the Lord's permission to proceed even in the face of pressing problems.
9. You defeat yourself when you fight in your own strength and your own wisdom; you always have a Present Help.

10. Every new battle, every new test, is a new opportunity to seek the Lord for divine unbeatable strategies.
11. Never too small for a word from God; never too confident to turn it over to Him.
12. A move of God breaks the heart of sinners; fight on your knees and you move Him to fight for you.
13. Victory is sweeter and more emphatic when you hear God and do it His way; confidence for victory increases when you enter into partnership with God.
14. Nothing satisfies like knowing you have not only witnessed but you have been a part of a move of God; it starts by finding and pursuing the heart of God.

PRAYER POINTS

- Breakthrough that yields lasting satisfaction, locate the disappointed and frustrated in the body of Christ today, in the name of Jesus.
- By the power in the blood of Jesus Christ, I will do my battles in the Spirit; let the spirit of those designated to convey me to the next level be stirred to action today, in the name of Jesus.
- Holy Spirit, I yield myself completely to You so that God gets the glory from every stage of my battle; I will walk in integrity and humility. Amen.
- Captain of the host of the living God, lead me into battle; I will show You strong and mighty Father, as I possess all my possessions. Amen.
- God of my destiny, increase Your favor on my life; let my heavens be opened to me by fire and establish my steps and my ministry before You. Amen.

THE tag on the Lord's matters says, "Handle with care."

Let no time, no money and no energy be spared.

Let all men know the instructions and follow them with fear.

Be humble in your own sight; forsake pride and unto God draw near.

There is a tag on the Lord's matters; take heed and beware.

Death to all who ignore them, or they just may not bear;

For the tag on the Lord's matters says, "Handle with care."

2 SAMUEL 6

¹And David gathered all the choice men of Israel; they numbered thirty thousand.

This was God's matter and nothing would be spared.

²And David arose and went with all the people who were with him

from Baale of Judah, to bring up the ark of God from there;

God whose name is called, The Lord of Hosts who dwells between the cherubims.

³On a new cart they placed the ark of God, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab. Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, drove the new cart.

⁴And they brought it from the house of Abi-

nadab, which was on the hill, and they accompanied the ark as Ahio went before it.

⁵*This matter was precious; David and all the house of Israel played music before the Lord on all kinds of instruments; on harps, on stringed instruments, on tambourines, and on cymbals.*

⁶*The voice of their praises made the atmosphere ring.*

This matter was great and delicate, and it compelled the king; he would not forsake the glory; it was a great cast that he had.

But on Nashon's threshing floor they ignored the tag.

⁷*The tag on God's matters says, "Handle with care.*

Must respect the holy, observe and beware."

⁸On the threshing floor of Nashon, the oxen stumbled and shook the ark; and Uzzah put out his hand and held the ark of God to steady it.

⁹*It was a moment's instinctive reaction, but this error came at a great cost;*

¹⁰The anger of the Lord was aroused against Uzzah, and God struck him there for his error. He died before the ark.

He had good intentions, but he forsook the tag.

¹¹This thing troubled David; he did not know what to do.

The Lord had broken out upon Uzzah, therefore he named the place Perez-uzzah; to this day it is so.

¹²David was afraid of the Lord, and he said, "How can I take up the ark?"

¹³So David would not move the ark of the Lord into the City of David with him; but he took it aside into the house of Obed-edom the Gittite and left it there.

Now he would have to learn the instructions and understand the tag.

¹⁴The ark of the Lord remained in the house of Obed-edom the Gittite for three months.

And the Lord blessed Obed-edom and all his household.

¹⁵And David was told, saying, "The Lord has blessed Obed-edom and all that belongs to him because of the ark."

So David went to the house of Obed-edom and he brought up the Ark to the city of David with great gladness and with joy.

¹⁶*He had studied the instructions and he took great care this time around.*

¹⁷When those who carried the ark had gone six paces, he sacrificed fatted sheep and oxen.

¹⁸And David danced before the Lord; he danced with all of his might, and with all of his heart.

He was wearing a linen ephod.

¹⁹So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the Lord; and from a distance you could hear it, the sound of the trumpet and the shouts.

²⁰The king was leaping and dancing, oh, how greatly he rejoiced.

For the tag says, "Seek the Lord and forsake all your pride."

Girded only with a linen ephod, see the king of Israel dance.

Strip off your prideful clothing if it is the Lord God you really want.

As the ark of the Lord came into the City of David, Michal, Saul's daughter, looked through a window and saw the king as he leapt.

He was whirling before the Lord and in her heart she despised him; *he was acting desperate.*

²¹So they brought the ark of the Lord and placed it in the midst of the tabernacle David had set up for it.

Then David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the Lord.

²²*The tag on God's matter says, "God first!" But then what is next?*

David knew the answer: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

²³So when David had finished offering, he blessed the people in the Lord's name.

²⁴Then he gave to the whole multitude of Israel, both women and men, to everyone a loaf of bread, a piece of meat and a raisin cake to all of them.

So all the people departed for their houses.

²⁵*The tag says, "Bless your household also; speak well of them with your mouth."*

²⁶So David returned to bless his household.

But Michal, Saul's daughter came to meet David as he came home to bless his house;

and she said to him, "How glorious was the king of Israel today,

uncovering himself in the eyes of his servants and his maids;

as one of the vain and base persons do without any shame.

²⁷*Oh, Michal! Don't you see, I followed the tag?*

I would never have been king if only your father had."

²⁸And David said to Michal, "It was before the Lord who chose me above your father and all his house to rule;

to appoint me ruler over the people of the Lord, Israel.

Therefore, I will worship and play music before the Lord.

²⁹And I will be even more undignified than this before Him, and will be humble in my own eyes."

Let everyone who will worship know that worship comes with a price.

"As for the maidservants you spoke about, let my maidservant speak;

but when they speak of and to me, they shall speak honorably."

³⁰*The tag on God's matters says, "Handle with care."*

As her father ignored them, so did Michal.

²³Therefore, Michal the daughter of Saul had no children until the day she died. She became barren, *like many people of God, for you cannot be fruitful if you ignore the tag.*

CWDS Bible Quotes

1. *Good intentions do not excuse obedient observance when it comes to the things of God and the presence of God.*
2. *God is impressed by numbers, pomp, ceremony and show, as long as it is a show of respect for His laws, principles and stipulation.*
3. *It helps to know you cannot help God your way; you can help yourself by learning of Him.*
4. *Never assume a place in the presence of God; know your place; never be comfortable too close to the fire if you are not consecrated for it.*
5. *Study and understand the instructions regarding the presence you carry in your temple (body) and live with awe and daily fear.*
6. *When you are reproved stop, repent, reassess, rediscover, reposition and return renewed.*
7. *It is impossible to entertain the presence of the Lord in His awesomeness and not experience abnormal grace and blessings.*
8. *All the blessings in the promises and the presence are for everyone and so are the laws that govern the presence and the release of the blessings.*
9. *Come with a renewed mindset, with extravagant praise and with reckless abandon seeking God His way and you will experience glory.*
10. *Loose yourself in the presence of God to lose yourself in the presence of God; lose your present status in the splendor of His presence; lose your dignity to dignify Him and your honor to honor Him.*
11. *Not everyone will understand your worship, but play to the beat of God, for the eyes of God and for the heart of God.*
12. *Minister to the Lord and it will prompt and inspire your ministry to people and to your household.*
13. *Never allow fear or pride to contaminate your worship; honor God and people will honor you and the God in you.*
14. *A sure sign of barrenness is to despise extravagant worship of the living God.*

PRAYER POINTS

- Let the power of divine accuracy in knowing and following the laws and the heart of God be my portion, in the name of Jesus.
- Awesome God, I invest all my time and resources into pursuing and pleasing You, in the name of Jesus.
- Spirit of ignorance in the word and the ways of God, be driven away from the lives of believers now, in the name of Jesus.
- Merciful Father, help me never to be presumptuous with Your presence, in the name of Jesus.
- Holy Spirit, I have determined in my heart to be fearfully conscious of Your presence in me every day of my life. Amen.

HE showed his passion in God's battles, **a passion for the fight; But the Lord had given him rest and his passion never died. Do you care for where you dwell? Do you care for the Lord's house?**

Is there a passion yet within you for the Lord, just to do something more?

2 SAMUEL 7

¹Now while King David sat in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from his enemies all around,

²the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See, I dwell in a house built of cedar, but the ark of the Lord dwells within tent curtains."

³And Nathan said to the king, "Go do it, do all that is in your heart, for the Lord is with you."

⁴But that night the word of the Lord came to Nathan, saying,

⁵"Go, say to David my servant, 'Shall you build for Me a house to dwell in?'"

⁶I have not dwelt in a house ever since I brought the children of Israel out of Egypt to this day, but I have moved about in a tabernacle and in a tent.

⁷In any of the places I have walked with Israel, did I ever speak a word to any of the shepherds of My people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house made of cedar?'"

⁸"Therefore, go tell this to My servant David, 'Thus says the Lord of hosts,

'I took you from the sheepfold; to be ruler of my people Israel I promoted you.

⁹'And wherever you have been, you were never alone.

It is I who was with you to cut off and cast all your enemies down.

I have given you a great name, like the name of the great men in the earth.

¹⁰Also I will appoint a place for My people Israel, and I will plant them,

that they may dwell in their own place and not move again,

nor shall the children of the wicked afflict them as in the past,

¹¹"since the time I commanded judges over My people Israel,

and have given them rest from all their enemies.

Also the Lord now says to you that He will make you a house.

¹²"When your days are ended and you sleep with your fathers, I will set up your son after you,

your son from your own body will reign, and I will establish his kingdom.

¹³"He shall build Me a house and forever I will establish his throne.

¹⁴"And I will be his Father and he shall be My son.

If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with a man's rod and with stripes of men.

¹⁵"But My mercy shall not depart from him, as I took it from Saul whom I put away from before you.

¹⁶"And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you,

and your throne shall be established forever.””

17And Nathan told David all these words;

@and surely the king knew,

if you set your heart on God, He will set His heart on you.

18Then King David went in and sat down before the Lord.

@And with grateful acknowledgment he received the words spoken to him.

Saying, “Who am I, O Lord God?

What is my house that You have brought me this far?

19“And yet this was a small thing in Your sight, but it is more than I can stand;

O Lord, God, tell me, is this the manner of a man?

For You have spoken of Your servant’s house for a great while yet to come.

20“What more can David say to You now? For You, Lord God, You know Your servant.

21“You have done all these great things to make them known to Your servant, for Your word’s sake and according to Your heart.

22“Therefore You are great, O Lord God!”

David erupted in praise;.

“There is none like You, and there is no God besides You, no! Not according to anything we have heard with our ears.

23“And what nation is like Your people, like Israel, the only nation on earth You went to redeem in Person as a people, to make Yourself a name, O Lord—

to do for Yourself great and awesome things for Your land—

before Your people You have redeemed for Yourself, from Egypt, from the nations and their gods?

24“For You have made Israel to be Your very own people forever;

and You, Lord, have become their God.

25“Now, O Lord God, the promises You made to me, I now receive!

Do all that You have spoken concerning Your servant and his house;

establish it forever and do everything You have spoken.

26“Even so let Your name be magnified forever, saying, ‘The Lord of hosts is God of Israel’ and let the house of Your servant David be established before You.

27“For You, O Lord of hosts, God of Israel, have revealed to Your servant, saying, ‘I will build you a house.’

Therefore it came into Your servant’s heart to pray this prayer to You.

28“And now, O Lord God, You are God, and Your words are true;

You have promised this goodness to Your servant, the goodness that only comes from You.

29“As You have spoken, Lord, even so let it be done;

let it please You to bless Your servant, and all

Your servant’s house

that it may continue before You forever;

for You, O Lord God, have spoken it.

Bless the house of Your servant forever with Your blessing!”

CWDS Bible Quotes

1. *The heart of the righteous will always be saying, “What more can I do to be a blessing to the house of God and the expansion of His work in the earth?”*
2. *The righteous only finds rest in the heart of the living God and only finds comfort in fulfilling the desires of God, not in personal comfort and achievements.*
3. *Consultation and openness initiates action; hearing God brings good thoughts to resolution.*
4. *Set your heart to build His house and He will commit His heart to build yours.*
5. *Think generational; the Lord has already gone ahead of you into the future waiting for your generations to catch up.*
6. *Understand what it means for God to acknowledge you and to own you as His son by a peek into the life of Solomon.*
7. *Faith is acknowledging and receiving the good word of God to you by prophecy, revelation or from the written word, with praise, knowing it will happen.*
8. *Wisdom is praying the word and the many promises every day, understanding that God honors His word above His name.*
9. *Find a promise of the Lord today and seize it, personalize it and redeem it in prayer; say, “Now Lord, do as You have promised.”*

PRAYER POINTS

- God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, fix my heart on Your work and on Your house; show me what You will have me do today, in the name of Jesus.
- Awesome Father, give my soul no rest until it exhausts my ability to contribute to Your house and Your kingdom in the earth. Amen. I refuse to be satisfied until I have satisfied Your desire for my life. Amen.
- My Father my God, show me what I can do today to be a blessing to the kingdom; order my way and my resources in Your word. Amen.
- By the power in the blood of Jesus Christ, my life shall only find relevance in my contribution to the advancement of the kingdom in the earth. Amen.
- Spirit of the Living God, let my passion for You perpetuate throughout my generations and position my life for generational impact, in the name of Jesus.

I AM going on, right on; that is what I know;

I am going on to conquer, to let my kingdom grow.

I am going on to take all the promises That the Lord has prepared for me.

All who come against me shall certainly know, that judgment and justice shall be my sword.

For surely I will be taking all the promises

the Lord has prepared for me!

2 SAMUEL 8

¹After this David struck the Philistines until they were subdued. And David took Metheg-ammah from them.

²Then he defeated Moab. Putting them face down, he measured them off with a line. With two lines he measured those to be put to death, and with one line those to be kept alive. And the Moabites became servants of David and tributaries.

³David also struck Hadadezer, the son of Rehob, king of Zobah after this, and then he went to recover his borders at the River Euphrates.

⁴David took from him a thousand chariots, seven hundred horsemen and twenty thousand footmen. Also David hamstringed all the chariot horses, but for one hundred chariots, he reserved enough of them.

From victory to victory, even so David went.

⁵*On right on:* When the Syrians of Damascus came to help Hadadezer king of Zobah, they were undone; David killed twenty-two thousand of them.

⁶Then David constructed garrisons in Syria of Damascus, and from then the Syrians became David's servants; they brought him tributes. And the Lord preserved David wherever he went.

⁷And David took the golden shields that belonged to the servants of Hadadezer and brought them to Jerusalem.

⁸Also from Betah and Berothai, Hadadezer's cities, David brought much bronze; *Yes, I am taking all that God has in store for me.*

⁹When Toi king of Hamath heard that David had defeated all of Hadadezer's army,

¹⁰Toi sent Joram his son to King David, to salute him and bless him in his victory, for he had fought against Hadadezer and defeated him, (for Hadadezer had been at war with Toi); and Joram brought vessels of gold and silver and bronze to the king.

¹¹And King David also dedicated these to the Lord, with the silver and gold he had dedicated from all the nations then that he had subdued:

¹²from Syria, Moab, the people of Ammon, from the Philistines, from Amalek, and from the plunder of Hadadezer the son of Rehob, Zobah's king.

¹³And David made a name for himself, and all the kingdoms knew his name, when he came back from killing eighteen thousand in the Valley of Salt.

¹⁴He also erected garrisons in Edom; he put garrisons throughout all that nation, and all Edom became servants of David. Wherever he went, the Lord preserved David.

¹⁵So David reigned over all Israel, and he ex-

ecuted judgment and justice to all his people.

¹⁶Joab the son of Zeruiah was over the army; Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud was recorder.

¹⁷The priests were Zadok the son of Ahitub, and Ahimelech, son of Abiathar; Sheraiah was the scribe.

¹⁸Benaiah, Jehoiada's son, was over the Cherethites and Pelethites, and the chief rulers were the sons of David.

David knew with order he would go on, right on.

CWDS Bible Quotes

1. *When you are submitted and subdued to God the enemy will be subdued to you; when the Lord has conquered your heart the enemy will fall before you, conquered.*
2. *The power to be successful in everything you do is working in you; begin to work the power, court your God and count your victories.*
3. *Today is your day of complete dominance over your battles and in your business; today marks the beginning of supernatural success.*
4. *When you are subject to God He makes your enemies subject to you for you to do whatever you desire with them.*
5. *When the Lord is your helper you reduce the hapless helpers of your enemies to a heap.*
6. *You have the anointing and power to possess the possession of your strong enemies.*
7. *Dedicate the spoils of your conquest and business to the Lord and you will lose count of the victories and the profits.*
8. *When your heart is upon God, He sets His heart upon you for good.*
9. *When the Lord can trust you to do what is just and right He will add people to you; begin to organize for growth when He can trust you to do just what He desires for His people.*

PRAYER POINTS

- Awesome God, I choose to assign and exhaust all my energies pursuing You, knowing my enemies will be expelled in the exhaust. Amen.
- Let the success that will drive fear and confusion in the camp of my enemies envelop me now, in the name of Jesus.
- By the power in the blood of Jesus, I will operate from the place of complete confidence in Your grace upon my life and absolute dominance in my field of study, career and business, in the name of Jesus. Amen.
- Captain of the hosts of the living God, let the enemy of my soul become stubble under my feet, in the name of Jesus.
- Father, You are my shield and my exceedingly strong defence; You teach my hands to war. Today I possess the possession of all those who hate me. Amen.

I**N a moment's reflection, for if you should,**
And look back to all who have done you good,
You will see, now that you are so blessed,
that you should extend a hand
and, most of all, remember covenants.
Remember brotherly love now that you are standing tall;

Remember Jonathan and the household of Saul.

If they do not come to seek you, then go seek them out; Prepare them a place at your table, yes, assuage their doubts.

2 SAMUEL 9

¹David said, "Is there anyone left of the house of Saul this day, that I may show him kindness, for Jonathan's sake?"

²There was a servant of the house of Saul named Ziba.

They brought him to David, and the king said, "Are you Ziba?" He said, "I am!"

³And the king said to him, "Is there yet anyone of the house of Saul, to whom I may show the kindness of God?"

@I want to be faithful to my covenant;

I want to remember just where I am coming from.

And Ziba replied to the king, "Jonathan has a son who is lame in his feet."

⁴So the king said to Ziba, "Tell me, where is he?"

And Ziba said to the king, "He is in the house of Machir the son of Ammiel in Lo-debar."

⁵Then King David sent and brought him from Lo-debar, from Machir's house.

⁶When Mephibosheth the son of Jonathan, Saul's son came to David, he fell on his face reverently before him.

Then David said, "Mephibosheth?"

And he said, "Behold your servant."

⁷Then David said, "Do not fear, for I will show you kindness for Jonathan your father's sake, and I will restore all the land of Saul your grandfather to you this day; and you shall eat bread at my table continually."

⁸And he bowed himself, and said, "What is your servant for you to give regard to a dead dog as I?"

⁹Then King David called Ziba, Saul's servant, and to him he said, "I have given to your master's son all that belonged to Saul and to his house."

¹⁰"You, your sons and your servants shall plow the land for him, and you shall bring in the harvest that your master's son may have food to eat. But Mephibosheth shall eat bread at my table always."

Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants.

¹¹And Ziba said to the king, "According to all my lord the king has commanded, that your servant will do."

The king said, "As for Mephibosheth, he shall eat at my table as one of the king's sons."

¹²Mephibosheth had a young son whose name was Micha.

And all who dwelt in Ziba's house were Mephi-

bosheth's servants.

So Mephibosheth dwelt in Jerusalem, and he ate at the king's table continually.

He knew the king's compassion; yet he was lame in both feet.

CWDS Bible Quotes

- 1. You are never too accomplished to honor the memory of those who have helped you and never too celebrated to laminate the footsteps of those who have carried you.*
- 2. Not because they are deceased means their memory should decrease or be erased; honor compels action.*
- 3. There is a word released (at Calvary) that will find you at your place of defeat and restore your glory.*
- 4. With God, suddenly is not too fast for your transformation and your marvelous turnaround.*
- 5. Be lavish with your blessings and gracious with your giving, and your supply will be constant.*
- 6. Serve faithfully even if personal legacy gets lost in service; you may have to surrender everything (your dream, your servants) like Ziba to respond to the call to serve.*
- 7. Build good relationships in honor of God and recognition of destiny and you lay a good foundation for your children.*
- 8. The favor you extend in your lifetime is out there looking for your children to shake their hands.*

PRAYER POINTS

- Father God, let the spirit of gratitude and honor walk with me throughout my lifetime. Amen.
- Most high and faithful God, help me to honor the memory of those who have impacted my life in meaningful and tangible ways; and let me live to honor the memory of Jesus. Amen.
- Let the word that will turn my situation around locate me now, in the name of Jesus.
- Grace for immediate turnaround and astounding change in every situation I face, come upon my life today, in the name of Jesus.
- God of goodness and grace, give me the spirit of generosity and extravagance that adequately represents You. Amen.

YOU give them peace, they give you war, and gather men from near and far. They gather together but not by the Lord; Those who gather together shall together be destroyed.

2 SAMUEL 10

¹And after this, Nahash king of Ammon died, and Hanun his son reigned in his place.

²And David said, "Let me show kindness to Hanun the king, Nahash's son, in accordance to the kindness his father showed to me."

So David sent messengers with words of life to comfort him as he mourned his father.

And the servants of David came into the land of Ammon;

But they did not anticipate the way it would go.

³The princes of Ammon spoke to Hanun their lord,

"Do you think because David sent comforters

to you he honors your father at all?

Has David not sent them here to search the city, to spy it out, that he may overthrow it?"

⁴So Hanun took David's servants, shaved half of their beards,

and cut out the middle of their garments until their buttocks bared, and sent them away.

⁵When they told it to David, he sent to meet them, for the men were greatly ashamed.

And the king said, "Remain at Jericho until your beards are grown, and then return."

⁶When the people of Ammon saw that to David their action stank,

they sent and hired Syrians to fill their ranks. They hired twenty thousand Syrian foot soldiers of Beth-rehob and of Zoba,

and a thousand men from the king of Maacah and twelve thousand men from Ish-Tob.

They gathered together, but not by the Lord!

⁷When David heard of it, he sent Joab and all his army of mighty men.

⁸The children of Ammon came up with a strategy; they put themselves in array by the entrance of the gates,

while the Syrians of Zoba, Beth-rehob, Ish-tob, and Maacah were by themselves in the field.

⁹When Joab saw he was caught between the battle lines, in front and behind,

he chose some of the best men of Israel and set them in array against the Syrians.

¹⁰He then put the rest of the people under the command of Abishai his brother, that he may position them against the children of Ammon.

¹¹He said to Abishai, "If the Syrians are too strong for me, come to my rescue,

and if the children of Ammon are too strong for you, I will come to help.

¹²"Be of good courage, and let us be strong for our people and for the cities of our God,

and may the Lord do what He finds to be good."

They gathered together but not by the Lord's word,

"Let the Lord do this day what He thinks good."

¹³So Joab and the people who were with him drew near to battle the Syrians, and they fled before him.

¹⁴When the children of Ammon saw the Syrians fleeing,

they also fled before Abishai and entered the city.

So Joab returned from battle with the people of Ammon and came to Jerusalem.

¹⁵But when the Syrians saw they were defeated by Israel, they mustered their pride,

and gathered together against Israel yet one more time.

¹⁶Then Hadadezer sent to bring out the Syrians from beyond the river, and they came to Helam.

And Shobach the captain of his army went before them.

¹⁷When David was told of it, he gathered all Is-

rael, crossed over Jordan, and came to Helam. And the Syrians set themselves in array against David and fought with him there.

¹⁸Then the Syrians fled before Israel, and David killed seven hundred men on chariots and forty thousand of their horsemen.

And he struck Shobach the captain of their army and there he fell dead.

¹⁹And all the kings who served Hadadezer saw that Israel defeated them,

and they made peace with Israel and served them.

They had gathered together but not by the Lord.

Now the Syrians were afraid to help the children of Ammon anymore.

CWDS Bible Quotes

1. Honor, kindness, goodness and grace should always be on your lips and on display in your life.
2. You may be misinterpreted, misread and mistreated, but goodness is absolute, it is never misdirected.
3. People may misinterpret your good intentions and respond with hostility; they may wrong you for loving them as they did Christ; follow His example; pray for them.
4. Never be drawn into the heat of a matter until you understand the heart of the matter; your counsellors should advise not decide; listen to your heart.
5. Suspicion does not eliminate the duty to love; quarantine the threat and reciprocate the kindness.
6. Never be reproachful even if you are successful; never be obnoxious even if you are suspicious; never invite a war you cannot win.
7. It is best to exercise wisdom than to exercise force; wisdom delivers you from bloodshed, force delivers you to bloodshed.
8. You cannot hire hands to fight against the Higher Hand.
9. Your great battle plans and strategies will become your greatest tragedy if you position yourself against the Lord; there are no strategies against Him.
10. Your defeat calls for retreat and assessment; desist before you persist to devastation; make peace before you are shredded to pieces.

PRAYER POINTS

- My Father, my God, I embrace the law of kindness and goodness all the days of my life. Amen.
- Jesus my Savior, You suffered the abuse of sinners to bring us salvation; help me to be persistently good, even when misunderstood and mistreated. Amen.
- Power to do good consistently to those who hate me and to pray for my spiteful users, make my life Your resort, in the name of Jesus.
- Spirit of wisdom, understanding and discernment for every decision and situation, envelop my life now, in the name of Jesus.
- By the power in the blood of Jesus, I reject every spirit of suspicion that seeks to make me irrational and erratic, in the name of Jesus.

A TIME when kings go out to battle,
A king would stay at home;
A time when kings were busy fighting,

**he was strolling all alone.
Alone, but to be made busy, for beauty met his eyes;
When you commit adultery, alone is only right.
Idle hands would be made busy, to find a cover for this thing;
but like Adam, David can tell you, you cannot cover sin.**

2 SAMUEL 11

¹In the spring of the year, at the time when kings go out to battle, David sent Joab and his servants, and all Israel, and they destroyed Ammon and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem. *Rested and feeling relaxed*, David rose up from his bed and strolled on the roof of the king's house *as the evening sun rested on his head.*

²And one evening when David rose up from his bed, and walked on the roof of the king's house; from the roof he saw a woman bathing, and she was beautiful to look at.

³So David sent and inquired about her. He was told she was Bathsheba, daughter of Eliam, and wife of Uriah the Hittite.

⁴Then David sent messengers and took her; and when she came, he lay with her for she was purified of her uncleanness.

@And he was blinded by his lust, to the statutes he upheld, he abused his rights as king and ignored his good conscience, and so with Uriah's wife he slept. And she went back to her house,

⁵but something was left behind. *Some men's sins are known beforehand;* She conceived and sent to David, saying, "I am with child."

@Now his sin needed a covering, and he knew just what to do.

⁶David sent to Joab, saying, "Send me Uriah the Hittite." And Joab sent Uriah to David.

⁷When Uriah arrived, David asked about Joab and the people, and of how the war was going.

⁸Then David said to Uriah, "Go down to your house; go down and wash your feet." So Uriah departed from the king's house and the king sent after him a platter of meat.

@Uriah must have wondered, "Why am I being given such regard?"

⁹But Uriah did not go to his house, but slept at the door of the king's house with all the servants of his lord.

¹⁰When they told King David, saying, "Uriah did not go down to his house," *The king was no more idle; the battle was breaking out.* He sent for Uriah and asked him, "Did you not come from a journey? Why did

you not go down to your house?"

¹¹And Uriah said to David, "The ark and Judah and all Israel dwell in tents, and Joab and all your servants are camped in the open fields, shall I then go to my house to eat and drink and to lie with my wife? As your soul and my soul live, I will not do this thing."

@David was moved by Uriah's profession, but cornered by his sin.

¹²He said to Uriah, "Remain here today also and I will let you return tomorrow."

So that day and the next day Uriah remained in Jerusalem.

¹³David called him to eat and drink before him, and entertained him lightly until he was drunk.

But at evening he went out to lie on his bed with the servants of David, he did not go to his house that night either,

@And David knew then that the war was on.

This attempt to find a cover, did not go as he had planned.

Now he would try to wash this sin away with the blood of Uriah.

In all of this David never considered the Power that is higher.

¹⁴In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it by Uriah's hand.

@He did not know he was the bearer of his very own death warrant.

¹⁵The letter said, "Place Uriah at the very front of the hottest battle,

and withdraw from him that he may be isolated, and he may be struck down and die."

¹⁶And so, while Joab besieged the city, he assigned Uriah to a place where he knew the valiant men would fight.

¹⁷The men of the city came out to do battle with Joab then.

He withdrew from Uriah, and some of David's servants fell;

and Uriah, the faithful servant of David died also.

¹⁸So Joab sent a report to David of all the events of the war,

¹⁹and to the messenger, he said,

"When you have finished reporting the war to the king,

²⁰if the king gets angry, and he says to you, 'Why did you come so close to the wall?'

Did you not know that they would shoot from the wall?'

²¹'Who is it that struck Abimelech the son of Jerubbeseth?'

Was it not a woman who cast a millstone on his head;

she cast it from the wall so he died at Thebez? Why did you go so close to the wall?'

Then you shall say, 'Your servant Uriah is also dead.'

²²So the messenger went, and reported all that Joab had sent him to say to David.

23The messenger said to David, “The men prevailed against us and came out to us in the field;

and we drove them back to the entrance of the gate.

24“Then the archers shot at us from the wall, and some of the king’s servants are dead, and your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also.”

And his concern and anger was replaced with relief.

25Then David said to the messenger, “Say to Joab: ‘Do not be displeased by this thing, for the sword devours one as well as another. Use your strength against this city and overthrow it.’

Encourage him with this.”

26And when Uriah’s wife heard that her husband was dead, she mourned for him.

27And when her mourning was finished, David sent for her, and brought her to his house, and she became his wife, and she bore him a son.

But the thing that David did displeased the Lord.

@Nothing is hidden from Him under the heavens; though it is concealed from man.

CWDS Bible Quotes

1. *The spiritual battles you abstain from will cause you to be drafted into fleshly battles that will constrain you to violate spiritual principles.*
2. *If you refrain from warring in the spirit, you resign to warring in the flesh.*
3. *Live righteous; sin has a way of keeping you busy pretending to be righteous.*
4. *Because it looks good does not mean it is good for you or it is for your good.*
5. *God never takes a day off and neither should you.*
6. *Self-governance and self-restraint are your greatest assets; utilize them.*
7. *One moment’s folly will mar a lifetime of wisdom; one night’s stand could result in one perpetual nightmare.*
8. *O how you wish it would just go away quickly and quietly.*
9. *You know who she is, whose she is, and God’s law concerning adultery, you have no excuse. Come clean or stay dirty.*
11. *You propose a lie you will need a greater lie to cover that lie and soon it will become a bloody lie.*
12. *Cover-up only complicates and exacerbates; it is the devil’s murderous playground; cover-up assures you the cover page on the shame news; your escape is confession and renunciation.*
13. *Be so committed to the Lord and to duty that it embarrasses kings; this will deliver you from every trap of the enemy.*
14. *Never be so committed to looking good that you forget your duty to being good and doing good. Never be willing to commit lives to saves yours, rather give your life to save others.*
15. *The cruelty of adultery is a spirit waiting for full expression and definition in the lives of the guilty.*
16. *It is not over because it is covered over; your*

marriage to sin does not eliminate the sin and its offsprings (the consequences).

PRAYER POINTS

- Let every spirit of laziness to the word and prayer in my life, convulse and die now, in the name of Jesus.
- I soak myself in the blood of Jesus and stubbornly refuse to war in the flesh, in the name of Jesus.
- Spirit of the living God, let the spirit of lust assigned to my life be removed by fire. Let my spiritual eyes receive divine clarity now, in the name of Jesus.
- Power of self-restraint envelop my life now. I drink from Your pure heart Lord Jesus.
- By the spirit and power of the wisdom of God in me, I refuse to sell my destiny for a moment of flesh, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

IT is under the carpet, or so you suppose; discreetly you hid it and nobody knows. A rich man had large flocks, cattle and herd, But took by force the one lamb a poor man reserved. Did I hear you correctly? Death I suppose. Hold your breath, David; you are exposed! Judgment holds no secrets, sin will be exposed.

2 SAMUEL 12

1Then the Lord sent Nathan to David.

And he came and said to him,

“There were two men in a city, one rich and the other poor.

2“And the rich man had a great number of flocks and herds.

He was doing very well, he was lifted high;

3“while the poor man had nothing but one lamb, yes, only one ewe.

It was a lamb that he treasured; it ate his own meat.

It was a lamb for his pleasure; in his bosom it sat.

The lamb grew up together with him and his children;

it drank from his own cup and was like a daughter to him.

4“A traveler came to the rich man; he would not take from his own flock or herd, to prepare for the traveler who had come to his home;

but he came to the poor man and took his one precious lamb, and prepared it and gave it to the man who had come.”

5David’s anger was aroused against this wicked man;

this required urgent judgment, he was decisive in his stance.

He said, “As the Lord lives, the man who did this shall surely die!

6“And for this lamb he shall restore four times the amount, because he did this thing and had no pity at

all.”

Just judgments, but David that man is exposed.

⁷Nathan said to David, “You are the man! Hear now David, thus says the Lord God: “I anointed you king over Israel, and delivered you from Saul’s hand,

⁸I gave you the house of your master and your master’s wives into your charge; the house of Israel and of Judah I gave unto you;

and if that had been too little, I would have given you much more also!

⁹Why then have you despised the commandment of the Lord, to do evil in His sight?

You killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and you have taken his wife.

With the sword of the people of Ammon you killed a just man.

¹⁰Therefore the sword shall not depart from your house for what you have done.

For you despised Me, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite as your wife unjustly.’

¹¹“Thus says the Lord, ‘From your very own house I will raise up adversity against you; and I will take your wives before your eyes and give them to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of the sun.’”

¹²You did this thing in secret and felt just, I suppose;

but I will do this before all Israel, then your sins will be exposed.”

¹³Then David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the Lord.” *He is my delight.*

And Nathan said to David, “The Lord has also put away your sins, David; you shall not die.”

But someone had to bear it, there was no escape.

¹⁴“Because by doing this, you have given a great excuse to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme, the child who is born to you shall die certainly.”

¹⁵Then Nathan left for his house.

And the Lord struck the child Uriah’s wife bore to David, and he became very sick that day.

¹⁶David pleaded with God for the child; he fasted and he prayed, and went in and lay all night on the floor.

¹⁷And the elders of the house went in to raise him from the ground.

But he refused, nor did he eat food with them.

¹⁸He fasted seven days and on the seventh day the child died.

And the servants of David were afraid to tell him this news about the child.

For they said, “When the child was alive we spoke to him, but he refused our voice; how can we tell him then that the child has died?”

Certainly he may do some harm.”

¹⁹But not so for David; when he saw his servants whispering, he perceived the child was gone.

So he said to his servants, “Is the child dead?” “He is dead,” they confirmed.

²⁰So David rose up from the ground, washed and anointed himself, then he changed his clothes, and into the house of God he went, and he worshipped.

Then he went to his own house, and at his request they brought him food, and he ate it, he was in a different mood.

²¹Then his servants asked him, saying, “What is this thing you have done?

You fasted and wept for the child while he was alive, yet you eat and drink when he has died?”

²²And David said, “While he lived I fasted and wept for I said this,

‘Who can tell if the Lord will show me grace and let the child live?’”

²³“But now that he is dead, why should I fast? Can I bring him back again?”

“The milk is spilt now and tears would be a waste.

I cannot bring back the dead, though I earnestly yearn;

I will go to him someday, but he shall not return.”

²⁴Then David comforted Bathsheba his wife, went in to her and she bore him a son.

They loved him, the Lord loved him; he named him Solomon.

²⁵And the Lord sent word by Nathan the prophet; so they called him Jedidiah because of the Lord.

²⁶And Joab fought against the people of Ammon, and took the royal city.

²⁷And Joab sent messengers to David, and said to him,

“I fought against Rabbah, and I have taken the city’s water source.

²⁸“Now then, gather the people and come take the city,

lest I take it, and it be named after me.

²⁹So David gathered all the people, and went and fought, and took Rabbah for his own,

³⁰and from the head of their king, he took the royal crown.

The crown weighed a talent of gold, inset with precious stones;

and it was set on David’s head. And he brought out the plunder from the city; an enormous amount.

³¹And he brought out the people in the city; and put them to work,

with saws, irons picks and axes, and also in brick works.

To all the cities of Ammon, this David did, then David and all the people returned to Jerusalem.

“So all people will know if God’s favor is not yours;

you will lose all your battles; defeated! Exposed!

CWDS Bible Quotes

1. *Self-justification will destroy the sense of guilt; it*

- must be shocked to reality.*
2. Judge like you have no fault; hug your fault like you have no Judge.
 3. Not because you are a prophet means you should pop it; wisdom selects the right approach to get the right response from sinners.
 4. How revolting can sin get until it points to you. Never be too quick to point a finger before dealing with the finger pointed back at you; never be too hasty to judge, you may be surprised at how accurate you are.
 5. The goodness and grace of God to you is unquestionable, yet you question it every time you violate His requirements of you.
 6. The Lord has removed your sin but you must deal with the consequences; the cross will take your sin but deliverance releases, or looses, you from the consequences.
 7. Why must you wait until your sins are common knowledge for you to acknowledge them?
 8. You show contempt for the Lord when you contempt His laws.
 9. The wages of sin is death; though you live Someone had to die.
 10. Get desperate for the salvation of your household. Whatever it takes do it (fast, pray, sacrifice), you have no power after death; every member matters on the eternal roll.
 11. Focus your energy to target results. Do everything you can while you can; but keep nothing canned when you can do nothing(move on); never cry over spilt milk.
 12. Keep praying even when it seems nothing changes; your prayer may not affect the current situation but it will impact the next generation and set the heart of God on Solomon.
 13. Not because the Lord does not love your action, means He hates you; not because your marriage began illegitimately means your children are.

PRAYER POINTS

- My Father my God, thank You for the cross; I refuse to find refuge in lies or self-justification, in the name of Jesus. Amen.
- Most righteous God, shine Your light in my heart and let every evil contradiction be evicted. I will judge myself and exact the penalty of the cross. Amen.
- Wisdom to deploy the right approach to reach this sinful world, sinner by sinner, envelop the church today, in the name of Jesus.
- Let the fire of the Holy Spirit burn away every contradiction to the word of God from my heart, in the name of Jesus. Amen.
- Most high God, I take shelter in You. Power to move beyond my erroneous past to my designation of greatness, visit me today, in the name of Jesus.

HE loved her, oh, he loved her; until love made him sick.

**The amorous would rape her, and of her he would fall sick,
Sick for she was hated more than the love he had before.**

When you give heed to evil then sin is at your door.

And sin will lead to more sin, and all sin leads to death.

In one sin-filled vicious cycle; what you

sow is what you get.

2 SAMUEL 13

¹Absalom the son of David had a beautiful sister named Tamar.

And Amnon, the son of David, loved her; O how much he loved her then.

²He loved her until it distressed him, and he was so distressed that it made him sick; for she was a virgin; no he could not handle this.

It was inappropriate for Amnon to do anything to her.

When lust have you captive and you are bound within its fence, subtle and vicious may be the counsel of close friends.

³Amnon had a close friend whose name was Jonadab, son of Shimeah, brother of the king. He was a conniving person, and he was there for him.

⁴And he said to Amnon, "You are the king's son, so tell me, why do you go around troubled and dejected daily?"

He said, "I love her, how I love Tamar, the sister of Absalom.

No one ever told me before that this is how much love could hurt."

⁵And Jonadab said to him, "Do not worry; just lie down on your bed and pretend to be sick."

And he unveiled a plan so evil, yet it brought Amnon solace.

"When your father comes to visit, tell him, 'Please let my sister Tamar come and make cakes for me, that from the hands of my sweet sister I may delight myself and eat.'"

⁶Then Amnon lay down and pretended illness; and when the king came to see him, Amnon said to the king,

"Please let Tamar my sister come and make cakes for me in my sight, that I may eat this from her hand, that is all I desire."

⁷And David sent to Tamar, saying, "Go to Amnon, your brother's house, and prepare him a meal."

⁸And Tamar went to Amnon's house; he was lying down looking ill.

She took flour, kneaded it, and made cakes for him.

⁹When she placed the pan before him, he refused to eat.

She must have thought it strange, when he told everyone to leave.

He had everyone sent out from him, and they all went out.

¹⁰Then Amnon said to Tamar, "Bring the food into my bedroom, let me eat it there from your hand."

And Tamar took the cakes she made to Amnon her brother in his bedroom, *in innocence.*

¹¹When she brought it for him to eat it, things

began to change;

he held her hand, and said, "Come lie with me, my sister." *He must have been deranged.*

¹²She responded, "No! Do not force me, my brother; this folly should not be done in Israel. Do not do this disgraceful thing!

¹³Where will I make my shame to go? And you would be as one of the fools in Israel.

Listen to wise counsel; go ask the king for me; he will not withhold me from you, certainly."

¹⁴But Amnon would not listen; by strength he held her down.

He raped her and did wickedness; *would he do the right thing now?*

Was it love or pure lust that tormented him that way?

When strong love turns to hatred, Satan is having a field day.

¹⁵Amnon hated her fiercely, so much that his hatred for her was greater than the love he had for her before.

And Amnon said to her, "Arise and be gone, woman!" *This evil had now matured.*

Wisdom is a woman, and she says, "Forsake your sin."

¹⁶Tamar said to him, "O no! This evil of sending me away is much worse than what to me you did."

She is calling from the housetop!

But he would not listen to her.

¹⁷Then he called his servants, and said, "Put this woman out!

Take her away from me and bolt the door behind.

Abused and mistreated, she was screaming in her mind!"

¹⁸She had on a robe of many colors that the king's virgin daughters wore.

And Amnon's servant put her out and behind her he bolted the door.

¹⁹And Tamar put ashes on her head, and ripped the multi-colored robe, and with her hand on her head, she wept bitterly; her tears overflowed.

²⁰And Absalom her brother said to her, "Has Amnon your brother raped you? Hold your peace, my sister. He is your brother, do not take it to heart."

So Tamar remained desolate in the house of her brother Absalom.

²¹And when David heard this news, he was very angry.

²²Brothers but not speaking; Absalom spoke to Amnon neither good nor bad; for Absalom hated Amnon for forcing his sister Tamar.

This was not the moment; he would wait for the right time.

Two full years and his anger never died.

²³After two full years, Absalom had sheepshearers in Baal-hazor, which is close to Ephraim;

so he invited all the sons of the king.

²⁴Absalom came to the king and said, "Your

servant has sheepshearers; please let the king and his servants go with me."

²⁵But the king said to him, "No, son, let us not all go, lest we burden you."

And he urged him, but he would not go; so he blessed him.

²⁶And Absalom said, "If not, send my brother Amnon,

and with him send all the king's sons."

²⁷The king asked him his reason, saying,

"Why should he go with you?"

But Absalom urged him persistently, so he permitted Amnon and all the king's sons to go with him.

There was feasting and rejoicing, but Absalom had only one plan.

He found consolation, saying, "Tonight I get my man."

²⁸Absalom had commanded his servants, saying, "Observe carefully, when Amnon's heart is drunken, and when I tell you, 'Strike Amnon!' Then kill him; do not be afraid!

Have not I commanded you? Be valiant and exhibit courage."

²⁹So Absalom's servants did to Amnon as he had commanded.

Then all the king's sons got up, got on their mules and fled.

³⁰And while they were returning, David received the news,

"Absalom has killed all the king's sons and not one of them remains to you!"

He may have thought of God's warning, but this was much more than he could bear.

³¹So King David rose up and ripped his garments and laid there on the ground; and all his servants stood by with their clothes torn.

³²Then his nephew Jonadab, the son of his brother Shimeah, *the one who counseled Amnon to sin*; answered and said,

"Do not let my lord believe that they have killed all the king's sons, for Amnon alone is dead.

"This has been determined by Absalom from the day he forced his sister Tamar.

³³"Do not let my lord take this thing to heart thinking that all the king's sons are dead; only Amnon is dead."

³⁴Then Absalom fled, and the young watchman looked and saw many people coming from the road on the hillside behind him.

³⁵And Jonadab said to the king, "Look, the king's sons are coming; as your servant said, so it is."

³⁶And as soon as he had finished speaking, the king's sons came, and they lifted up their voice together and wept.

The king and all his servants wept exceedingly.

When there is murder within families, pain comes not in one but in two ways.

³⁷But Absalom fled to Talmai, the son of Am-

mihud, king of Geshur. And David mourned for his son every day.

³⁸And Absalom was in Geshur for three years.

³⁹And King David longed to go to Absalom, for Amnon was already dead.

He yearned for the living, for concerning Amnon he was comforted.

CWDS Bible Quotes

1. *If you cannot have it, get over it, before it gets all over you, overpowers you and gets you going overboard.*
2. *Friendly advice is hostile if it sets a trap for your soul and for your life; the word of God remains the best measuring standard for advice received.*
3. *Play by the rules or you may get what you want and everything you don't want with it; or otherwise, get what you want and lose everything.*
4. *Love is based on principles while lust is based on feelings; lust is a demonic spirit that rides you to your own disaster.*
5. *Honor the purity of your fiancée; never take it unless it is given; if you fake it to take it you will 'lose it' after you abuse it.*
6. *It is not from the heart or spirit but demonic lure of flesh if it leaves you angry and heartless after it is gratified.*
7. *Never be pumped up for pleasure unless you are prepared for the responsibility; you take her you have her and the offspring.*
8. *There is no casual sex just demonic casualties.*
9. *It may be over but it will never just go away; deal with it before it returns to deal with you.*
10. *There are consequences for every action; delay may mean it is deferred but not deterred.*
11. *Sexual sin in any area brings perpetual problems on you and on your household; exercise restraint and discipline.*

PRAYER POINTS

- Power of self-restraint and self-control fall upon every believer now, in the name of Jesus.
- Let every friendly spirit in my life speaking death into my destiny be fanned away by the blood of Jesus; I call forth friends who will speak the truth even if it hurts. Amen.
- My Father, my God, I will obey Your laws and fear You in all my ways. Amen.
- Let the spirit of intense lust operating among the youths in the body of Christ receive a divine rebuke, in the name of Jesus.
- Spirit of purity in dating and marriage, embrace believers globally, in the name of Jesus.

**THE wheel of deception is turning.
Tell me, is the king yet deceived?
When nothing can get his compassion,
They will get to his heart through deceit.
A heart grieved with longing,
Telling wisdom and judgment to give way;
But when your field burns with fire,
You will see the thing changing face.**

2 SAMUEL 14

¹Joab the son of Zeruiah perceived there was a longing, that the king's heart was towards Absalom his son.

²And Joab sent for a wise woman from Tekoah; and he connived a plan.

"Make yourself look like a mourner, and put your mourning apparel on.

Do not anoint yourself with oil, but act as if for the dead you have been mourning long.

³"Go to the king and speak in this manner."

So Joab gave her the words.

⁴And when the woman of Tekoa came to the king,

she fell on her face prostrate before him, and said, "Help, O king!"

⁵Then the king said to her, "What troubles you? What is the problem?"

And she answered, "I am a widow; my husband is dead.

⁶"Now I have two sons; they fought each other in the field; no one was there to part them, and one struck the other and he is dead.

⁷"Now the whole family wants his brother to pay with blood,

saying, "Deliver him that we may kill him for the life of his brother;

we will destroy the heir also.

They desire to put out my coal, and not leave my husband a name or remnant on the earth."

⁸Then the king said to the woman, "Go to your house and I will give charge concerning you."

⁹And the woman said to the king, "Let the king and his throne be guiltless, and let the iniquity be on me and my father's house."

¹⁰So the king said, "Whoever says anything to you, bring that person to me, and he shall not touch you anymore."

¹¹Then she said, "Please let the king remember the Lord your God,

and do not allow the avenger of blood to destroy anymore, lest they destroy my son."

And he said, "As the Lord lives, not one of your son's hair shall fall to the ground."

¹²Then the woman said, "Please permit your maidservant to speak one more word to the king." And he said, "Say on."

¹³So the woman said, "Why have you thought to do such a thing against the people of God? For the king speaks this thing as a guilty person in that the king has not brought home his son who is banished.

¹⁴"For we must all die as water spilled on the ground, which cannot be gathered up again; but God does not take a life away, but He has devised a means, that His banished ones are not expelled from Him."

And the wheels of deception turned.

¹⁵"Therefore, I have come to speak to my lord of this thing because the people have made me afraid.

And I said, I will speak to the king, perhaps he will grant me relief.

¹⁶For the king will hear and deliver his maidservant from the hand of the man who would

destroy me and my son from God's inheritance.'

¹⁷Then I said, 'Your word, O king, will bring comfort, for as an angel of God, so is my lord in discerning good and bad. May the Lord your God be with you therefore.'" *@She had exposed an inner longing in him.*

¹⁸The king answered and said to the woman, "Now, do not hide from me the thing I ask you."

And she said, "Speak on my lord."

¹⁹And the king said, "Is the hand of Joab with you in this?"

And she said, "As your soul lives, my lord king,

no one can turn to the left or the right hand from anything you have spoken.

It was your servant Joab who commanded me to do this;

it is he who put all these words into my mouth.

²⁰"To cause you to change your mind, your servant Joab has done this thing; but according to the wisdom of an angel of God my lord is wise, to understand everything in the earth."

²¹And the king said to Joab, "I have granted your desire, Joab.

Go, bring back my son Absalom."

²²Then Joab fell to the ground and bowed, and thanked the king, saying,

"Today your servant knows that I have found grace in your sight, O king, in that you have granted my request in this."

²³"So Joab arose and went to Geshur, and brought Absalom back to Jerusalem.

²⁴And the king said, "Let him return to his own house, he shall not see my face."

So Absalom returned to his house, but he did not see the king's face.

²⁵Now in all Israel, no one was praised as Absalom for his beauty.

From the top of his head to the bottom of his foot he had no blemish in him.

²⁶When the hair of his head was cut at the end of each year—for it became heavy and long—

it was weighed and it weighed two hundred shekels by the king's standard.

²⁷To Absalom was born three sons and one daughter whose name was Tamar. She was extremely beautiful.

²⁸And Absalom lived in Jerusalem for two years, during which, he never saw the face of the king.

²⁹So Absalom sent and called for Joab, to send him to the king, but he refused to come. He sent to him a second time but Joab again refused to come to him.

@Do you know the face of deception?

If you help Absalom you will know the truth.

When your field burns with fire, you will see it changing face on you.

³⁰So Absalom said to his servants, "See Joab's field is near to mine, he has barley there, set it on fire." And the servants of Absalom did as he required.

³¹And Joab rose up and came to Absalom's house, and said to him—
His deceptive plan had backfired—

"Why have you set my field on fire?"

³²And Absalom answered Joab, and said, "I sent to you, saying, 'Come here, that I may send you to the king, to say,

'Why have you brought me from Geshur?

It would have been better for me to be there still.'"

Therefore, let me see the king's face; but if iniquity is in me, have me killed."

³³So Joab went to the king and told this to him.

And when the king sent for Absalom, he came and bowed himself on his face to the ground before the king.

And history recorded, as David kissed his son Absalom,

deception swayed sound judgment and wisdom.

CWDS Bible Quotes

1. *Your evil deed commands judgment, while love constantly wrestles judgment demanding mercy.*
2. *Compassion contends with the compulsion of sound principles in a battle that only wise intervention can decide.*
3. *When your natural heart of compassion can compel you to act on behalf of others but cannot move you to act on your own behalf, the hypocrisy will confront you.*
4. *There are no two standards in judgment, it is called partiality or double-standards.*
5. *It is good to hear others but it is best to hear God, let Him be the final voice in every matter.*
6. *Forgiveness is unconditional, it is dictated by the laws of love; restoration of rights and privileges are conditional, it is dictated by the laws of change.*
7. *God relishes the restoration of the banished so much that He reached out to Israel constantly; so much that He paid the highest price imaginable, the ultimate cost, the cross.*
8. *Take more value in the beauty of your heart and in your relationship with God than in your physical features or deception will mislead you.*
9. *Don't be too fired up to intervene for a cold-blooded murder you may attract fire to your own fields.*
10. *Never abuse relationship to procure endorsement; keep it pure and honest at all times.*

PRAYER POINTS

- Merciful God, thank You for Your relentless love speaking mercy into my life, in the name of Jesus.
- Let the love that covers a multitude of sin enter the hearts of people everywhere in communities, churches, friendships and families. Amen.
- Father, unite my heart in Your laws and remove every hypocrisy in me, in the name of Jesus.
- All knowing God, I drink from Your cup of wisdom for every decision I make, in Jesus' name.

- Let the word that will resolve every conflict of my soul, break through and locate me today, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

OH, why did he do it? Why did he hurt me so?

He took away my people and the friend that I have known.

Oh, counselor and friend, you who used to make me strong;

I once leaned on your wisdom and was strengthened by your hands.

Now I run, but I need order; I will put a plan in place,

But it hurts for I am running from the son of my own veins.

2 SAMUEL 15

¹After this Absalom prepared for himself chariots and horses, and fifty men to run before him.

To blaze a trail of evil in rebellion to his father, the king.

²And Absalom would rise up early and stand up beside the highway to the gate.

And so when anyone with a case came to the king for justice, he would call to him and say, "What city are you from?" And they would say, "Your servant is from this or that tribe of Israel."

³Then Absalom would say to him, "Your matter is good and right, but the king has no deputy with him to attend to your needs."

⁴"Oh, that I was a judge in the land, so everyone who needed justice could come to me; then I would give him justice."

Absalom revealed his dark thoughts of rebellion.

There was none as sweet as Absalom as he worked his deceptive plan.

⁵Everyone got a kiss from him, whenever they came near to bow to him to pay him obeisance.

⁶Absalom did this to all Israel who came to the king for judgment; so in this manner, Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel.

⁷Four years Absalom did this; four years he was allowed.

But after four years Absalom said to David, "Let me go to Hebron and pay my vow."

⁸"For I vowed a vow while I dwelt in Geshur in Syria, saying,

"If the Lord brings me back to Jerusalem, I will serve Him."

⁹And the king said to him, "Go in peace."

®Rather, his aim was to disturb the peace, but as they say, 'Nobody knew.'

So he set out for Hebron.

¹⁰Then Absalom sent spies throughout all Israel, saying,

"As soon as you hear the sound of the trumpet, say, 'Absalom reigns in Hebron!'"

¹¹And two hundred specially invited men went with Absalom.

They went along in ignorance, they did not

know what he had planned.

¹²Then Absalom sent for Ahithophel the Gilonite, from Giloh, David's counselor and friend, while he offered sacrifices.

And the conspiracy grew strong, for the support for Absalom increased, and the people who came to him grew continually.

¹³And a messenger came to David, saying, "The hearts of the men of Israel are with Absalom."

¹⁴So David said to all his servants with him at Jerusalem, "Arise and let us run—

®When a fighter is not fighting, you can guess, it was his son—

quickly, let us flee in haste lest Absalom overtake us and we do not escape, and lest he strike the city also with the sword."

¹⁵His servants said to the king, "We are your servants, ready to do whatever you command."

¹⁶So the king left with all his household; but he left ten concubines; their job was to keep the house so they were left behind.

®David never took part in rebellion; now he would not defend himself;

¹⁷The king fled the city with all the people who followed, and on the outskirts he stopped.

¹⁸Then all his servants passed before him; and all the Cherethites, and the Pelethites, and all the Gittites, six hundred men who had followed him from Gath; they all passed before the king.

¹⁹Then David said to Ittai the Gittite, "Why are you going with us today?

You are a stranger and an exile from your own place, return and remain with the king."

²⁰"You came just yesterday.

Should I make you go up and down with us, since I go just where I may?

Return and take your brethren back, and may mercy and truth be with you."

²¹But Ittai answered the king, saying, "As the Lord lives, and as my lord the king lives, your place is my place, whether in death or in life."

®The kingdom needs commitment, true to death, ready to die.

²²So David said to Ittai, "Go on, cross over."

So Ittai the Gittite and all his men and the children with him crossed over.

²³And all the country wept aloud, and all the people crossed the Brook Kidron.

The king himself also crossed the brook and they travelled the road towards the wilderness.

²⁴And Zadok was there also, and all the Levites, carrying the ark of the covenant.

And they set down the ark of God, and Abiathar went up until all the people had finished crossing Kidron.

²⁵Then the king said to Zadok, "Return with the ark of God to the city.

If I find favour in the eyes of the Lord, He will

bring me back, and show it to me again along with His dwelling place.

26“But if He says, ‘I do not delight in you,’ here I am, let Him do to me as He desires then.”

27The king said to Zadok the priest also, Are you not a seer? Return to the city; go back in peace.

And take with you your two sons, Ahimaaz your son, and Jonathan the son of Abiathar.

28“I will remain in the plains of the wilderness until you send words to inform me.”

29So Zadok and Abiathar carried the ark of God back to Jerusalem, and they remained there, as David commanded.

30And David wept as he went up barefooted by the ascent of the Mount of Olives.

And all the people with him covered their heads and went up, weeping as they went with their king.

31Then someone told David, saying, “Ahithophel is among the conspirators with Absalom.”

And when David heard this he prayed against his strength;

“Tearing down the strongholds of the enemy, even before they manifest.”

He said, “Lord, I pray, please grant me this, turn the counsel of Ahithophel into foolishness.”

32And when David had come to the mountaintop where he worshipped God, Hushai the Archite came to meet him, his robe was ripped and he had dust on his head.

33David said to him, “If you come with me you will become a burden to me.

34“But if you go back to the city and say to Absalom, ‘I will be your servant, as I served your father formerly, so will I serve you; I am at your command.’

By doing this you may defeat Ahithophel’s counsel on my behalf.

35“See, you have Zadok and Abiathar the priest with you there.

Whatever you hear from the king’s house, tell it to Zadok and Abiathar.

36“They have with them their two sons, Ahimaaz and Abiathar, and you shall send to let me know everything you hear by them.”

“He was running, he was grieving, with a band of weeping men;

The grief made worse when they told him he lost a counselor and a friend.

Yet he took time to worship; pain could not cancel praise

And he took time for planning; wisdom was not washed away by tears.

While the rocks became his pillow and the insects sang him tales,

37Hushai went back to the city; he had a plan in place.

And Absalom came into Jerusalem.

CWDS Bible Quotes

1. Beware of those who extend their hands but not their hearts; you send them off in peace but they desire to send you off in pieces.
2. You can win the hearts of men by manipulation but you will lose the heart of God and win His wrath instead.
3. You may be desired and wanted by people on earth but when you steal power it makes you an unwanted person in heaven.
4. Fix your expectation on God and you will never be disappointed by the actions of men.
5. Make God your trust and confidence, since your dearest confidante and most trusted friends will turn against you.
6. The wound of a friend goes deeper and the hurt of a son more painful than any physical pain.
7. It is best to die on the field of commitment for what you believe in than to live in the place of comfort with a divided unfaithful heart.
8. Not because you are displaced means the house of God must move with you; do whatever it takes to ensure the house of God is not affected by your personal crisis.
9. Let go and express your feelings; God understands the language of your tears.
10. Not because they are not on your side means they are not wise; pray for God to confuse their counsel, make their wisdom foolishness and dismantle their strength.
11. Even in crisis, and especially in crisis, understand strategic deployment; position your greatest assets in the most pivotal places to maximize your advantage.

PRAYER POINTS

- Holy Spirit, let every person plotting evil against me in my environment be exposed and disgraced. Spirit of discernment and wisdom envelop my life now, in the name of Jesus.
- Righteous Father, let every deceptive manipulating spirit operating in the body of Christ receive angelic shutdown today, in the name of Jesus.
- All knowing God, I pray for Your eyes, not for popularity; help me to walk before You with a perfect heart. Amen.
- Most high and holy God, thank You for everyone You have placed in my life but all my hopes and expectations are on You. Amen.
- Let every unfaithful spirit operating in my environment under the guise of friendship receive divine rebuke today, in the name of Jesus.
- Power to forgive and to release friends and family who have caused hurt and pain fall upon believers now, in the name of Jesus.

BRUISED, battered, dejected and cast down,

Yet while you are bending under the weight, someone is casting stones.

Your counsel that you leaned on, your foe it now defends,

And your concubines are humbled in the sight of all Israel.

Bruised, battered, dejected and cast down, “What more hurt can be inflicted? Leave that insulting man alone.”

¹When David had gone just past the top of the mountain, Ziba, Mephibosheth's servant met him with two donkeys.

They were carrying two hundred loaves of bread, one hundred clusters of raisins, one hundred summer fruits, and a skin of wine.

²And the king said to Ziba, "What do you mean by these?"

He said, "The donkeys are for the king's household to ride on; the bread and the fruit is for the young men to eat, and the wine is drink for any who become weak in the wilderness."

³Then the king said, "So, where is Mephibosheth, your master's son?"

And Ziba replied to the king, "He remains in Jerusalem, for he says, 'Today the Lord will restore to me my father's kingdom.'"

The fruits brought necessary comfort but the words cut deep.

⁴And the king said to Ziba, "To you belongs all that belonged to Mephibosheth."

And Ziba said, "I humbly beseech you that I may find grace in your sight, O king!"

He had extended kindness to the son of his friend Jonathan; now he felt betrayed once more, yet nothing prepared the king for the upcoming stones.

⁵When King David came to Bahurim, a man from the family of the house of Saul, met him there;

his name was Shimei the son of Gera and he came out and cursed continuously as he came.

⁶He threw stones at David and all the servants of the king.

In the midst of his dilemma, oh, no, not this again. All his people and the mighty men were on his right hand and on his left.

⁷And Shimei cursed saying, "Come out! Come out! You evil bloody man!"

⁸"The Lord has repaid you for all the blood of the house of Saul."

He knew in his heart, he was always true to Saul.

"The Lord has delivered the kingdom into the hand of your son Absalom.

Now you are caught in your own evil for you are a bloody man!"

⁹Then Abishai responded, "Should this dead dog curse the king, my lord?"

Let me go over, I beg you, and I will take off his head."

David did not do it against Saul's javelins, now again he would not defend himself.

¹⁰And the king said, "You sons of Zeruiah, what have I to do with you?"

Let him curse, for the Lord has said to him, 'Curse David.' Who shall say then, 'Why are you doing so?'"

¹¹And to Abishai and to all his servants David said,

"My son from my own body seeks my life. How much more then may this Benjamite? Leave him alone and let him curse; he is doing

as the Lord orders him.

¹²"Perhaps the Lord will look on my affliction and repay me with good for this cursing that he is cursing me with this day."

¹³So David and his men continued on their way, and Shimei went along the hillside opposite him, cursing and throwing stones at him and dust also;

He just would not go away.

¹⁴And David and all the people with him became weary, and there they refreshed themselves.

¹⁵And Absalom and all the men of Israel came to Jerusalem. With him was Ahithophel.

¹⁶And when Hushai the Archite, David's friend, came to Absalom,

Hushai said to Absalom, "God save the king!" *Perhaps intending, "Only God can save you!"*

¹⁷And Absalom said to Hushai, "Is this your kindness to your friend?"

Why did you not go with David your friend?"

¹⁸And Hushai said to Absalom, "Oh, no! My allegiance is with the one the Lord and all the men of Israel choose."

¹⁹"Furthermore, whom should I serve? Should I not serve in the presence of his son as I served in your father's presence?"

So will I serve in your presence also."

²⁰Then Absalom said to Ahithophel, "Advise us what we should do."

²¹And Ahithophel said to Absalom, "Go in to your father's concubines, whom he left to keep the house;

then all Israel will hear that by your father you are abhorred, and the hand of all who are with you will be strong."

²²So they pitched a tent for Absalom on the top of the house,

and Absalom went in to his father's concubines in the sight of all Israel.

It was as Nathan told David, when with Bathsheba he had sinned.

The thing he did in secret was now a public reproach for him.

²³And the counsel of Ahithophel which he counseled in those days, was as if one had enquired at the oracles of God.

So was all the counsel of Ahithophel both with David and with Absalom.

Above the constant threat to his life, and the many betrayals that pierced him like knives; and above the loss of his beloved counselor and friend;

and much more than the stones Shimei threw; in fact David ignored them.

He was hurt much more for it was done by his son; his very own.

CWDS Bible Quotes

1. As with business so with giving; the greater the need you meet the greater the blessing released to you.

2. *The weight of your giving is in your motive; always give with a pure motive.*
3. *Even when the moment is in doubt let the outcome be settled in your heart and you will speak to the future as if settled (as David did to Ziba in his gift to him).*
4. *There is nothing more painful than having wrong added to wrong, yet nothing more graceful than leaving it to God.*
5. *There are people carrying personal hurts and pain waiting for an opportunity to off-load on you; have the mind not to take it personal.*
6. *It may be grievous and aggravating but your restraint is a powerful presentation to God that your reliance is totally on Him.*
7. *The serving of pride you swallow will be a hook to bring you down from your place of heights to the shallow.*
8. *Sexual sin will come back to haunt you in unimaginable ways; hear the word of God; it never misses.*
9. *Be careful who you make your advisers and companions, they may have a secret agenda; be guided by the Spirit.*
10. *Having the wisdom of the oracles of God is considered foolish if it is not applied in the will of God or to the things of God.*

PRAYER POINTS

- Great and mighty God, let my resources and my time be expended meeting needs; let the cry of souls be my greatest motivation. Amen.
- Jesus my Lord, I order my heart after You in purity and love; I give because You gave. Amen.
- Faith to believe the good word of God and to appropriate things yet to be received, envelope me now, in the name of Jesus.
- I release everyone who has wronged me and everyone who has mocked me in my troubled times; Father forgive them, they have no clue what they were doing. Amen.
- Burden lifter, look beyond the transgressions of all my enemies to their troubled hearts and speak complete healing and deliverance. Amen.

He counseled as from the oracles; his counsels were all good, But if the counsel is defeated, so are the grounds on which he stood. A hand was with King David, defeating good counsel was his role; He counseled to the heartbeat. He counseled to the soul. He knew that any battle David fought would have been won, But the war would not be over unless he exposed the crown. Corns and beans and lintels, butter, cheese and kine, Were brought to King David, while good counsel, hung itself and died.

2 SAMUEL 17

¹And Ahithophel then said to Absalom, "Let me chose 12,000 men; and arise and pursue David tonight and corner him.

²"I will come on him when he is weary and weak, and I will make his camp afraid.

And all the people with him will flee from him, and I will strike my old friend dead.

I will strike only the king.

³"Then I will bring back all the people; the principle is this:

just one death will seal your victory; one life will bring all the people peace."

⁴The saying pleased Absalom and the elders of Israel.

⁵Then Absalom sent for Hushai the Archite, saying, "Let us hear what he has to say as well."

⁶When they brought Hushai to Absalom, he said to him, "Ahithophel counseled saying this;

is this a good counsel? It is now your time to speak."

⁷And Hushai responded to Absalom, "This counsel of Ahithophel is not good counsel at this time.

⁸"You know your father and his men; they are mighty men, very alert in their mind, and vicious like a bear robbed of its cubs.

And your father is a man of war and with the people he will not camp.

⁹By now he is in hiding in some pit or in some other place.

When some of us are killed at the start, those who hear it will say,

"They have slaughtered some of the people who follow Absalom."

¹⁰And like a skilfull weaver he plagued their minds with doubt.

¹¹He said, "Would you like to see all your valiant, and lionhearted men utterly melt?

Your father is a mighty man, and it is known to all Israel;

and the men with him are valiant men."

¹²Now he wove another web to make them feel secure and strong.

¹³"It is my counsel therefore, that you gather all of Israel together to Beersheba from Dan; they shall be present in multitude like the seashore's innumerable sand.

And you must go to battle in person."

¹⁴The principle was this:

One death would seal the victory; one life would bring all peace.

¹⁵Weave on, Hushai!

He continued, "We will find him wherever he is to be found;

and we will descend on him just as when the dew falls to the ground.

And of him, and of all the men with him we will leave none; not even one.

¹⁶If he enters into a city, that city shall not stand."

He gritted his teeth, then said this, "Then all Israel shall bring ropes,

and draw the entire city into the river, until there is not one remaining stone." He punched them in their souls.

By now their blood was racing, the adrenaline rising fast.

¹⁴Absalom and all the men of Israel said, "This is right counsel! Good counsel at last! Hushai's counsel is better than that of Ahithophel."

The good counsel of Ahithophel was defeated that day.

It was the Lord's appointment so Absalom would be repaid.

¹⁵And Hushai said to Zadok and Abiathar the priests, "This is what Ahithophel counseled Absalom and the elders of Israel, and this was my counsel.

¹⁶Therefore, send to David quickly and tell him, 'Do not remain in the plains of the wilderness, but cross over speedily, lest the king be swallowed up, and all the people who are with him.'"

¹⁷And Jonathan and Ahimaaz stayed at En-rogel, for they could not be seen coming into the city;

so they sent a female servant to them, for them to go and tell King David.

¹⁸However, a boy saw them and told it to Absalom.

But they quickly got away and came to a man's house in Bahurim.

He had a well in his court, and they went down into it and hid there.

¹⁹Then the woman spread a covering over the mouth of the well, and she spread grain on it, and no one knew of it; none could tell.

²⁰When the servants of Absalom came to the woman at the house, and said, "Where is Ahimaaz and Jonathan?"

She said to them, "They are gone over the brook of water." And when they searched and could not find them they returned to Jerusalem.

²¹When they had left, they came out of the well and went and told it to David saying, "Arise, cross over the brook quickly, for Ahithophel counseled against you."

²²So David and all the people with him rose up and crossed Jordan.

There was not one of them left on that side of Jordan when morning had come.

²³When Ahithophel saw that his counsel was not followed,

he saddled his donkey and went home to his city, to his house,

and he put his house in order.

@You who betrayed the king was a brother, a counselor and a friend; reminds me of another; he went and hanged himself.

They buried him in his father's tomb.

²⁴Then David went to Mahanaim, and over Jordan Absalom and all Israel crossed.

²⁵And Absalom made Amasa captain of the army instead of Joab.

Amasa was the son of Jithra, an Israelite, who had gone in to Abigail, daughter of Nahash, sister of Zeruiah, Joab's mother.

²⁶So Israel and Absalom camped in the land of Gilead.

²⁷And when David came to Mahanaim, Shobi the son of Nahash from the people of Ammon, Machir the son of Ammiel from Lo-debar, and Barzillai the Gileadite from Rogelim,

²⁸brought him beds and basins, earthen vessels and wheat, barley and barley-wheat and parched grain, lintels and parched seeds,

²⁹honey and curds, sheep and cheese of the cows, for David and the people with him to eat.

For they said, "The people are hungry and tired and thirsty in the wilderness.

CWDS Bible Quotes

1. Go after victory, not after glory. Go hard, fast, direct and strategically target the game changer.
2. Take the shepherd and the sheep will scatter, leave the shepherd and the scattered will gather. Kill the root and the tree dies, take the leader and the fight is over.
3. To break wise counsel go after feelings instead of rational; to buy time go after emotions instead of wisdom.
4. People who refuse to put their safety in God will find safety in crowd support; appeal to their confidence and you can draw them into personal exposure.
5. Nothing feels more certain than to have the crowd behind you, yet this is for certain, Hebron will frustrate you (as it did David) unless the king(the game changer) comes to battle.
6. Make it graphic, make it dramatic, make it irresistible, in order to have your one small but significant and defining counsel (Absalom must be exposed) 'make it' above true wisdom.
7. Two counsels one strategy; first target the leader (David) directly; the second expose the leader (Absalom) indirectly; same principle focus on the game changer.
8. The greatest mandate needs people in the right places to support it, cover it, convey it and to keep it alive. People need people.
9. If they will not take your wise counsel, take it yourself; it is the end. Never take it personal if your counsel is not accepted.
10. Betray the trust and confidence of dear and personal friends and the designation of misery is unbearable. Judas and Ahithophel hung themselves.
11. Nothing is more comforting than ministry to needs in times of distress.

PRAYER POINTS

- Spirit of wisdom that yields decisive victories visit the battlefield of every believer, in the name of Jesus.
- Let the root cause of recurring battles in the lives of believers be exposed and uprooted, in the name of Jesus.
- Let every spirit assigned to shift my focus from wisdom and faith to emotions and feelings, be scattered to desolation, in the name of Jesus.
- My Father my God, my confidence is in You. Let every noise of distraction die, in the name of Jesus.
- Let every Absalom attacking my destiny, be exposed; be defeated. Let them expose them-

selves and their evil plans now, in the name of Jesus.

HE was riding on a mule, he who by rebellion came to rule; After the anointed he pursued, but God was seeing him. The seeds that he had sown, were all and fully grown; To all men it shall be known when by the hair you see him swing.

2 SAMUEL 18

@He was weak and he was old; he was out there in the cold, running from a love he had known, but love was chasing him.

A love he would protect for his love was unto death; when he died, King David wept; love took control of him.

¹David knew the way of battle so he prepared his people.

He numbered them and set captains over thousands and captains over hundreds.

²Then David set them in three companies: one third under Joab, one third under Abishai the son of Zeruiah, Joab's brother, and the other under Ittai the Gittite.

And the king said to the people, "I will also go out with you myself."

³But the people answered, "No, master, you shall not go. If half of us die it doesn't matter; if we flee they would not bother; you know it is you they want.

You are worth more than ten thousand of us all; you are more useful to us from the city. *They knew victory is a targeted assignment not a numbers game.*

⁴Then the king replied, "What you think is best to do I will."

So the king stood beside the gate, and all the people went out by hundreds and by thousands.

@Chased by love, but treat it gently.

⁵Then the king commanded Joab, Abishai and Ittai, saying,

"For my sake, treat Absalom my son, gently." He was heard by all the people as he charged the captains concerning Absalom.

⁶So the people went out to battle Israel. And the battle was in the woods of Ephraim.

⁷And the people of Israel fell before the servants of David; that day there was a great slaughter of twenty thousand men.

⁸The battle was scattered over the entire countryside; and the woods devoured more people that day than the sword.

⁹Into battle on a mule Absalom came riding, he and the servants of David; then they experienced the strangest thing.

@Some will tell you they saw where, God held this

rebellious son by the hair and lifted him up into the air, his feet kicking as he was being disciplined there.

Well, his mule went under the thick boughs of a big tree; his hair caught up in a bough, and he was left hanging between heaven and the earth, as the mule went on and left him.

¹⁰And a certain man saw it and told Joab, saying, "I just saw Absalom hanging in an oak tree!"

¹¹And Joab responded to the man, "You saw him! Why did you not strike him there to the ground?"

I would have rewarded you with ten shekels of silver and a belt."

¹²But the man responded, "Even if you were to give me one thousand shekels in my hand, I would not raise my hand against the king's son,

for the king commanded you and Abishai and Ittai in our presence, saying, 'Let no man touch the young man Absalom!'

¹³"Should I deal stupidly against my own life? Nothing is hidden from the king.

You would kill me yourself! Do I not know this?"

Then Joab said, "I will not delay with you."

@Was it a barley field on fire, or the safety of the sire, that made him ignore the king's desire?

He took three spears in his hand and thrust them through Absalom's heart, while he was still hanging from the oak tree, alive.

¹⁵And the ten young men who bore Joab's armor, surrounded Absalom and struck and killed the king's son.

¹⁶So Joab blew the trumpet, and the people turned back from following Israel, for Joab called them all back then.

¹⁷And they took Absalom and threw him in a large pit in the woods, and on him they laid a great heap of stones.

Then all Israel fled, each person to his tent.

¹⁸Now Absalom in his living days had raised up a pillar for himself, which is in the King's Valley.

For he said, "So shall my name be remembered always for I have no son to keep my name in remembrance."

He called the pillar after his own name, and it is called Absalom's Monument to this day.

¹⁹Then Ahimaaz the son of Zadok said, "Let me run now and take the news to the king, how the Lord has avenged him of his enemies."

²⁰And Joab said to him, "You shall not take the news this day but another day instead. This is not good news; you shall not take the news because the king's son is dead."

²¹Then Joab said to the Cushite, "Go tell the king what you have seen."

So the Cushite bowed himself and ran with the news.

²²And Ahimaaz the son of Zadok said to Joab once more, "Whatever happens, please permit

me to run after the Cushite.”

And Joab said, “Why do you want to run, my son, since you have no news to tell?”

²³But Ahimaaz insisted. “Just allow me to run with him.”

So Joab said “Run.” And Ahimaaz took the path of the plain and outran the Cushite.

²⁴David was sitting between the gates. And the watchman went up to the wall above the gate and lifted his eyes and looked; he saw one man was running in his direction, and he ran alone.

²⁵Then the watchman cried out to the king. And David said, “If he is alone he comes with news.

And he came swiftly and drew near.

²⁶Then the watchman saw another man running, and he said to the gatekeeper, “There is another man running alone.”

And the king said, “He brings news also.”

²⁷And the watchman said, “The running of the first is like the running of Ahimaaz Zadok’s son.”

And the king said, “He is a good man, he brings good news.”

²⁸So Ahimaaz called out to the king and said, “All is well!”

Then he bowed to the ground before the king and said,

“Blessed be the Lord your God, who has delivered up the men who raised their hand against my lord the king!”

@Absalom had chased him and sought his life, but he could not get Absalom off his mind. And though he heard the good news of the fight,

²⁹He asked, “Is the young man Absalom yet alive?”

Ahimaaz answered, “When Joab sent the king’s servant and me your servant, I saw a disturbance but I was not sure what was happening.

³⁰So the king said, “Turn aside and stand here.” So he turned aside and stood there.

³¹Then the Cushite came and said, “Good news, my lord the king!

For the Lord has avenged you this day of all who rose up against you.”

³²And the king said to the Cushite, “Is the young man Absalom still alive?”

And the Cushite answered, “May your enemies and all those who rise against you be just like him!”

@He was weak and he was old; he was out there in the cold,

running from a love he had known, but love was chasing him.

A love he would protect, for his love was unto death.

When he died, King David wept. Love took control of him.

³³The king was deeply moved; he went up to the room over the gate and wept.

@He wept, oh, how much it hurts!

He wept, you know the feeling;

Passion lives while love meets dirt.

And he said as he went, “O Absalom, my son—my son, my son, Absalom,

If only I had died in your place!

O Absalom, my son, my son!”

@You sought my life, but there is no hate;

If only God had made me die in your place.

CWDS Bible Quotes

1. Structure and organization are the first steps of preparation for success.
2. Deliberately organize for victory or indirectly organize for failure; disorganization is failure.
3. You make victory impossible by hiding the target; expose the target and you will have to work harder to defend it.
4. If you fight on the side of rebellion, nature itself will rebel you.
5. Come with weapons of men to fight against the man of God and you will never be sure what you are fighting against or what is fighting you.
6. The hapless who rebels becomes the helpless; the conceited will be defeated without the hands of man.
7. You build on rebellion, you build on an unsustainable foundation; you will be left hanging with your feet in the air.
8. Wisdom is the greatest of rewards; it will save lives. It is foolish to despise authority; you disregard your own life.
9. Be known as a bearer of good news; refuse to gossip or to say a word that will cause anger, hatred, hurt, pain or despair.
10. A good man carries good news; what does it say about those who carry bad news or just any news?
11. Live by the laws of compassion; be conscious of the pain and the hurt that you cause even by the way you speak the truth.
12. You know love is genuine when it hurt both ways, whatever the outcome.

PRAYER POINTS

- Spirit of effective organization in every area of ministry and kingdom life, fall upon our leaders now, in the name of Jesus.
- By the power in the blood of Jesus, let every spirit attacking me, my home or my income from their places of hiding, be exposed and disgraced now, in the name of Jesus.
- Let every rebellious spirit seeking accommodation in the church be fanned away by the blood of Jesus.
- Divine help from the throne of heaven, visit me today and subdue all my strong enemies. Amen.
- Captain of the hosts of the living God, I introduce my stubborn enemies to you this minute, in the name of Jesus.

WE ARE taking back what the enemy has stolen from us.

We are taking back everything that God has given.

We are taking back the kingdom and the throne;

We are putting back order in our homes.

And we recognize the brethren for the support they have given to us.

2 SAMUEL 19

¹It was told to Joab that the king was weeping and mourning for Absalom.

²The people heard how he was grieving for his son, and victory was turned into mourning for all the people that day.

³And the people stealthily entered into the city that day, as people who flee from battle return ashamed.

⁴But the king covered his face and cried aloud, "O Absalom, my son, my son! O my son Absalom!"

⁵Then Joab came into the house to the king, and said,

"You have disgraced all your servants today who have saved your life, and the lives of your sons, your daughters, your wives and your concubines,

⁶in that you love your enemies and you hate your true friends.

For you have declared this day that you do not regard your princes or your servants.

For today I perceive that if Absalom had lived and all of us had died, you would have been very pleased.

⁷"Now therefore, arise, go out and speak to your servants comfortably.

For I swear by the Lord, if you do not go out, no one will remain with you this night.

That will be worse for you than all the evil that has happened to you from your youth to this time."

⁸So the king arose and sat in the gate.

And all the people were told, "See, the king is sitting in the gate."

So before the king all the people came; for all Israel had fled to their tents.

⁹Now there was a great contention throughout all Israel, saying,

"The king saved us from the hand of our enemies, he delivered us from the hand of the Philistines,

now he has fled the land because of Absalom.

¹⁰"Now Absalom, whom we anointed king over us is dead;

why are you saying nothing about bringing the king back again?"

¹¹"And King David sent to Abiathar and Zadok the priests, saying,

"Speak to the elders of Judah, and say, 'Why are you the last to bring the king back home, since he has heard the words of all Israel, regarding his return?"

¹²You are my brethren, you are my very flesh and my bone.

Why then are you the last to bring the king back home?"

¹³"And say to Amasa, 'Are you not my flesh and my bone?"

God do so to me, and more also, if you do not become captain of the army before me continually in Joab's place."

¹⁴And so he turned the hearts of all the men

of Judah, as the heart of one man, so to the king they sent word: "You and all your servants return!"

¹⁵Then the king returned and came to Jordan.

And Judah came to meet the king at Gilgal, to escort the king across Jordan.

¹⁶And Shimei the son of Gera, the Benjamite from Bahurim, hurried and came down with the men of Judah to meet the king.

¹⁷With David were a thousand men of Benjamin, and Ziba the servant of Saul's house with his fifteen sons and his twenty servants with him.

And they went over Jordan before the king.

¹⁸There was a ferryboat to bring the king's household across, and to do what he thought good.

And Shimei the son of Gera fell before the king when he had crossed Jordan.

¹⁹Then he said to the king, "Please do not impute iniquity to me, or remember my perverseness and the wrong I did you on the day you went out of Jerusalem.

Let not the king take it to heart.

²⁰"For your servant know that he has sinned, therefore I am the first to come today from the house of Joseph to meet the king."

²¹But Abishai the son of Zeruiah answered, saying,

"Shall not Shimei be put to death for this, for he has cursed the Lord's anointed?"

²²And David said, "What do I have to do with you, you sons of Zeruiah,

that you should be my adversaries today?"

Shall any man be put to death this day in Israel?"

"For do I not know that I am king over Israel today?"

²³And the king said to Shimei, "You shall not die." And the king swore to him then.

²⁴And Mephibosheth, Saul's son, came down to meet the king.

And he had not dressed his feet, nor trimmed his beard,

neither had he washed his clothes from the day the king departed until he returned in peace again.

²⁵And when he had come to Jerusalem to meet the king,

the king said to him, "Why did you not go with me?"

²⁶And he answered, "My lord, O king, my servant deceived me.

For your servant said, 'I will saddle a donkey, that I ride on to go and meet the king', because your servant is lame.

²⁷"And he has slandered your servant to my lord the king,

but my lord the king is like an angel of God. Do what is good in your eyes therefore.

²⁸"For all my father's house were as dead men, before you, O king.

Yet you set your servant among those who eat at your own table.

Therefore, what right do I have to cry anymore, O king, to you?"

²⁹And the king said, "Why speak of this matter anymore?"

I have said, 'You and Ziba divide the land.'

³⁰And Mephibosheth said to the king, "Let him have it all,

it is enough for me that my lord the king has returned in peace to his house."

³¹Then from Rogelim, Barzillai the Gileadite came down;

he went across Jordan with the king, to escort him across.

³²Now Barzillai was very old, he was eighty years of age.

He had sustained the king with supplies while he stayed at Mahanaim, for he was a very wealthy man.

³³And the king said to Barzillai, "Come across with me

and I will feed you while you are with me in Jerusalem."

³⁴But Barzillai said to the king, "How long do I have yet to live, that I should go up to Jerusalem with the king?"

³⁵"I am this day eighty years old.

Can I discern between good and bad?

Can I taste what I eat or drink anymore?

Can I hear the voice of singing men and women?

Why should your servant then be a burden to the king?"

³⁶"Your servant will go a little across Jordan with the king.

And why should the king repay me with a reward like this?"

³⁷"Please allow your servant to turn back, that I may die in my own city,

near the grave of my father and mother alike.

Behold Chimham your servant is here;

let him go with my lord king,

and as it seems good to you, do for him."

³⁸And the king answered, "Chimham shall go with me,

and I will do for him what seems good to you. Now whatever you request of me, I will do."

³⁹And over Jordan all the people crossed.

And the king kissed Barzillai and blessed him, and he returned to his own place then.

⁴⁰And the king went to Gilgal that day, and with the king Chimham went.

And all the people of Judah escorted the king, and half the people of Israel.

⁴¹At that moment, the men of Israel came to the king, and said,

"Why have our brethren, the men of Judah stolen you away,

and have brought the king, his household, and all your men with you over Jordan this day?"

⁴²And all the men of Judah answered the men

of Israel, saying,

"Because the king is a close relative to us.

Why are you angry over this?"

Have we eaten at all of the king's cost?"

Or has he given us a gift?"

⁴³And the men of Israel answered the men of Judah, and said,

"We have ten parts in the king;

we therefore have more rights to David than you.

Why then do you despise us— were we not the first to offer to bring back the king?"

And the words of the men of Judah were fiercer than the words of the men of Israel.

CWDS Bible Quotes

1. *There is no victory or win for an internal battle; the losers are double losers and there are no winners.*
2. *There is a balance between personal grief and duty; there is a place one must mourn silently while they continue to perform resolutely.*
3. *Never wait on others to elevate your own before you recognize them; never export your talents to import your love; seize the opportunity, ride the tide, create waves; harness the momentum.*
4. *Recognize the treasure you have among you and elevate them, rather than oppose them until others recognize them.*
5. *Bow to the throne of honor before you fall on the sword of disgrace. When you rage on the throne of insults, disgrace will find you there.*
6. *It is most uncomfortable to be held at the mercy of someone you refused mercy but instead you mercilessly attacked.*
7. *Speak words that will come to your defence even if circumstances change rather than words you will need to defend or ungraciously withdraw.*
8. *Live on your face and you won't have to fall to your face begging for mercy.*
9. *The stones of a faithful friend do more lasting damage than the stones of an enemy. The absence of support from trusted sources is as painful as direct opposition.*
10. *Your ministry to needs will set you up in the heart of the King and guarantee your reward.*
11. *You rule for the people and with the people; if the people turn you out they must return you or you will rule a fragmented kingdom. You rule hearts not hands.*
12. *The argument of division can never bring unity and rest; it has not died if you argue to bring back what you divided and devised away.*

PRAYER POINTS

- Let every infighting among believers in the church or in the homes be shocked into submission to the heart of the loving Father. Amen.
- Supernatural comfort and divine turnaround, visit every minister in the body of Christ who is suffering silently, in the name of Jesus.
- Let the discernment of the Body of Christ that will command support for each other, enlighten the minds of believers today, in the name of Jesus.
- Every covetous and envious spirit crippling the momentum of believers and churches, be crippled and die; lose your hold, in the name of Jesus.
- By the power in the blood of Jesus, I command

the spirit of honor to fall upon the lives of every believer today; let them revere authority and the anointing on leaders. Amen.

**WOULD you replace the king?
You are not his son.
Only love could get the strong to run.
Would you replace the captain of the host?
The captain is fighting for his post.
Would you replace a dog that is dead;
Why not save your life? Cast down his head.**

2 SAMUEL 20

¹And with them at that time was a wicked man, Sheba, son of Bichri, a Benjamite.

He blew a trumpet, and said,
“To your tents, O Israel!

We have no share in David, or inheritance in Jesse’s son.”

²So all the men of Israel departed from David and followed Sheba, but the men of Judah, from Jordan to Jerusalem continued to follow the king.

³David came to his house at Jerusalem. And he took the ten women, his concubines, whom he had left to keep the house, and he shut them away and fed them in their widowhood every day.

“You cannot replace a husband, or freely make out with his wife;

He did not go in to these ten until the day that they all died.

Do you replace a captain?

⁴The king said to Amasa, “Assemble all the men of Judah for me within three days, and be present yourself.”

⁵So Amasa went to assemble the men of Judah. But he delayed longer than the time David had appointed.

“The first task failed, of the one David swore would be captain in Joab’s place.

Would you replace a king? You are not his son.

⁶And David said, “Sheba the son of Bichri will do more harm than Absalom.

Take the king’s servants and pursue him lest he escapes and gets into some fortified city. He must not get away.”

⁷So Joab’s men, and all the mighty men, with the Cherethites and Pelethites, went out after him.

They went out of Jerusalem to pursue Sheba the son of Bichri.

⁸When they were at the large stone in Gibeon, a battle would be fought;

Amasa came before them, but Joab had other thoughts.

“Would you replace the captain of the host?

The captain is fighting for his post.

In a time when confidence had been lost, when Amasa delayed in his first important task. Joab was dressed in his battle armor.

On it was a belt with a sword fastened in its sheath at his hips.

As he went forward, it fell out.

But something else was on his mind.

⁹Then Joab said to Amasa, “Are you in health, my brother?”

And Joab took Amasa by the beard with his right hand to kiss him.

¹⁰The sword in his hand held no alarm. Amasa did not notice the sword.

And Joab struck him with the sword under his fifth rib. Amasa was not warned.

His bowels spilt out on the ground; and Joab did not strike him again.

Then Joab and Abishai his brother pursued Sheba the son of Bichri.

¹¹And one of Joab’s men stood near to Amasa, and said, “All who favor Joab and is for King David, follow Joab!

¹²But in the middle of the highway Amasa wallowed in his own blood.

When he saw that all the people stood still, he moved the body of Amasa to a field and covered him.

¹³When he had removed the body, all the people followed Joab to pursue Sheba the son of Bichri.

¹⁴He went through all the tribes of Israel, and they gathered after him, to Abel and Beth-maacah and all the Berites with them.

So they gathered together and after Sheba they all went.

¹⁵They came and surrounded him in Abel of Beth-maacah; and they laid siege against the city all the way around.

And all the people with Joab battered the wall to throw it down.

¹⁶Then a wise woman cried out from the city, “Come near, Joab, come let me speak to you.”

¹⁷When he came near she said to him, “Is that you, Joab?” He said, “It is I.”

Then she said to him, “Listen to the voice of your maidservant.” And he said, “I am listening.”

¹⁸Then she said, “This is a saying of old time, ‘They shall ask wise counsel at Abel, and this settled all disputes.’”

¹⁹“I am a peaceable and faithful person in Israel;

do you seek to destroy a city and a mother in Israel as well?

Why would you swallow up the Lord’s inheritance?”

²⁰And Joab said, “Let it be far from me to swallow up or to destroy!

²¹“That is not the case, but a man from Mount Ephraim, Sheba the son of Bichri, has lifted his hand against King David; deliver him only and I will depart from the city.”

And the woman said to Joab,

“His head shall be thrown to you over the wall.”

“Would you replace a king? You will be disgraced;

you will lose your head, not only just face.

²²In wisdom the woman spoke to all the people.

And they cut off the head of Sheba, Bicri's son, and threw it down to Joab.

And he blew a trumpet and withdrew from the city. Every man went to his tent.

So Joab returned to the king at Jerusalem.

²³And Joab was over all the army of Israel; Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was over the Cherethites and Pelethites.

²⁴Adoram was over the tribute; the recorder was Jehoshaphat, Ahilud's son. Sheva was scribe; Zadok and Abiathar were the priests, and Ira the Jairite was chief minister under David.

None can replace God's anointed, but by fighting Joab retained his post. And there was none willing to suffer for Sheba who had rallied away Israel's host.

CWDS Bible Quotes

1. You may have the power and ability to influence hearts and minds but it is best to have the presence of mind to operate in your place.
2. Sexual defilement in marriage distances and breaks intimacy.
3. Perform your task assigned with efficiency to build confidence. Time and resources are important factors in leadership.
4. Never allow your quest for position to violate the honor of your position.
5. Never get too comfortable with persons you will be replacing involuntarily, you never know what is in their heart.
6. Not because the strength of the mighty is weak for his son means it is weak; rise against him and you will discover the truth you ignored.
7. Your strong walls of rebellion will fail you; it has no sustainable support.
8. If you lose your head in the presence of the people you will lose face in the presence of judgment and lose your head by the sword of the people.
9. Get rid of bad company quickly and live or you will accompany them to the pit.

PRAYER POINTS

- Spirit of rebellion and pride raising its head in the body of Christ, be crushed and removed, in the name of Jesus.
- Let every spirit that seeks to defile matrimonial beds in this nation, receive divine rebuke now, in the name of Jesus. I speak fidelity into marriages. Amen.
- Spirit of effectiveness in administration and leadership, visit every believer today, in the name of Jesus.
- Father God, I submit to Your authority in heaven and on earth; let me never violate You in any way by disobedience. Amen.
- Power to discern the hearts of those I allow to come close to me, be active in my life, in the name of Jesus.

**TWELVE fingers and twelve toes,
Let them come but let them know,
On each hand they will have six less,
Cannot fight the land that God has blessed.**

**But when the cloud is hard as bronze,
And the rain has completely stopped,
Search for God and He will bless you,
If you regard truth and covenants.**

2 SAMUEL 21

¹There was a famine in the days of David for three years, and David inquired of the Lord. And the Lord answered, "It is because of Saul and his bloody house; he has forsaken covenants, for he killed the Gibeonites."

²So the king called the Gibeonites, and he spoke with them. The Gibeonites were not of the children of Israel, but remnants of the Amorites.

The children of Israel had sworn to protect them, but Saul sought to kill them in his zeal for Israel and for Judah.

³And David said to the Gibeonites, "How can I make atonement for this our wrong, that you may bless the Lord's inheritance?" *Broken covenants may block your blessings.*

⁴And the Gibeonites said to him, "We will not have silver or gold from Saul or from his house, nor shall you kill any person of Israel for us." And David said, "Whatever you say, that I will do for you."

⁵And they said in answer to the king, "The man who consumed us, and plotted to destroy us from remaining in the coasts of Israel,

⁶deliver seven of his descendants to us, and we will hang them before the Lord in Gibeah of Saul whom the Lord chose."

And David said, "I will give them to you."

⁷*But David regarded covenant.*

So the king spared Mephibosheth the son of Jonathan, Saul's son, because of the oath that was between David and Jonathan.

⁸So the king took Armoni and Mephibosheth, the two sons of Rizpah, the daughter of Aiah, whom she bore to Saul, and the five sons of Michal, Saul's daughter, whom she bore to Adriel the son of Barzillai the Meholathite;

⁹and he delivered them into the hands of the Gibeonites, and they hanged them on the hill before the Lord.

So all seven of them were put to death in the days of harvest, in the first days, at the beginning of the barley harvest.

¹⁰And Rizpah the daughter of Aiah took sackcloth and spread it out on a rock, from the beginning of harvest until the late rains fell on them from heaven.

She would not have birds rest on it by day, and in the night, the animals she drove away.

¹¹And David was told what Rizpah, the

daughter of Aiah, Saul's concubine had done.
 12 And David went and took the bones of Saul, and the bones of Jonathan, from the men of Jabesh-gilead who had stolen them from the streets of Bethshan where the Philistines had hung them up, after the Philistines had defeated Saul in Gilboa.

13 So he brought up the bones of Saul and the bones of Jonathan his son from there; and they gathered the bones of those who had been hanged.

14 They buried the bones of Saul and Jonathan in the country of Benjamin in Zelah, in the tomb of Kish his father. All the king commanded them, they performed.

And God responded to the prayers of the land after they had done it all.

15 Then there was war with the Philistines, and David and his men went down and fought against the enemy; and in the battle the king grew faint.

16 And Ishbi-benob, who was one of the sons of the giant, sought to kill the king. His spear weighed three hundred shekels of bronze,

and he also had a new sword girded on.

17 And Abishai the son of Zeruah came and helped him and struck the Philistine dead. Then the men of David swore to him, saying, "You shall not go out with us to battle again, that you do not quench the lamp of Israel."

18 And after this it came to pass that there was a battle with the Philistines at Gob. Then Sibbecai the Hushathite killed Saph, who was one of the sons of the giant.

19 And again there was a battle at Gob with the Philistines,

and Elhanan the son of Jaare-oregim the Bethlehemite, killed the brother of Goliath the Gittite there; the shaft of his spear was like a weaver's beam.

20 Again there was a battle at Gath, and there was a man of great stature there; he had six fingers and six toes on each hand and foot, a total of twenty-four; he was also born of the giants.

21 When he defied Israel, Jonathan the son of Shimea, David's brother, killed him.

©The fearsome giant defied Israel, but lost statue to his own regret.

He had twelve fingers and twelve toes less.

22 These four were born to the giants in Gath, and fell by the hand of David and by the hand of his servants.

©If with God you fight you will stand on the neck of every giant.

But you will lose the blessing that makes you strong, if you forsake covenants.

CWDS Bible Quotes

1. *There are no casual covenants; God holds you ac-*

countable to your commitments.

2. *Your freedom to change your word even in changing circumstances or changing regimes is restricted to the decision before you gave your word.*
3. *Not because it rebounds to your own hurt gives you a satisfactory reason to change your word; righteousness demands that you commit to your own hurt and not change.*
4. *Personal disregard for covenants by a leader has general effects and private repercussions.*
5. *It is ok to mourn publicly for your loss and to hold God accountable to His word; He never breaks covenants.*
6. *Your duty to honor is not revoked by the evil they may have provoked on you or on your nation; separate the person and the office from the deed.*
7. *Know your limitations and operate to your strengths so you can maximize your kingdom impact.*
8. *There is a sword for every giant situation threatening the kingdom and the people of God; deploy it.*
9. *Giant situations yield giant testimonies and make your God not only the King of kings but the Lord and Master of giants.*

PRAYER POINTS

- Heart of my Father to regard and honor covenants and commitments without varying, be my portion today, in the name of Jesus.
- By the power of the Holy Spirit in me, my word shall be of great value to me and whomever I give it, in the name of Jesus.
- I refuse to let hidden costs be considered an excuse to change my word; when I cannot foot the bill of my commitment I do it for You Father. Amen.
- Let every unfaithful spirit in leadership receive divine correction today, in the name of Jesus.
- Father God, I hold You to Your word as I faithfully commit myself to all You require of me. Amen.

S**SOMETHING'S burning and I must let it**
S**out,**

A fiery flame exploding; it is filling up my mouth.

My rock and my fortress is perfect and tried;

He has delivered His servant and lifted me high.

2 SAMUEL 22

1 Then David spoke to the Lord the words of this song,

to the Lord who delivered him from the hand of all his enemies, and from Saul's hand.

2 He said, "The Lord is my rock and my fortress, and He is the one who delivers me;

3 "the God of my strength, in whom I will trust; He is my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold and my refuge is He.

My Savior, You saved me from violence.

4 "I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised;

so shall I be saved from my enemies.

5 "When the waves of death surrounded me, the floods of ungodliness made me afraid.

6^cThe sorrows of hell surrounded me; I was confronted by the snares of death.
 7^cIn my distress I called on the Lord, and cried out to my God.
 He heard my voice from His temple, and my cry entered His ears.
 8^cThe earth trembled and shook; the foundations of heaven moved and were shaken, because He was angry.
 9^cFrom His nostrils went smoke, and devouring fire from His mouth, it kindled the coals.
 10^cHe bowed the heavens and came down; darkness was under His feet.
 11^cHe rode upon a cherub and flew; He was seen upon the wings of the wind.
 12^cHe made darkness His pavilion all around Him,
 dark waters and thick clouds of the skies.
 13^cThe brightness before Him kindled coals of fire.
 14^cThe Lord thundered from heaven; and the Most High uttered His voice.
 15^cHe sent out arrows and scattered them; lightning bolts and he discomfited them.
 16^cThe channels of the sea appeared then; the foundation of the world was uncovered, at the Lord's rebuke; at the blast of the breath of His nostrils.
 17^cHe sent from above, and He took me; out of many waters He drew me.
 18^cHe delivered me from my strong enemy; from those who hated me; for they were too strong for me.
 19^cThey blocked me in the day of my calamity, but the Lord was my keeper.
 20^cHe brought me out into a large place; He delivered me because He delighted in me.
 21^cThe Lord rewarded me according to my righteousness, according to the cleanness of my hands, He has repaid me.
 22^cFor I have kept the ways of my Lord, and have not wickedly departed from my God.
 23^cFor all His judgments were before me, and I did not depart from His statutes.
 24^cI was also upright before Him, and I kept myself from iniquity.
 25^cTherefore the Lord has rewarded me according to my righteousness, according to my cleanness in His eyes.
 26^cWith the merciful You will show Yourself merciful;
 with the upright You will show Yourself upright;
 27^cwith the pure You will show Yourself pure; and with the devious You show Yourself unsavory.
 28^cYou will save the afflicted people; but Your eyes are on the proud to bring them down.
 29^cFor, O Lord, You are my lamp; You will enlighten my darkness.
 30^cFor by You I can run through a troop; by my God I can leap over a wall.
 31^cAs for God, His way is perfect;

the word of the Lord is tried and tested.

He is a shield to all who trust in Him.

32^cFor who is God, except the Lord?

And who is a rock, except our God?

33^cGod is my strength and power; He makes my way perfect.

34^cHe makes my feet like hinds' feet; and on my high places He sets me.

35^cHe teaches my hands to war, so with my arms I break a bow of steel.

36^cYou have also given me the shield of Your salvation;

Your gentleness has made me great.

37^cYou have enlarged my steps under me so that my feet did not slip.

38^cI have pursued and destroyed my enemies; I did not turn back until they were consumed.

39^cI have destroyed them and wounded them, so they could rise no more;

they have fallen under my feet.

40^cYou have equipped me with strength for war;

those who rose up against me, You have subdued under me.

41^cYou have given me the necks of my enemies, so that I destroyed those who hated me.

42^cThey looked but there was none to save;

even to the Lord but He never answered them.

43^cThen I beat them as fine as the dust; I trampled them like dust in the streets,

and I did spread them out.

44^cYou have delivered me from the strivings of my people.

You have kept me as the head of the nations. A people I have not known shall serve me.

45^cThe foreigners submit themselves to me; as soon as they hear, they are obedient to me.

46^cThe foreigners fade away, and come fearfully from their hiding places.

47^cThe Lord lives! Blessed be my Rock.

Let God, the Rock of my salvation, be exalted.

48^cIt is God who avenges me, who subdues the peoples under me;

49^cwho delivers me from my enemies.

You also lift me up on high, above those who rise up against me;

from the violent man You have delivered me.

50^cTherefore I will give thanks to You among the nations, O Lord, and sing praises to Your name.

51^cHe is the tower of salvation to His king, and He shows mercy to His anointed, to David and his descendants forevermore."

CWDS Bible Quotes

1. When you have a defining victory get lot in divine praise so the moment and your strength for victory can be clearly defined.
2. Magnify the source of your victories and you will mystify the enemy with your strength.
3. Fight all your battles from the place of your fortress, from the covering of your rock, the comfort of your shield, and from the defence of the One who delivers you.
4. Relationship with God secures your confidence for battle and gives you a cry in trouble that will be

mobilize your spiritual wall.

5. *Elaborate victories give you opportunities to illustratively elaborate the God of victories and His intervention on your behalf.*
6. *Never paint the picture of your hand in victory, paint the picture of His hand, His heart and His fervor in working it out on your behalf.*
7. *There is no negligible victory; it was orchestrated; relate it with passionate gleeful exaggeration.*
8. *If you live before God blamelessly and in righteousness, you can appropriate action with cause and you can have confident expectation of Him for battles to come.*
9. *God is very constant and consistent; your commitment to Him and His laws attract a single predictable result.*
10. *No one is made great and there is no perfect person; His gentleness endures Your imperfections and lifts you to greatness in spite of them.*
11. *Speak gloriously and confidently about your strength to exceed boundaries and expectations in battle when you have an established relationship with God.*
12. *Give all the glory to God; He makes the battle all about you so you can make the glory all about Him.*
13. *All your triumphs, all your accolades, all your trophies, all your glory belongs at the feet of Jesus.*
14. *When you understand you serve the no-ordinary God, then you know where He has brought you is no ordinary thing and your expectation of Him will not be ordinary.*
15. *You have accomplished not because of your work and prowess but because of His.*

PRAYER POINTS

- My Father and my God, I am because of You; I have overcome because You have undergirded, I have triumphed because You were there. Amen.
- My King and my God, My Rock and my fortress, my strength for battle, my strong deliverer, I celebrate You; let my victories celebrate You. Amen.
- Righteous Father, help me to say I have kept Your word, I have ordered my steps before You in purity and righteousness; this is my guarantee of success. Amen.
- My Father and God, I see You, clothed in fire rising to my defence; the earth trembles and hides from Your presence and my strong enemies flee terrified.
- Omnipotent God, Your outstretched hands have guaranteed my victories; you have protected me as with an only son and You have helped me and distinguished me at every turn. Amen.
- Father, You never cease to amaze me with Your protective love. Your gentleness have made me great. Amen.

MIGHTY men and rulers, come tell me of yourselves.

With a spear you slew 800; great! I am so impressed.

Do you rule in fear and justice? Is your light just like the sun?

Do you rule the strong and mighty and will not drink of any of their blood?

Mighty men and rulers, speak to me of your mighty deeds;

But if you lean on God to teach you, you are mightier than these. Yes, you are really mighty when many mighty men you lead.

2 SAMUEL 23

¹Famous last words of David, son of Jesse, who by God was raised up high; the anointed of the God of Jacob, and the sweet psalmist of Israel.

²“He spoke and I heard it; His words were on my tongue; the Spirit of the Lord told me how leadership is done.

³“The God and Rock of Israel spoke it; this is what He said, ^a*To be just is the requirement, for those who rule over men.*

“He who rules over men must be just, and rule in godly fear.

⁴“So shall he be like the great light of the morning when the sun rises, as the sun in its beauty, rising up on high; like looking up and seeing a clear and cloudless sky.

Just like the tender grass comes bursting from the earth, by the shining after the rain.’ *He spoke it and I heard it; it was my way, but then again;*

⁵“Although my house was not so with God, yet He made me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things and sure, for this is all my desire and my salvation; will He not make it larger?

⁶“But the sons of evil shall be as thorns you thrust away from you, for they cannot be taken with hands.

⁷“But the man who touches them must be protected with iron and the staff of a spear; and they shall be utterly burned with fire in the very same place there.”

^a*Mighty men and rulers, when with God mighty men lead;*

you will be shining just like David, and lead mighty men like these:

⁸The names of the mighty men of David were: Josheb-basshebeth the Tachmonite, chief of the captains;

he was called Adino the Eznite, because he killed eight hundred men at one time.

⁹After him was Eleazar the son of Dodo, the Ahohite,

one of the three mighty men with David when they defied the Philistines who gathered together, and all the men of Israel had retreated.

¹⁰He struck the Philistines until his weary hand stuck to his sword that time; the Lord gave them a great victory; and Israel returned only to plunder the spoils.

¹¹Next to him was Shammah the son of Agee the Hararite.

The Philistines were gathered as a troop in a field full of lentils.

All the people fled from the Philistines.

¹²While all people fled, he positioned himself in the middle of the field, defended it, and killed the Philistines.

And the Lord brought about a great victory.

¹³Then three of the thirty chief men went down at harvest time and came to David at the cave Adullam.

In the Valley of Rephaim the army of the Philistines had pitched camp.

¹⁴David was there in the stronghold, and the Philistines were garrisoned in Bethlehem.

¹⁵And David longed for water, and in his longing he said,

“Oh, that someone would give me a drink of water from the well of Bethlehem, which is by the gate!”

@The heart of a servant is the heart of the great, when through pitfalls and danger, on your leaders you wait.

All the mighty men and leaders heard as their leader whispered this;

a deep internal desire, it was only but a wish.

¹⁶The three mighty men broke through the camp of Philistines and drew water from the well of Bethlehem at the gate.

@And fought their way back to David, with the water's added weight.

But David could not drink it, he poured it out to the Lord.

¹⁷And he said, “Let this be far from me, O Lord, that I should do this!

This is the blood of men who have put their lives in jeopardy.”

Therefore he would not drink it.

For great rulers regard the lives of those they lead. These things were done by the three mighty men.

¹⁸Abishai, the brother of Joab, the son of Zeruiah was chief of the three.

He lifted his spear against three hundred men, and killed all.

He won a name among the three.

¹⁹He was the most honored of the three, therefore he became their chief.

However he did not attain to the first three.

²⁰Benaiah was the son of Johoiada, the son of a valiant Kabzeelite. He was known for his many valiant acts.

He killed two lion-like men of Moab.

He also killed a lion in the midst of a pit on a snowy day.

²¹He also killed an Egyptian, a well-built man. The Egyptian had a spear in his hand, but he went down to him with a staff, plucked the spear out of the Egyptian's hand, and used the Egyptian's own spear to kill him.

²²Benaiah the son of Jehoiada did all these things, and won a name among the three mighty men.

²³He was more honored than the thirty, but to the first three mighty men he never did attain. And David appointed him over his guard.

²⁴The mighty men were: Asahel the brother of Joab, Elhanan the son of Dodi of Bethlehem,

²⁵Shammah the Harodite, Elika the Harodite;

²⁶Helez the Paltite, Ira the son of Ikesh the Tekoite,

²⁷Abiezer the Anathothite, Mebunnai the Hushathite,

²⁸Zalmon the Ahohite, Maharai the Netophathite,

²⁹Heleb the son of Baanah, the Netophathite, Ittai the son of Ribai of Gibeath, the Benjamite,

³⁰Benaiah a Pirathonote, Hiddai from the brooks of Gaash,

³¹Abi-albon the Arbatite, Azmaveth the Barhumite,

³²Eliabha the Shaalbonite (of the sons of Jashen), Jonathan,

³³Shammah the Hararite, Ahiam the son of Sharar the Hararite,

³⁴Eliphelet the son of Ahasbai, the son of the Maachathite,

Eliam the son of Ahithophel the Gilonite,

³⁵Hezari the Carmelite, Paarai the Arbite,

³⁶Igal the son of Nathan of Zobah, Bani the Gadite,

³⁷Zelek the Ammonite, Naharai the Beerothite, (the armor-bearer of Joab),

³⁸Ira the Ithrite, Gareb the Ithrite,

³⁹and Uriah the Hittite; thirty-seven mighty men in all.

@Say, would you regard the lives of your servants and not drink of their blood?

Would you be a just leader, and be as the clear morning sky, free from clouds?

Mighty men and rulers, if you fear God and do all of these,

You will be a great leader, having many mighty men to lead.

CWDS Bible Quotes

- 1. The anointing you carry will carry you to a place of exaltation if you will step aside and allow Him full expression.*
- 2. Your gifting can take you from zero to hero; you have the deposits of a hero in you and the designation to be the hero of something; David was known as the hero of Israel's songs.*
- 3. Your last words should be a summary of your life not an introduction to it or an expression of regrets.*
- 4. Rulers that lead in righteousness will be established, exalted, celebrated, desired and missed.*
- 5. You wrong your house if you do everything right for your house and your house is not right with God, for you did not present and represent Him.*
- 6. Desire God above all your desires; be in right standing with Him and He will establish His covenant with you and grant you your every desire.*
- 7. The mighty men you raise up, lead and release to do mighty things are an expression of your true might.*
- 8. Inspire men to do great heroics for God and for the kingdom.*
- 9. When men are willing to sacrifice their lives to satisfy your wish, then you know how much you impact and inspire.*
- 10. Show your might and confidence by taking on the garrison of the enemy to fulfil the wish and great command of your King and God.*

11. *When it comes to selection engage hearts, not hands.*
12. *Regard the lives of your people and God will regard your life; the people will also show you great regard.*
13. *Work your anointing in the presence of God and you will be named among the great. Only the diligent willing to go beyond others will be remembered by name.*

PRAYER POINTS

- Holy Spirit, I mortify my flesh and its lust so You may express Yourself through me. Amen. My desire is to live and to walk in You.
- By the Holy Ghost and fire, let the greatness deposited in me for my time, manifest, in the name of Jesus.
- Spirit of the living God, let every day of my life be spent writing a good conclusion of faith and fulfilments. Amen.
- I speak righteousness and integrity into the hearts of the leaders of the church in every government, social, civic and family office in this nation. Amen.
- Jesus, help me to represent You to every member of my family and to present You to them continuously, in the name of Jesus.

ARE you trusting in numbers? God is the One who gives life.

Do you number God's people for your own delight?

If you had a rock and a hard place, three things to choose from;

Would you opt for the Rock and His merciful hand?

Do all offerings to God come with a cost?

When you give it, you feel it; something has been lost.

No! Yes! Yes! The answer, then you have it right;

Your heart is in the right place for God's abundance in your life.

2 SAMUEL 24

¹The anger of the Lord was aroused against Israel again,

and He moved David against them, saying, "Go number Judah and Israel."

²So the king said to Joab the captain of the army who was with him, "Go throughout all the tribes of Israel, from Dan to Beersheba, and number the people, that I may know how much they number."

³And Joab said to the king, "May the Lord your God add to the people a hundred times more than they are now, and may your eyes, my lord, see it. But why do you desire to do this thing, my lord?"

⁴But the king's word prevailed against Joab's, and against the captains of the army.

Therefore Joab and the captains of the army went out from the presence of the king to count the people of Israel.

⁵They crossed over Jordan and camped in Aroer,

on the right side of the town in the midst of

the valley of Gad, and towards Jazer.

⁶Then they came to Gilead and to Tahtimhodshi,

then to Dan-jaan and on to Sidon;

⁷then they came to the stronghold of Tyre, and to all the cities of the Hivites and the Canaanites.

Then they went out to South Judah as far as Beersheba.

⁸When they had gone throughout all the land, they came to Jerusalem at the end of nine months and twenty days.

⁹And Joab gave the total number of the people to the king.

In Israel there were a total of eight hundred thousand valiant men who drew the sword, and of the men of Judah were five hundred thousand more.

¹⁰David had said, "Go and count Israel," in answer to the first question,

¹⁰But now, David's heart troubled him. He knew he had done wrong.

So David said to the Lord, "I have sinned greatly in what I have done this day; I have done foolishly, please take the iniquities of your servant away."

¹¹When David awoke in the morning, the word of the Lord came to the prophet Gad, David's seer, saying,

¹²"Go speak to David, Thus says the Lord, "I offer you three things of which to choose.

Choose one that I may do it to you."

¹³So Gad came to David and said to him, Will you have seven years of famine in the land that you rule?

Or shall you flee three months before your enemies while they pursue?

Or shall there be three days of plague in your land?

Now consider and tell me what answer do I take back to God.

How shall I answer the One who sent me?"

¹⁴He was in a difficult situation; he must choose between a hard place and a rock!

¹⁴And David said to Gad, "I am in a great bind;

let me fall into the hand of the Lord, for his mercies are great; He is kind.

Do not let me fall into the hands of man.

¹⁵So the Lord sent a plague on all Israel from the morning till the appointed time.

From Dan to Beersheba seventy thousand men of Israel died.

¹⁶When the angel stretched His hand over Jerusalem to destroy it,

the Lord relented from the devastation and said to the destroying angel,

"It is enough; stay your hand."

And the angel of the Lord was by the threshing floor of the Jebusite, Araunah.

¹⁷And when David (*Israel's shepherd*) saw the destroying angel, he spoke to the Lord, saying,

"Behold I have sinned, and I have done wickedly, but have these sheep done anything?"

"Let Your hand, I pray, be against me and my

father's house."

¹⁸And Gad came to David that day and said to him, "Now go; go set up an altar to the Lord on Araunah's threshing floor."

He had thrown himself on God's mercies; now God would be merciful to him.

The second test was passed;

¹⁹David did all that Gad had said. He went up as the Lord commanded.

²⁰And Araunah looked and saw the king and his servants coming towards him.

So Araunah went out and with his face to the ground, he bowed himself before the king.

²¹Then Araunah said, "Why has my lord the king come to his servant?"

And David said, "To buy the threshing floor from you, to build an altar to the Lord on it, that the plague may be taken away from the people.

²²And Araunah said to David, "My lord king, take and offer up whatever seems good to you. Here are oxen for burnt sacrifice, and threshing instruments and the yokes of the oxen for wood.

²³"All this, O king, I have given to the king."

And Araunah said to the king, "May the Lord your God accept you."

It is honorable to give good gifts; Araunah gave all these things.

He gave generously to David, as kings give to kings.

The offer was tempting but David knew what to do,

²⁴The king said to Araunah, "No, but I will surely buy it from you for a cost; I will not offer burnt offerings to my God with anything that cost me nothing at all."

So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.

²⁵And David built the altar there, and offered burnt and peace offerings.

So the Lord heeded the prayers for the land and removed the plague from Israel.

The king faced these three questions and he answered the latter two right;

one more correct answer would have saved seventy thousand lives.

First, do not trust in numbers. Second, lean on God's mercies alone.

Third, ensure there is a cost for every sacrifice that you offer up.

And remember, give to God freely as kings give to kings.

Solomon's temple would rise up one day in the place of that offering.

CWDS Bible Quotes

1. Never make stewardship a platform for personal glory.
2. It may seem to be doing well but it is not well if it is not done according to the will of God.
3. God may not restrain you but He may not restrain His wrath in response to you.
4. You sin by your action, but the greatest infraction is when you give your conscience no attention until everything is done.
5. Your personal sin as a leader has serious consequences on the people you lead and on the nation.
6. If you have a choice, always cast yourself on the mercies of the merciful God.
7. Be always willing and ready to take responsibility when it is out of your control, but it is best to follow wisdom and avoid liability when you are in full control.
8. Your cry for mercy may initiate a call to sacrifice or a call to His completed sacrifice.
9. The temple mount in the hands of foreigners will always be a bone of contention to the people of God.
10. The greater the pain, the greater the game and the gain; sacrifice without cost is no sacrifice.
11. Your answer from God is in your obedience to God; the plague on a nation is waiting to resign at the feet of obedience.

PRAYER POINTS

- Spirit of humility and singleness of heart in service, visit our churches and transform hearts, in the name of Jesus.
- Power to override my will and ego and cast my crowns at the feet of God, envelop my life now, in the name of Jesus.
- Omnipotent Father, let Your word and Your Spirit restrain me in the fear of You, Amen.
- I speak the blood of Jesus to every area of leadership in this nation; let the unbearable heat of the word sear the conscience of every selfish and corrupt leader in this nation, in the name of Jesus.
- Jesus, deliver me from sin and unrighteousness. I refuse to be used by the devil as an instrument, in his evil plot to steal, kill and destroy lives, in the name of Jesus.