



AGGRESSIVE OBEDIENCE

Moving from Defense to Offense #1

Sermon preached on July 25, 2021

We have been using David as our springboard in this series: *Lessons from a Victorious David!*

David knew how to win! He knew how to take a ominous situation and turn it into a amazing victory! He knew how to take a situation where the odds were against him and turn the odds for Him!

BELOVED: That is someone that we can learn something from! So we have!

- 1.) God makes something from nothing and turns it into everything!
BELOVED: it doesn't matter what you are currently facing...God has a plan set out for you for victory! It can change in a moment! Just don't give up!
- 2.) God has anointed you to do what He has called you to do.
He has given you the gifting and the calling and ability to do what He has assigned you to do.
THEREFORE: Stay in your assignment!
 - * Don't lose sight of that assignment!
 - * Don't let others steal that assignment!
 - * Get around people that will help you fulfill that assignment!
 - * Don't let the enemy lie to you about it being too late for that assignment!
 - * God's favor makes the way...
- 3.) David understood the place that covenant had in his ultimate victory.
THEREFORE: He prioritized covenant relationships over anything!
- 4.) David inquired of the Lord.
He wanted to know the mind of God!

Acts 13:22 – “And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, *a man after mine own heart*, which shall fulfil all my will.”

Before any decisions David wanted to know God's view on things!
He was AFTER the heart of God! Wanted to know the heart and plans of God!

(NOTE: This will also be the key to our last point...you can't be AFTER the heart of God if you are NOT spending time with Him...but we will cover that next week.)

HOWEVER: Today, the question is...how do we know that David was after the heart of God?

BECAUSE he fulfilled ALL of the will of God!

IN OTHER WORDS: There was nothing that God told him to do that David didn't do! He didn't just want to know what God thought...it was the only thing he concerned himself with.

1 Samuel 23:2,4,5

2 **Therefore David enquired of the LORD**, saying, Shall I go and smite these Philistines? And the LORD said unto David, Go, and smite the Philistines, and save Keilah.

4 **Then David enquired of the LORD yet again.** And the LORD answered him and said, Arise, go down to Keilah; for I will deliver the Philistines into thine hand.

5 **So David and his men went to Keilah**, and fought with the Philistines, and brought away their cattle, and smote them with a great slaughter. So David saved the inhabitants of Keilah.

1 Samuel 30:8,9 (Amalakites)

8 **And David enquired at the LORD**, saying, Shall I pursue after this troop? shall I overtake them? And he answered him, Pursue: for thou shalt surely overtake them, and without fail recover all.

9 **So David went**, he and the six hundred men that were with him, and came to the brook Besor, where those that were left behind stayed.

2 Samuel 2:1,2

1 And it came to pass after this, **that David enquired of the LORD**, saying, Shall I go up into any of the cities of Judah? And the LORD said unto him, Go up. And David said, Whither shall I go up? And he said, Unto Hebron.

2 **So David went up thither**, and his two wives also, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail Nabal's wife the Carmelite.

2 Samuel 5:19,20; 23-25

19 **And David enquired of the LORD**, saying, Shall I go up to the Philistines? wilt thou deliver them into mine hand? And the LORD said unto David, Go up: for I will doubtless deliver the Philistines into thine hand.

20 **And David came to Baalperazim**, and David smote them there, and said, The LORD hath broken forth upon mine enemies before me, as the breach of waters. Therefore he called the name of that place Baalperazim.

(NOTE: He burned their idols...so, does he keep going?)

Many times when we have seen one thing work...we do it again, assuming it is the thing we are to do now...but David knew to keep inquiring of the Lord.

23 **And when David enquired of the LORD**, he said, Thou shalt not go up; but fetch a compass behind them, and come upon them over against the mulberry trees.

24 And let it be, when thou hearest the sound of a going in the tops of the mulberry trees, that then thou shalt bestir thyself: for then shall the LORD go out before thee, to smite the host of the Philistines.

25 **And David did so**, as the LORD had commanded him; and smote the Philistines from Geba until thou come to Gazer.

2 Samuel 21:1,2

- 1 Then there was a famine in the days of David three years, year after year; **and David enquired of the LORD.** And the LORD answered, It is for Saul, and for his bloody house, because he slew the Gibeonites.
- 2 **And the king called the Gibeonites,** and said unto them; (now the Gibeonites were not of the children of Israel, but of the remnant of the Amorites; and the children of Israel had sworn unto them: and Saul sought to slay them in his zeal to the children of Israel and Judah.)

The thing you notice time and again...ONCE DAVID knew what he was suppose to do...he got aggressive after doing it!

He didn't sit around and wait for something to happen...he made things happen!

Three types of people:

- 1.) People who make things happen!
- 2.) People who hope or wait for things to happen!
- 3.) People who wonder what happened!

BELOVED: When we look at GREAT victories in the Bible...we can get focused on the fact that God fought the battles, so we just need to wait!

BILL JOHNSON: "Waiting on God is not inactivity."

NO! There was NO waiting for the people, there was DOING!

Jehoshaphat and his people praised the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

BELOVED: If the only thing you know to do is praise...then praise with all your heart and effort!
Joshua and his people walked.

BELOVED: If all you know to do is walk and keep walking...then walk and keep walking with an expectation.

Gideon broke pitchers with torches inside and blew their trumpets.

BELOVED: If all you know to do is to SHINE...then shine! If all you know to do is blow a trumpet, then blow it LOUD!

BELOVED: We are to be aggressive and energetic about obeying God and doing what he wants us to do.

Exodus 35:5,29

- 5 Take ye from among you an offering unto the LORD: whosoever is of a willing heart, let him bring it, an offering of the LORD; gold, and silver, and brass,
(then the people got busy...energetic and aggressive about things)
- 29 The children of Israel brought a willing offering unto the LORD, every man and woman, whose heart made them willing to bring for all manner of work, which the LORD had commanded to be made by the hand of Moses.

NOTE: They got so aggressive about giving...that they had to be told to stop (Exodus 36:5,6).

How often have we been directed to give...and we wait...or we kind of do it. Or we barter with God.

David vs. Goliath

David arrives at the battle field to see the men hiding and in fear of this monster! They were very afraid.

David knew what he was to do.

1 Samuel 17:32 – “And David said to Saul, Let no man's heart fail because of him; thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine.”

WE KNOW THE STORY: Saul tried to stop him; tried to get David to do it Saul's way instead of the way David knew was right; finally let him go.

ILLUSTRATION: History channel...David climbing from rock to rock! Nope!

1 Samuel 17:48 – “And it came to pass, when the Philistine arose, and came and drew nigh to meet David, *that David hasted, and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine.*”

“David hastened” – Suddenly, he went head long with GREAT speed! Aggressive!

David didn't wait for things to happen...he aggressively ran towards Goliath and initiated Goliath's destruction.

NOTICE: Goliath started with the mind games...trying to get David to question what he had heard and the directions he had received.

1 Samuel 17:43 – “And the Philistine said unto David, Am I a dog, that thou comest to me with staves? And the Philistine cursed David by his gods.”

1 Samuel 17:44 – “And the Philistine said to David, Come to me, and I will give thy flesh unto the fowls of the air, and to the beasts of the field.”

UNDERSTAND: When you just sit around with inactivity...waiting...something crazing happens...the enemy doesn't stop and all he does is LIES TO YOU.

For 40 days, the ARMIES of Israel...men who were warriors, not shepherds, had sat on that hill side and listened to Goliath's lies and taunts...and what happened?

They got more and more passive...scared.

When you are INACTIVE regarding what you know to do...you are overly susceptible to the enemies lies.

ILLUSTRATION: Someone has done me wrong! Yes! What has God told me to do? Stay busy with what I've been called to do! Heart clean, hands clean, and nose clean!

HOWEVER: When I sit back and THINK about what has been done to me, I get side tracked and frustrated and anxious!

YET: When I am busy studying and praying for y'all! Loving you all! Busy planning and thinking about Morehead...I get excited and my vision increases!

ILLUSTRATION #2: When we were putting in the carpet in the sanctuary! None of us had ever done anything like this before...therefore, there were some nerves involved if we were doing it right. We were told that it was easy and that we could do it ourselves...we were still nervous..so we invited Matt over to help us (he had done it before).

HOWEVER: Many of us were still hesitant to start...we didn't want to make a mistake.

I remember coming out to the sanctuary and asking, “Why haven't we started...where is Matt?” He was outside shooting baskets. *We had even gotten the only one who knew what he was doing into inactivity!*

FINALLY: I told him, get in here, show us what to do and we will do it!

UNDERSTAND: Sitting around discussing it was not getting it done!

BELOVED: That is the plan of the enemy...to talk you into disobeying God. Sitting back and NOT doing what you know to do.

James 4:17 – “Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.”

BELOVED: How many visions and plans of God have been undone by inactive people, waiting on Him, when He has already told you what to do!

What God calls for us to do: Attack, attack, attack!

What we have been doing: Sit back, sit back, sit back!

Joshua 1:1-3

- 1 Now after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD it came to pass, that the LORD spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister, saying,
- 2 Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel.
- 3 ***Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon***, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses.

QUESTION: What if Joshua sat back and waited for God to give him the land?

ANSWER: He would have NEVER taken ANY land!

BELOVED: He had to set his feet on that land...he had to move...he had to take...he had to obey! When you are stopped it is impossible to take new ground.

YOU SEE the main problem when you stand still is that it is too easy to move you...backwards!

ILLUSTRATION: Walter Payton and finishing going forward!

Hebrews 10:38,39

- 38 Now the just shall live by faith: ***but if any man draw back***, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.
- 39 But we are ***not of them who draw back*** unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.

***When you are stopped...waiting...too easy to draw back!
Just like Israel against Goliath!***

But What About The Armor of God?

Ephesians 6:13,14

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

HA HA, Pastor Thad...you are wrong, we are suppose to stand!

BELOVED: While you are waiting for assignment...stay prepared...stay ready...do what you know to do (sharpen blades, makes sure armor is ready)...why? Because the plan is coming and you **MUST BE READY!**

YOU MAY SAY: Well, Pastor Thad, most of the armor of God that is listed here are defensive in nature.

- * Helmet of salvation
- * Breastplate of righteousness
- * Shield of faith

Yes, you are right...notice these:

“Loins gird about with truth” – that was an offense position...ready to move!

“Feet shod with prep of gospel of peace” – yes, that is part of standing, but it is also part of moving without slipping!

HERE IS THE THING: All the armor that God tells us to have are not stationary armor. They are NOT meant for standing still, but for taking ground!

They are meant for moving!

Matthew 11:12 – “And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.”

(AMP) – “And from the days of John the Baptist until the present time, the kingdom of heaven has endured violent assault, and violent men seize it by force [as a precious prize--a share in the heavenly kingdom is sought with most ardent zeal and intense exertion].”

If we want the blessings of God...we take it aggressively! By faith!

It doesn't mean we are stealing anything...but we are on the move! Active, aggressive!

Hebrews 11:3 – “Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.”

ILLUSTRATION: What would happen if a group of people had a blue print for a house...had everything that was necessary to build that house...but sat around and waited for something to happen?

The house would NEVER get build!

Being active...active in faith is the key to seeing victory upon victory happen in your life!

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

Putting our faith to work...obeying what we know to do...overcomes and brings us victory!

Mark 11:22-25 – Faith moves mountains!

Conclusion

God spoke this to George Pearsons a while back when he was going through a battle:

Are you maintaining or pursuing?

Are you docked or launching into the deep?

Are you holding the fort or taking new grounds?

Are you settled into status quo or reaching up to the next level?

Are you throwing in the towel or going in for the next round?

Are you passive or pressing?

Are you surviving or thriving?

Are you circling the wagons or leading the charge?

Are you protecting the little you have or are you aggressively possessing all that is rightfully yours?

Are you stuck on defense or are you moving on offense.