

Men we have something very important to learn about how to develop our faith from what David learned and led in the 9 months he was in hiding in the cave of Adullam with 400 other men.

David ran into this cave because he was in fear for his life. Saul's armies were after him to kill him.

In fear, desperate

“David therefore departed from there and escaped to the cave of Adullam. So when his brothers and all his father's house heard it, they went down there to him. And everyone who was in distress, everyone who was in debt, and everyone who was discontented gathered to him. So he became captain over them. And there were about four hundred men with him.”

I Samuel 22:1-2 NKJV

- Distress: anguish, confined, disabled
- Debt: owed much money, mismanaged, bankrupt
- Discontented: bitter, angry, heavy, defeated

And he became their captain

So how is that a group of 400 rag-tag, debt-ridden, paralyzed, bitter and angry distressed men

- Walk out 9 months later as the most powerful fighting, special forces the world had ever seen
- 9 months the length of time to birth something new

How?

These secrets of the Cave of Adulam can be found in the Psalms David wrote while in the cave with the 400 men that followed him

I want to back up a chapter and verse to 1 Sam 21:9 David as he runs away goes to Nob on his way to the cave and sees the priest Ahimelech and asks him if he has any weapons on hand.

“So the priest said, “The sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom you killed in the Valley of Elah, there it is, wrapped in a cloth behind the ephod. If you will take that, take it. For there is no other except that one here.” And David said, “There is none like it; give it to me.””

1 Samuel 21:9 NKJV

- The sword of Goliath
- This sword that David used to cut off the head of Goliath
- It brought with it a rush of remembrance- everyone say “testimony”
- God had put in David’s path a remembrance of a testimony of when God was with him against all odds

Psalm 23

“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.”

Psalms 23:4

- Comforting staff: shepherds carving symbols of testimony on their staff for great comfort speak out loud... Why?

- Because we overcome by the blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony

One of the first things David taught the men in the cave of Adulam was the power of testimony!

Remember in: I Samuel 22:1-2 NKJV

- Distress: anguish, confined, disabled
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Psalms 34:4-6, 9 TPT attributed as one of the 1st psalms written in the cave:

“Listen to my testimony: I cried to God in my distress and he answered me. He freed me from all my fears! Gaze upon him, join your life with his, and joy will come. Your faces will glisten with glory. You’ll never wear that shame-face again. When I had nothing, desperate and defeated, I cried out to the Lord and he heard me, bringing his miracle-deliverance when I needed it most. Worship in awe and wonder, all you who’ve been made holy! For all who fear him will feast with plenty.”

Psalms 34:4-6, 9 TPT

- This is believed to be one of the first psalms David wrote in the cave of Adulum
- “Listen to my testimony” he said

“He struck down the eldest child in each Egyptian home; both man and beast perished that night. He did great miracles—mighty signs and wonders throughout the land

before Pharaoh and all his subjects. He conquered many nations and killed their mighty kings, like Sihon, king of the Amorites, and Og, king of Bashan, and kings from every kingdom in Canaan. He gave their land to Israel as an inheritance for his people. O Yahweh, your name endures forever! Your fame is known in every generation. For you will vindicate your persecuted people, showing your tender love to all your servants.”

Psalms 135:8-14 TPT

- God has given each one of you a testimony
- A testimony not only to encourage you and build your faith through difficult times but to build the faith of others
- We overcome by the blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony- covenant statement
- Too often we don't take the time to remember and repeat what God has done in our lives - knowing
- That if He has done it before He will do it again
- Dutch Sheets says we release testimony it's as though the atmosphere becomes pregnant with the ability to repeat the testimony over and over and over again.

“Also He said to them, “Is a lamp brought to be put under a basket or under a bed? Is it not to be set on a lampstand? For there is nothing hidden which will not be revealed, nor has anything been kept secret but that it should come to light. If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear.””

Mark 4:21-23 NKJV

- Let your light shine - share and declare your testimony

David writes in Psalm 66:16

“Come and hear, all you who fear God, And I will declare what He has done for my soul.”

Psalms 66:16 NKJV

<https://bible.com/bible/114/psa.66.16.NKJV>

“My mouth shall tell of Your righteousness And Your salvation all the day, For I do not know their limits. I will go in the strength of the Lord God; I will make mention of Your righteousness, of Yours only. O God, You have taught me from my youth; And to this day I declare Your wondrous works.”

Psalms 71:15-17 NKJV

<https://bible.com/bible/114/psa.71.15-17.NKJV>

“I will speak of Your testimonies also before kings, And will not be ashamed.”

Psalms 119:46 NKJV

<https://bible.com/bible/114/psa.119.46.NKJV>

“One generation shall praise Your works to another, And shall declare Your mighty acts. I will meditate on the glorious splendor of Your majesty, And on Your wondrous works. Men shall speak of the might of Your awesome acts, And I will declare Your greatness. They shall utter the memory of Your great goodness, And shall sing of Your righteousness.”

Psalms 145:4-7 NKJV

<https://bible.com/bible/114/psa.145.4-7.NKJV>

Men the strengthening and development of our faith requires that we testify of His goodness! Continuously!

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

Hebrews 11:1 NKJV

<https://bible.com/bible/114/heb.11.1.NKJV>

My sword testimony

3 Questions

1. How has the power of your testimony built your faith in hard times?
2. Have you been faithful with sharing your testimony with others?
3. Share testimony, encourage and pray with one another