

Message: Be Strong in the Lord

Series: Better Together

By Senior Pastor Tom Harrison

September 29, 2019

1 Chronicles 28:20-21

DD assisting Immersion baptism at 9:15 PM = Bill Mason video; Ministry Fair (ministries lead to transformation) Farewell Jay in all 3 services (and reception). Congregational meeting at 6pm in CLC

In every facet of life, the pressures leaders face can cause them to lose their nerve. Leaders are sabotaged and triangulated. Leaders can lose their identity by trying to please all the people, all the time. I like the saying, “We have an audience of One.” We like to please people, but we are ultimately here to please the Lord. When we forget this truth, we will follow the wrong path.

It would have been easy for the Apostle Paul to have lost his nerve and quit. He did not quit. He put on the whole armor of God. That helped him persevere. However, he took more than a defensive posture. He stood firm. He attacked with the sword of the Spirit. He also stayed strong by the prayers of the saints and the presence of the Holy Spirit.

We are so much stronger when we are not alone. We need previous generations to coach, train and deploy us. We learn from our wounds and share our wisdom with others. Having wisdom and relationships is a major goal of life. Jesus gave us the Holy Spirit – the “comforter, the counselor.” We need the presence of God and the company of other believers. If Christians claim to not need the church, I want to ask, “*Then how did you ever hear the gospel?*” We are Christians only because others have passed the faith to us. We are commanded to pass it forward, too. We are stronger together.

APPLICATION: David told his son, Solomon, the same thing Moses told the Israelites when they were about to cross the Jordan under the leadership of his successor (Deuteronomy 31 and Joshua 1). The legacy of faith was to be handed off to the next generation.

King Jehoshaphat was also referred to with this line: “*His heart was courageous in the ways of the Lord.*” (2 Chronicles 17:6) Wow! What a great n! Be courageous – for the Lord.

1 Chronicles 28:11-19 (PART 1)

¹¹ Then David gave Solomon his son **the plan** of the vestibule of the temple,^[a] and of its houses, its treasuries, its upper rooms, and its inner chambers, and of the room for the mercy seat; ¹² and **the plan** of all that he had in mind for the courts of the house of the LORD, all the surrounding chambers, the treasuries of the house of God, and the treasuries for dedicated gifts; ¹³ for the divisions of the priests and of

*the Levites, and all the work of the service in the house of the LORD; for all the vessels for the service in the house of the LORD, ¹⁴ the weight of gold for all golden vessels for each service, the weight of silver vessels for each service, ¹⁵ the weight of the golden lampstands and their lamps, the weight of gold for each lampstand and its lamps, the weight of silver for a lampstand and its lamps, according to the use of each lampstand in the service, ¹⁶ the weight of gold for each table for the showbread, the silver for the silver tables, ¹⁷ and pure gold for the forks, the basins and the cups; for the golden bowls and the weight of each; for the silver bowls and the weight of each; ¹⁸ for the altar of incense made of refined gold, and its weight; also his **plan** for the golden chariot of the cherubim that spread their wings and covered the ark of the covenant of the LORD. ¹⁹ "All this he made clear to me in writing from the hand of the LORD, all the work to be done according to **the plan**."*

The 5 "P's": Prior planning prevents poor performance

We believe strongly in planning. DD comes to describe 2 plans we're excited about:

1.) We have our annual "Ministry Fair" where we invite you into serving somewhere in the life of our church. Some ministry has your name on it. Why? We believe in Helping Others Follow Jesus – and serving others helps us build relationships. That's what this church is all about – building relationships. We want you to connect to others and to specific areas of ministry. There is a place just for you.

2.) "Better Together" Answer the "**Why** are we doing BT?"

a.) The 4 components of BT

b.) The gift chart (leaders have/are in the process of going first. We'll announce their totals next week. For us to meet our goals we must have ALL participate. "Not Equal Gifts but E. Sacrifice"

1 Chron 28:20-21 (PART 2)

*Then David said to Solomon his son, "**Be strong and courageous and do it. Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed, for the Lord God, even my God, is with you. He will not leave you or forsake you, until all the work for the service of the house of the Lord is finished. And behold the divisions of the **priests and the Levites** for all the service of the house of God; and with you in all the work will be **every willing man who has skill for any kind of service; also the officers and all the people** will be wholly at your command."***

Be strong and courageous and do it. Strategic Initiative – HOFJ by SWA. Imagine if the congregation at Key had not taken the risk but preferred comfort. Same thing in 2004. Apathy & indifference.

Do not be afraid What Moses was told and what Joshua was told. David embodied this

Be strong/courageous. David had his “mighty men” who served him. Be a mighty man, Solomon. Risk. Fight. Stand up strong. Being “strong” has a physical side to it. David fought a giant. That was the epitome of being strong and courageous. He was not afraid. Being courageous has more to do with the heart. Have a big heart. **do not be dismayed** Being “dismayed” is different than being strong/courageous and not afraid. This is about experiencing failure or rejection. “Get back in the saddle.” Someone told me about how her dad wanted his kids to learn to ride a horse, but occasionally, a kid would fall off a horse. Her dad always made his kids get back on the horse and keep riding because if we didn’t, the fear might grow in our minds and we might never ride a horse again. Or think how many kids are afraid of water before they learn to swim, or afraid of driving before they learn to drive. That’s what “being dismayed” is about. Many of us are afraid of giving away money before we experience God’s faithfulness and his provision, yet to experience those things we must actually give something away!

Why should he not be afraid or dismayed? 2 reasons:

1.) GOD would be with him: ***for the Lord God, even my God, is with you.*** Based on D’s personal experience. God would be with him and ***not leave/forsake*** him.

2.) The PEOPLE would be with him, too: The Mighty Men & Warriors

priests and the Levites = the pastors/staff.

every willing man who has skill for any kind of service (skilled workers)

the officers = governance/leaders

ALL the people = 100% buy-in.

Application – we take principles from the Old Testament. God is not calling us to kill Philistines (there aren’t any around, anyway) or to build a Temple like the one in Jerusalem. BUT, God is calling us to ***Be strong and courageous and do it. Do not be afraid AND do not be dismayed.*** Sometimes we get started on a project but become discouraged by the obstacles. Starting the race is not the same as finishing it.

We are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses who’ve gone before us. They have a story and so do we. As we go through our BT program, I can’t help but to think back over the people who helped us move in here 15 years ago. If you were on a bus tour, you’ll recall me telling about my original vision of our relocation on Sheridan and how we were going to relocate to the top of Shadow Mountain at 62nd and Sheridan. We’d put the sanctuary on top of it and have an incredible view looking north into Tulsa. It would’ve been a landmark site. But the Warren Foundation, after initially telling us they’d sell us their land, decided to keep their property for their own future use. That’s when **Gary VanFossen**, who was helping with Building on Faith. Gary told me he felt like he has heard God speak directly to

him one time in his entire life. This is what he wrote: “I was told ‘***I have a tract of land for Asbury, now go find it and claim it***’. Gary went to work and drove east-west on 41 – 81st streets and then north-south on Sheridan, Memorial & Mingo until coming to 67th and Mingo and he told his wife, “This is our land.” He spoke to Bill Manley, who owned the land and found it would cost \$3.8 million. We had saved \$800,000 but were short \$3m. Phil Baxter and I drove to visit with Nick/Alma Robson and I told them that we had 2 options: either try to purchase the shopping center south of where our building was. It wasn’t a very good option. Alma told me, “We’ll give you the \$3 m but we won’t give you a dime for the shopping center.” Bill and Betty Manley, Nick and Alma Robson have all gone on to be with the Lord but Gary is an active part of our congregation. “*I didn’t find the land – I listened and did something about it. There was no doubt – I instantly saw it.*” Here he is now....We are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses. I have these memories. I am occupying the present moment. I am leaning into the future. Just like King David was doing with his son, Solomon. He had memories, was speaking into the present moment but always had an eye to the future. Asbury has had a wonderful story since 1962. Bill Mason entered our story in 1964 - I did in 1993. We want you to know our story – but we want to invite you into our story so you can help shape our narrative for the next generation.

1.) Sign up in the **Ministry** Fair. We all have a gift. We are all “**Skilled workers**” in some capacity.

2.) **Oct 13** = commitment Sunday for BT. We want **ALL the people** = 100% buy-in. We are taking a journey together. We don’t want anyone left behind. Not equal gifts but equal sacrifice. We want the Lord to capture your heart. If you’ll give your heart to Him, the money will follow. The Lord has brought us this far because our members have been strong and courageous and have done it, even though there have been times we’ve been both afraid and dismayed. We have taken action in the past. Now we’re ready to take action again. We have another opportunity before us. Let’s be strong and courageous. Let’s go. Let’s do this thing. We need each and every person, child, student and adult, to participate.