

## Simple Study:

### Chronicles 5 passage

Recently, in my morning quiet time, I read a passage in the Old Testament from I Chronicles 5. Why don't you read along with me and follow along with what I've written here. You may find something not mentioned here, some insight or other treasure from this passage in God's Word.

There's a particular battle happening between the Gadites, the Reubenites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh.

44,760 men who were ready to serve in the military.

Let's focus on how these men won the battle.

Verse 18 is full of descriptors about these men. Let's look:

- It says they were ready for military service.
- They were able bodied men who could handle sword and shield and who could use a bow.
- They were trained for battle.
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Verse 19 the text says they waged the war, and it tells who they were fighting. It was the Hagrites, Jetur, Naphish and Hodab. And verse 20 says they were helped in fighting the battle and God handed over the Hagrites and all their allies to them.

Why did God hand over their enemies to them?

Verse 20 gives the answer:

- They cried out to Him during the battle.

Then the text says God answered their prayers. Why?

- They trusted in Him.

Let's look at 3 characteristics for them to get this victory!

1. They were ready and they were able bodied.

What makes me ready for battle? A habit of turning to God every morning, humbling myself before Him, saying Yes to whatever His Word says even before I read it. Asking for His help to obey with gladness of heart.

What about being able bodied? Our culture has turned caring for our bodies into idol worship. One doesn't have to worship one's body, be obsessed about one's body all day long. When Jesus said in Matthew 22 for His children to love our neighbor as we love ourselves, one of the greatest ways we love ourselves is taking care of our bodies. There is no vanity associated with this. We eat good food, exercise, get some sleep, make our doctor appointments, groom them and moisturize our skin to name a few. I believe the Lord wants us to take care of our bodies because they are His, but secondly so that we can serve Him and as I Chronicles 5 tells us, so we can be ready for anything.

2. They were able to handle all the equipment.  
We have equipment that we can use – we have the Bible, prayer, other Christians, the leadership around us, our local church. We have wonderful equipment. We need to be reading our Bibles and going to church. None of this is legalistic. Whether we do any of this or not, God will love us. We aren't earning one thing by doing these spiritual disciplines. These spiritual disciplines end up helping us live effective lives for God's Kingdom. And strangely, one of the results is we end up having God's view of who we are instead of the guilt, false guilt, condemning thoughts we often default to having when we aren't allowing the Spirit of God to minister to us through these disciplines. These are our success, our "secret sauce" to living effectively and showing who we are in Christ to the dark world. They benefit us but have the overflow effect of shining out to the world and telling who we belong to.
3. And then during the battle, they cried out to God.  
They won the battle because God knew that they trusted in Him.

God is the one who looks on and knows our hearts. I'm sure that was one indicator. But I believe it was also their actions that showed God that they trusted in Him.

The result is they end up occupying the land. They gave credit to God.

This passage reminds me how I can win the battle each and every day as I live in this dark world.

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