

WANTED: A FEW GOOD MEN!

In a democracy numbers make the difference. Numbers are the determining factor in an election. But in God's economy and in God's business numbers make little difference. God is not influenced or persuaded by numbers.

We all know that God is omnipotent, all-powerful. God is in charge and He makes the decisions. God is also a jealous God. He does not share His glory with men. Throughout history we see that God brought down powerful, proud men together with their kingdoms, their armies and their families. We can think of many proud leaders such as Napoleon, Adolf Hitler, Idi Amin, Mussolini, Stalin, Mao Tse Tung and others. God brought them down together with their governments and their mighty armies. God's Word says in Proverbs 16:5 that God detests all the proud. Also we learn in James 4:6 that "God opposes the proud but He gives grace to the humble".

Imagine being opposed by almighty God. Once some angels led by Satan opposed God as described in Isaiah 14:12. Satan was called the morning star but he had an evil plan. Five times he declared, "I will".

"I will ascend to heaven;
I will raise my throne above the stars of God;
I will sit enthroned on the mount of the assembly;
on the utmost heights of the sacred mountains;
I will ascend above the tops of the clouds;
I will make myself like the Most High."

But God replied "You will not" and Satan and his angels were thrown out of heaven. So God proceeded to prepare an eternal fire for the devil and his angels as described in Matthew 25:41. The fire in hell will never go out. There will be no relieve and no end to the pain and suffering of those who oppose God.

God is not impressed with large numbers. In China we have over a billion communists who oppose God and reject His Son Jesus Christ. Millions of Moslems, Hindus and Buddhists reject the Son of God who said, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life". They consider God's Holy Word corrupted with lies and imaginations. Christians have been persecuted, put into prison and killed for almost 2000 years. There is discrimination against Christians in many nations of the world today. It is against the law in Malaysia for an ethnic Malaysian citizen to be a believer in Jesus Christ. The same is true in many other Moslem nations. It is almost impossible here in Indonesia to obtain a building permit to build a church building. Yet mosques are being built on almost every corner. One such mosque is being built right next door to our apartment. Christians must go around and get permission from every resident in the area if they want to built a House of Worship. If one person objects no building permit will be issued. No body in our apartment of 700 units was approached prior to building this mosque. But God is not threatened by the numbers of the Moslems and other religions who oppose His plan of

Salvation and who make it difficult for the Christians to function in nations such as North Korea, China, Vietnam, Saudi Arabia and dozens of other countries. He is not taken by surprise. He is not discouraged. Neither is God in a rush! Listen to Paul preaching in the large city of Athens, the capital of the Greek Empire. Acts 17:24,

“The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. And He is not served by human hands, As if He needed anything, because He himself gives all men life and breath and everything else... v. 28
For in Him we live and move and have our being... v. 31
He has set a day when He will judge the world with justice By the Man He has appointed. He has give proof of this to All men by raising Him from the dead.”

God is looking for a few good men He can use for His honor and glory. In 2 Samuel 23 beginning with verse 8 we have the names of a few good men called “David’s mighty men”.

The Philistines were opposing King David who was God’s anointed servant. They came by the thousands to attack Israel but God gave great victory to David and a few of his mighty men.

First there was **Josheb-Basshebeth**.

He raised his spear against 800 men whom he killed in one fight. How is this possible? How can one man survive against 800 men? Was Josheb-Basshebeth a superman? No but he served a Super God and with Him nothing is impossible. You and I serve the same God. You may think you face an impossible situation, great difficulties with no way out. Remember David’s mighty men. Mighty, because they were filled with a mighty Holy Spirit.

Then there was **Eleazar**. It says in verse 9 that the soldiers of Israel had pulled back. They were terrified by the large numbers of the enemy. They thought nothing could be done. The numbers of the enemy was too great. They combined faithlessness with a tactical withdrawal hoping that the remaining land would be left alone by the Philistines. But Eleazer taunted the enemy, he defied the enemy and stood his ground and struck down the Philistines till his hand grew tired and froze to the sword. He had no strength left in him. How could he possibly go on against such great odds? It was the Lord who sustained him and the Lord brought about a great victory.

Next was **Shammah**. He was defending a field of lentils. The enemy had come to take Israel’s crops and supply of food. Perhaps the lentils were ready for harvest. Again the Philistines came in great numbers. All the Israel troops fled. Actually a field of lentils is not a good place to fight. There was no place to hide. But Shammah did not run. He stood in open farmland being surrounded by the enemy. He defended the field all alone and God gave a great victory. He was simply there, available and ready to be used by

almighty God. He was convinced that God could help him in an open field just as well as in the midst of rocks. The place makes no difference.

Key words in these great victories are, “He raised his spear”, “He stood his ground”, and “He took his stand”.

These mighty men demonstrated three things and today God is looking for a few good men who are willing to demonstrate the same thing.

1. They demonstrated the Power of God. It is God who gave the victory.
2. They demonstrated the reliability of God’s promises. God had promised to deliver and protect the Israelites. All God demanded was faith and trust in Him and repentance from sin.
3. They demonstrated the impotence of an unbelieving enemy.

These few mighty men succeeded not because they were destined to succeed. They succeeded because they were determined to succeed by making a stand for God and not retreating or giving up. Retreat was not an option for David’s mighty men. Giving up was not an option. Fear was not an option. God is looking for a few good men who don’t stop until they have finished what they have started. God wants to turn a few good men into God’s might men and women.

The majority of the Israelites were afraid in the face of the enemy, they retreated, gave up and quit.

But the few mighty men were ordinary men but obedient to the Word of God.

They were bold for the Lord, they persisted, were determined and endured. They had unwavering faith in a mighty God and are called the mighty men.

God’s Word says that all who have received Jesus Christ as personal Savior are the children of the living God. You are born again by the Holy Spirit. God through Christ is living in you. You must live like it, act like it and talk like it.

Be God’s mighty men and women!

Be bold for Christ! Share the wonderful Gospel of Jesus Christ with those around you. Live in obedience to God’s Word. Satan wants you to be quiet, withdraw, retreat and quit. The enemy seems so numerous. It is not popular to be bold for Christ. People may think you are fanatical and ‘strange’. God is demanding holiness and righteousness. Never give up. Some believers suffer for their boldness so we must stand with those who are being persecuted for Christ, those in prison and those who have lost jobs and property because of their faith in Jesus Christ. Yet final victory belongs to God. Praise His holy name. The mighty men of God will share in the great victory.