

Title: Awake II – fixing our eyes
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2 Chronicles 20 – Jehoshaphat, the king of Judah

The challenge

:2 Then some came and told Jehoshaphat, saying, “a great multitude is coming against you...”

- 3 nations came against him – more than he would ever be able to conquer in his own strength

The response to the challenge

:3 And Jehoshaphat feared and set himself to seek the Lord and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah

- **Our response to fear**, uncertainty, confusion: We should do what Jehoshaphat did: Seek God’s face, pray, fast.

:4 So Judah gathered together to ask help from the Lord and from all the cities of Judah they came to seek the Lord

:13 Now all Judah, with their little ones, their wives and their children, stood before the Lord.

- Significant part of the story – **everyone** came before God wholeheartedly

The word of the Lord

:15b Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours, but God’s.

:17 You will not need to fight in this battle. Position yourselves, stand still and see the salvation of the Lord, who is with you... Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them for the Lord is with you.

Seeking God’s face for 2013 – weekend of prayer, worship & fasting

What fasting can change in our lives:

- It will **draw us close to God**. It will awaken your spirit to the Spirit of God.
- It will **strengthen your faith and humble you**.
- It will bring back **self control in your eating habits** and will do for you what no diet can do.
- It will bring **clarity** in a time of confusion.

The result of acting upon the word of the Lord

:22 Now when they began to sing and to praise the Lord set ambushes against the people of Ammon, Moab and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; and they were defeated.

Secret for Jehoshaphat’s victory over darkness and fear

Do we put our trust in fasting? In prayer? In praise & worship?

:12 For we have no power against this great multitude that is coming against us, nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are upon You.

Hebrews 12: 1 &2

“...let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith...”

Looking = the word signifies undivided attention, looking away from all distractions, having eyes for no one but Jesus

HOW do we fix our eyes on Jesus?

We remind ourselves of who God is and what He has done for us and for people around us.

How? Even if everything around you tells you that God is not good, not faithful, not caring, not in control, you speak to your soul and remind yourself that He is and that HE is bigger and more powerful than darkness.

How do we believe it?

1. Revisit what God has done for you in the past.
2. Revisit the words that were spoken over your life.
3. Meditate and memorise a few scriptures that speaks to your heart until it becomes part of your being.
Example: **Ps 46:10** "Be still and know that I am God"

Summary:

Jehoshaphat was scared and afraid, but because His eyes were fixed on Jesus, he could position himself to seek God's face, spend time in prayer, worship and fasting and then ACT upon a word that was quite risky. He could use all the tools and spiritual disciplines God makes available to us, but his foundation was his trust in Jesus.

The challenge turned into a blessing

:25 When Jehoshaphat and his people came to take away their spoil, they found among them an abundance of valuables on the dead bodies, and precious jewellery, which they stripped off for themselves, more than they could carry away and they were three days gathering the spoil, because there was so much.