**Facing Your Giants**

What are you facing in this New Year? Maybe you aren’t even sure yet, the year is too new- only uncertainty lies ahead. I visited an old friend last week whose future is very uncertain with monetary and health concerns topping the list.

What can we do? How do we enter into the battle against what seem like giants, those unseen forces that may threaten to overwhelm us physically, mentally, emotionally, spiritually or even monetarily?

In contemplating such circumstances I was reminded of a story in 2 Chronicles 20: 20-24– the story of when the “giants,” the Ammonites and Moabites threatened the people of Judah and Jerusalem. Jehoshaphat was their king and even though he was afraid, he realized the only way to combat the worst was to declare a national fast, an assembly of the people and remember the best about God - recounting God’s glory and power. Jehoshaphat had some help from a seemingly unknown prophet who stood up to declare God’s plan to battle against these enemies. What did the people do? They followed the example of their king who bowed in worship; then they set out for the battle. Jehoshaphat sets the front lines of their army to be the singers who give thanks and glory to God as they went.

You may be wondering what happened. The Lord set an ambush for those giants so that by the time the people reached the battle- it was over. Their only task was to carry away the spoils.

God promised to help and the faithful gave praise and thanksgiving *before* they saw the result of God’s help, before they saw God’s defeat. They faced their giants in their approach by praising and giving glory to God.

I wonder this year as we face whatever our giants may be, whether we ought to copy the battle plan of Jehoshaphat. Declare a fast as we confess our faithlessness and fearfulness, get people together and tell how wonderful God is and read again the promises of God in God’s Word to us in the Bible, then bow together in worship. Then as we move forward to face whatever is ahead, let us first give glory and praise to God for God is good and can handle whatever the giants look like- if we would just begin with thanksgiving and trust in him.

**Let’s bow in prayer for our year ahead:** Glorious and loving God, thank you for the possibilities of this New Year. We confess our selfish mindedness and our forgetfulness of how great and wonderful you are. We humbly bow remembering with thanksgiving that you are greater than anything that may come. Thank you for your promises in Jesus that you will never leave us nor forsake us. Thank you that Jesus reminded us that your Kingdom is at hand and is full of blessings and abundance. Thank you for your steadfast love and faithfulness that goes before and behind. As we trust in you today, let us share your love with others. Bless you Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.