

Stop, Drop, and Roll

What to Do When Your World Catches Fire (Part 2)



Sermon Text

2 Chronicles 20:1-30



Big Idea

As kids, we likely were taught what to do if ever we were to catch fire: stop, drop, and roll. Chances are though, however prepared we may be, we probably have never actually had to put these steps into action. Most of us (thankfully!) have not "literally" caught fire. But, undoubtedly, we all daily must face fires of a different sort: spiritual fires— "fiery trials" as Peter describes them in 1 Peter 4:12. It is interesting to note that, even for these kinds of fires, the same three basic steps of stop, drop, and roll prove to be immensely relevant!

(1) They Get Up and Go (v. 20)

Their job here is not to fight with force against their enemy, their job is to fight for faith in their God. That's the battle God is calling them into. And that is the battle God is calling us into as well. God may give the promise, but, in some sense, we have to reach up and take it, we have to walk out on it, we have to trust Him for it.

(2) They Worship as a Way of War (vv. 21-23)

God has already said the battle is mine. And He's told them their job is simply to believe Him for it. So Jehoshaphat sets the singers up *before the army* and has them give thanks *before the victory*. It's all a part of this fight for faith.

(1) Our Singing Makes an Impression—God calls us to sing truth to help us feel it. God calls us to take the lyrics on our lips in an effort to get them on our hearts. This singing is an important part of the fight for faith. It is taking what know to be true with our heads and inviting, even begging, our hearts to follow suit. Look at Ephesians 5:15-20. Christians lift their rebel voices and sing in the face of evil. Now, do not be mistaken. This is not merely "whistling past the graveyard." These songs are not our way of distracting one another from the grim realities of life. Quite the opposite. This is our way of helping one another see through the hardship and trial and surrounding fire into ultimate reality—that God will get the final victory over all of this even if only on the other side of death. These songs aren't cheap little psychological tricks to get us thinking happier thoughts, these songs are declarations of war . . . against unbelief and any spiritual agent of evil trying to influence us towards it.

(2) Our Singing Unleashes an Ambush—Here we see our singing to God in worship is not just doing work on us, it is moving things out there in the spiritual dimension. Stuff is shaking up, Satan is sent running, because God's people are singing.

(3) They See the Salvation of the Lord (vv. 24-30)

God did what He said He would do, and He did it in a way that I'm sure exceeded their wildest dreams. That thing which now has you most worried, most troubled, most distressed, has the potential in Christ to be the very means by which you are brought the most joy in God. They thought these armies had come to kill, and no doubt they had. But God would take their ill intent and turn it for His people's blessing. And He's doing the same for you.

Reflection Questions



- Describe a current "fiery trial" you are facing. What would it look like to stop, drop, and roll in response to this?
- What do you think it means to "fight the good fight of the faith" (1 Tim 6:12)? How have you been attempting to do this personally?
- Much time in the sermon was given to this idea of singing as a way of waging war. How have you experienced the benefit of singing to God in your own spiritual life? Describe a time when singing something to God helped to impress those truths on your heart and gave you strength to trust Him. What worship songs have meant the most to you through the years? Why?