

BEFORE MOVING FORWARD

Seeking God's Kingdom • Part 32

2 Samuel 2:8–32

KEY SCRIPTURES

2 Samuel 2:1

"In the course of time,
David inquired of the LORD."

2 Samuel 2:26

"Must the sword
devour forever?"

Psalms 46:10

"Be still, and know
that I am God."

Isaiah 40:31

"But those who hope in the LORD
will renew their strength."

1 Samuel 30:6

"David strengthened himself
in the LORD his God."

1

STOP

David stopped
before acting.



- David inquired of the LORD before taking his next step (2:1).
- God's wisdom begins by stopping.
- Seek the LORD before we move forward.

2

WHEN WE
DON'T STOP



- Reactions escalate quickly (vv12–17).
- Asahel refused to stop—and was killed (vv18–23).
- One reaction led to another until violence spiraled.

3

THE UNEXPECTED
VOICE OF WISDOM



- Abner asked, "Must the sword devour forever?" (2:26)
- Bitterness and anger do not lead to peace.
- Wisdom calls God's people to stop.

4

BE STILL

We can be still
because of who God is.



- Psalm 23: God "makes" His sheep lie down."
- Psalm 46 is a battlefield psalm—God brings peace in the midst of chaos.
- The LORD is our refuge and strength (Ps 46:1).

5

WAIT ON THE LORD

Waiting is an act
of trust.



- Isaiah 40:31 — those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength.
- Waiting creates room for listening.
- Strength comes from the LORD, not our rush.

6

RENEWED STRENGTH

The LORD strengthens
before we move.



- David strengthened himself in the LORD (1 Samuel 30:6).
- The LORD provides, protects, and leads.
- Then we can move forward in His timing.

MAIN TAKEAWAY



STOP



WAIT



LISTEN



RECEIVE
STRENGTH



MOVE
FORWARD

— Before we take our next step, let's seek the LORD. —

Seeking God's Kingdom | Going Deeper
Part 32: "Before Moving Forward" | 7.12.26
Main Scripture: 2 Samuel 2:8-32

➡ **Before Moving Forward... Stop — 2 Samuel 2**

- Stopping creates the space we need to seek Jesus before taking our next step
- David's pattern: he stopped, inquired of the LORD, listened, then acted (2:1)
- After 2:7, the narrator doesn't mention anyone seeking the LORD
- 2 Samuel 2 shows how quickly reactions can escalate into chaos
- Waiting on the LORD often begins by intentionally stopping

➡ **When We Don't Stop — 2 Samuel 2:8–25**

- (v12–17) What began as a limited contest quickly escalated into a full battle
- (v18–23) Asahel refused to stop pursuing Abner despite two warnings
- (v22–23) Abner knew killing Asahel would have lasting consequences
- (v23) Asahel's pursuit ended in tragedy because he couldn't stop in time

➡ **The Unexpected Voice of Wisdom — 2 Samuel 2:26–32**

- (v26) Abner asks: *"Must the sword devour forever?"*
- (v26) "Bitterness" reflects the deep anguish of Hannah and others throughout Saul's reign (1 Samuel 1:10, 22:2)
- Abner unexpectedly became the voice of wisdom calling God's people to stop
- Like Abigail (1 Samuel 25), an unexpected voice of wisdom interrupted destructive momentum, finally stopping Joab's pursuit

➡ **Learning to Be Still — Psalm 23; Psalm 46**

- The chapter invites us to reflect: *When was the last time we stopped?*
- Psalm 23:2 — God "makes" His sheep lie down; as the Shepherd, He determines when we need to stop
- Stopping is an act of trusting the LORD with whatever lies ahead.
- Psalm 46 is a battlefield psalm: God brings wars to an end, yet calls His people to "Be still" because of who He is

➡ **A Biblical Pattern for Seeking God's Kingdom — Isaiah 40:28–31**

- Isaiah 40:31 – those who hope in the LORD receive renewed strength
- Waiting on the LORD means trusting Him, expecting Him to act, and following His leading
- David modeled this when he strengthened himself in the LORD (1 Samuel 30:6)

➡ **Main Takeaway: Stop. Wait. Listen. Receive Strength. Move Forward.**