

Dr. Selwyn Q. Bachus
Still Here
2nd Samuel 5: 1-6
December 31, 2016

Each year we call the roll of those who were with us but have crossed the eternal sands of time. However this year, many of these people are in the same age group as me. The list seems to get longer each year. People are dying that ain't ever died before.

The rich and famous were named, but then, there were countless unnamed mothers and daughters, fathers and son who died this year as well. Many of the unnamed who have gone on to be with the Lord have been more faithful than we ever will, but thanks be to God, we are still here.

While life has not been easy and 2016 has been a very tough year; we're still here. Heart break, heartache, lost job, bad health, family issues, etc. No matter what you went through in 2016, God saw fit for you to still be here. Because you're here is a testimony of the awesome power of God.

Uncertainty on our jobs, fractures in the family, stress in our relationships, negative diagnosis, houses divided, car broke down, bill collectors, church folk disappoint us, future seems unsure, faith has been shaken, but the truth is, it's been the Lord that has kept us up until this time.

Take a few moments and thank God for still being here. People that look like you, have the same job as you, did the same things you did, and made less mistakes than you did, but on December 31, 2016, they are not with us and we are still here.

We are just like King David, for he too had a lot of problems, but in spite of what was going on in his life, the Lord kept him.

1. We're Still Here Because The Lord Was Preparing Us

All we have experienced is a part of the Lord's preparation process. David was anointed three times. Samuel anointed him in secret but the Lord sealed it. He was then anointed in Hebron as the king of Judah, but was not fully acknowledged by the other tribes of Israel. Lastly he was anointed king over all Israel. Through it all, the Lord was preparing him. Slowly, steadily, and surely, the Lord is preparing you. It may be private, gradually or progressively but it's all in preparation for what coming is down the road.

When life was at its worst, it was the Lord's way of preparing you for what He had for you. Whatever you are going through, whoever tried to stop you, whoever tried to discourage you; go find them and tell them, "You were trying to take me out, but you were a prescription in the plan of God for my life."

- 1. We're Still Here Because The Lord Has A Purpose And A Plan For Our Lives.**
It may take some of us longer than others to accept it, but nonetheless, the Lord has a purpose and a plan for our lives.

The Lord's purpose and plan was for David to be a shepherd, a servant, and then a king. The Lord used David's experiences for his ultimate purpose, but David did not get stuck in his experiences. The Lord used all of his collective experiences to prepare him as king.

Don't get stuck as a shepherd when the Lord has kingship for you. Don't get stuck as a soldier when the Lord has a purpose and a plan for your life. Being a soldier is not the end of my life story.

- 1. We're Still Here Because The Lord Has Been Present With Us**
After his anointing, David was still in Hebron but he knew that in order to do what God called him to do, he had to go to Jerusalem. When David conquered the city of Jerusalem, he named it the City of David and the Lord God of host was with him.

Host means armies, said differently the Lord's army was with him. The unseen armies of God were there when we were in our worst mess, and they protected us, and were present with us.

We are here not because of our wit or wisdom. We are here because of the unexplainable presence of the Lord that keeps us here.