

A background image showing the Earth from space, with a bright sun in the upper right corner creating a lens flare effect. The Earth's blue atmosphere and white clouds are visible against the blackness of space.

A TIME FOR...

“Standing When Others Give Up”

Where Do Problems Come From?

1 Samuel 18:5-9 NLT

⁵ Whatever Saul asked David to do, David did it successfully. So **Saul made him a commander over the men of war**, an appointment that was welcomed by the people and Saul's officers alike. ⁶ When the victorious Israelite army was returning home after David had killed the Philistine, women from all the towns of Israel came out to meet King Saul. They sang and danced for joy...

⁷ This was their song: **"Saul has killed his thousands, and David his ten thousands!"** ⁸ This made Saul very angry. "What's this?" he said. "They credit David with ten thousands and me with only thousands. Next they'll be making him their king!" ⁹ So **from that time on Saul kept a jealous eye on David.**

Godly Decisions Greatly Impact Others

- Noah- “All in... no matter what the cost”
- Jonathan- “Deep convictions, despite uncertainty”
- Caleb - “A different Spirit”
- Daniel- “Resolute teenager”
- Esther- “Reset priorities”
- Deborah- “Willing to lead, brave decisions”
- Paul- “Missional pioneer... went when called”
- Jesus - “Selfless obedience”

“Every leader must count the cost of leadership, and the cost includes six realities: crisis, complexity, betrayal, loneliness, weariness, and glory.”

Dan B Allender

David Learned God's Way...

Psalm 37:3-7 NLT

³ **Trust in the Lord and do good.** Then you will live safely in the land and prosper. ⁴ **Take delight in the Lord,** and he will give you your heart's desires. ⁵ **Commit everything you do to the Lord.** Trust him, and he will help you.

⁶ He will make **your innocence radiate like the dawn,** and the **justice of your cause will shine like the noonday sun.**

⁷ **Be still in the presence of the Lord,** and wait patiently for **him to act.** Don't worry about evil people who prosper or fret about their wicked schemes.

How Does God Work in Difficult Times?

2 Cor. 12:7-10 NLT

⁷...to keep me from becoming proud, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger from Satan to torment me and keep me from becoming proud. ⁸ Three different times I begged the Lord to take it away. ⁹ Each time he said, “**My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness.**” So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me. ¹⁰ That’s why I take pleasure in my weaknesses, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions, and troubles that I suffer for Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

God's Promise To Those Who Believe?

2 Cor. 4:1, 7-10 NLT

¹...since God in his mercy has given us this new way, **we never give up.**

⁷ We now have this light shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are like **fragile clay jars** containing this **great treasure**. This makes it clear that our great power is from God, not from ourselves.

⁸ We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are **not crushed**. We are perplexed, but **not driven to despair**. ⁹ We are hunted down, but **never abandoned by God**. We get knocked down, but we are **not destroyed**. ¹⁰ Through suffering, our bodies continue to share in the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may also be seen in our bodies.

God's Promise For Now and For Ever...

2 Cor. 4:14, 16-17 NLT

¹⁴ We know that God, who raised the Lord Jesus, will also raise us with Jesus and present us to himself together with you.

¹⁶ **That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day.** ¹⁷ For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever!

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