

## How to Face Incredible Odds 2 Chronicles 20

*After this, the Moabites and Ammonites with some of the Meunites came to make war on Jehoshaphat. Some men came and told Jehoshaphat, “A vast army is coming against you from Edom, from the other side of the Sea.” . . . Alarmed, Jehoshaphat . . .*  
2 Chronicles 20:1-3a (New International Version)

The people in this situation took **seven positive steps** when they heard about the incredible odds they were facing.

- **STEP 1: TUNE IN TO GOD AND GET HIS PERSPECTIVE.**

*Alarmed, Jehoshaphat resolved to inquire of the LORD, and he proclaimed a fast for all Judah. The people of Judah came together to seek help from the LORD; . . .*  
2 Chronicles 20:3-4 (NIV)

Perspective = your way of looking at events and attaching meaning to them

- **STEP 2: PRAY ABOUT THE PROBLEM AND KEEP ON PRAYING.**

*King Jehoshaphat went and stood before them and prayed aloud . . .*  
2 Chronicles 20:5b, 6a (Good News Translation)

### Jehoshaphat's prayer asked three questions:

- “Are you not . . .”

*“ . . . O LORD, God of our fathers, are you not the God who is in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. Power and might are in your hand . . . ”*  
2 Chronicles 20:6c (NIV)

*My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.*  
Psalm 121:2 (NIV)

- “Did you not . . .”

*“O our God, did you not drive out the inhabitants of this land before your people Israel and give it forever to the descendants of Abraham your friend?”*  
2 Chronicles 20:7 (NIV)

- “Will you not . . .”

*“O our God, will you not judge them?”* 2 Chronicles 20:12a (NIV)

- **STEP 3: ADMIT YOUR DEPENDENCE UPON GOD.**

*“O our God, will you not judge them? For we have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us . . .”* 2 Chronicles 20:12 (NIV)

*Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain. <sup>2</sup>In vain you rise early and stay up late, toiling for food to eat—for he grants sleep to those he loves.*  
Psalm 127:1, 2 (NIV)

*David fought them from dusk until the evening of the next day, and none of them got away, . . . <sup>23</sup>David replied, “No, my brothers, you must not do that with what the LORD has given us. He has protected us and handed over to us the forces that came against us.”* 1 Samuel 30:17, 23 (NIV)

- **STEP 4: FOCUS ON GOD, NOT YOUR PROBLEMS.**

*For we have not power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are upon you.”* 2 Chronicles 20:12b (NIV)

*“Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God's.”* 2 Chronicles 20:15b (NIV)

- **STEP 5: GET SOME SUPPORT.**

*All the men of Judah, with their wives and children and little ones, stood there before the LORD.* 2 Chronicles 20:13 (NIV)

*Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.*  
Galatians 6:2 (NIV)

- **STEP 6: RELAX IN FAITH.**

*"You will not have to fight this battle. Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the LORD will give you, . . ."* 2 Chronicles 20:17 (NIV)

**Nehemiah Principle**

Do everything you can do—ask God to do everything you cannot do.

*"Listen to me, Judah and people of Jerusalem! Have faith in the LORD your God and you will be upheld; have faith in his prophets and you will be successful."*  
2 Chronicles 20:20b (NIV)

- **STEP 7: THANK GOD IN ADVANCE.**

*After consulting the people, Jehoshaphat appointed men to sing to the LORD and to praise him for the splendor of his holiness as they went out at the head of the army, saying: "Give thanks to the LORD, for his love endures forever."*  
2 Chronicles 20:21 (NIV)