

2 Samuel 7:3

Then Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you."

A lot of people will hunt and choose scriptures for themselves to use as an answer that they are looking for, and it's because they have a question or a problem and they will pray to the Lord asking for direction. After they do, they will pick up the bible and open it up looking for a verse to give them an answer. The only problem with looking for a single verse, is that you can take it out of context of what the Lord is really saying, as some are looking for what they want the answer to be, rather than what God wants to say to them. Take today's devotional verse for example.

† *Then Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you."*

Sounds like a cool verse if you are seeking direction from the Lord, say in a job, or a spouse, or a home, or whatever, wouldn't you want a verse that says: *"Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you."*

But if you read this verse in the context of the chapter, you would soon find out that Nathan the prophet was incorrect in what he just told king David.

You see, what was going on here is that David wanted to build a temple for the Lord, and "it sounded like a good idea" to Nathan, so he just said to go ahead and do it. But Nathan didn't seek the Lord's counsel before he spoke for the Lord. Later that night the Lord spoke to Nathan and told him that David would not build a temple for Him, but rather king David's son would.

† **2 Sam 7:12-13** *When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.*

So taking today's devotional verse in its context, I don't think that you would want to use it as an answer from the Lord as far as direction is concerned. It's not that it's wrong to seek the Lord and His word for answers, but God will not twist His word to fit our needs and we shouldn't try to twist God's word to fit our needs. When we do that, we become like the cults, and then we won't truly hear from the Lord at all.

So how do you know what the context of the verse is?

Well, just like perfect eyesight is 20/20, use the same principle in God's word. Read 20 verses before the one you want to use, and 20 verses after it as well, then you will have 20/20 sight into God's word as you are now reading it in its context.

Here is another example in Genesis:

† **Genesis 31:49** *also Mizpah, because he said, "May the LORD watch between you and me when we are absent one from another.*

You may read that and say, "Oh, I love that verse, I even have a necklace or bracelet or keychain with it on it and I gave half of it to my friend or spouse." But if you read it in its context you may want to change your mind, because if you read the next verse (Which is the rest of the saying) it says:

† **Genesis 31:50** *If you afflict my daughters, or if you take other wives besides my daughters, although no man is with us--see, God is witness between you and me!"*

Simply, when you read it in its context, "**May the LORD watch between you and me when we are absent one from another. If you afflict my daughters, or if you take other wives besides my daughters, although no man is with us--see, God is witness between you and me!"** you realize it had nothing to do with protection for someone you loved, but was rather spoken because there was a lack of trust between two people.

Simply, quote God's word, stand on God's word, and live by God's word. But do it as it was written to be used, and the only way you can do that is to read God's word in its entirety and study it.

† **Psalm 119:160** *The entirety of Your word is truth, And every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever.*

† **Psalm 119:43 (NLT2)** *Do not snatch your word of truth from me, for your regulations are my only hope.*

† **2 Timothy 2:15 (KJV)** *Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*