Huffing and Puffing

By Jennifer Brown

“I Will Huff, and Puff, and Blow Your House Down”

When my kids were little I loved reading them the story of the three little pigs. It was great fun to voice the big, bad wolf and his boastful words, especially in contrast with the squealing voices of the little pigs. The moral of the story is found in the security of the pig who built his house solidly on a firm, secure foundation. There is certainly a Biblical principle in that moral, but this week in my Bible reading, I found myself thinking more about what we learn from the wolf.

Exodus 15 is one of my favorite passages of scripture. You can read it below. It is the song Moses sang after God had parted the Red Sea for His people to escape. God not only saved His people, but also had the Sea crash back over on the Egyptians, destroying their armies. It wasn’t a small delegation. There were 600 of the best chariots, plus all the other chariots of Egypt, plus all the officers, horsemen and troops. The sight of this army coming towards the million-plus Israelites trapped against the sea with nowhere to go makes nothing of a wolf and a few pigs.

I love Exodus 15 because of its focus on the power, might, and victory of God. But this time verse 9 jumped out at me. It reads similarly to the script of the big, bad wolf, “The enemy boasted, ‘I will pursue, I will overtake them. I will divide the spoils; I will gorge myself on them. I will draw my sword and my hand will destroy them.’ This is a picture of Satan in your life. He is an enemy who huffs and puffs at you, working to blow your house down. He pursues you, watching and waiting for a weak moment to overtake you. He divides the spoils and gorges himself on them. He draws his hand to destroy you - your family, your relationships, your peace, and your joy - with his sword.

Do you know where Satan is huffing and puffing in your life?

He wants you angry with your spouse or thinking about someone who isn’t your spouse. He desires to bring about hostility between you and your siblings. He wants you overwhelmed with your parenting and work obligations. He draws you to bitterness over your position in life. He dangles despair in front of you trying to block out your hope. He draws your focus to fear. He wants you to pull away from relationships to be mired in addictions to smart phones, computers, food, drugs, and sex.

Is it working?

Praise God that Satan can boast all he wants, but he cannot overcome the power of Christ. We can stand firm in God, knowing that the Lord is our strength and our song. He is our salvation. In His unfailing love He will lead those of us He has redeemed. In His strength (not ours!), He will guide us to His holy dwelling. With the power of His arm, His breath, the enemy will be stilled.

Satan is pursuing you. He is blowing away the straw and sticks. The answer is for you to pursue God and to build on Him, His Word, His salvation. He is your ever-present help and refuge in the battles Satan wages in your life. Turn to Him. Trust in Him. Read Exodus 15 aloud, praising God, believing Him, and putting your trust in Him.
Exodus 15 (NIV) The Song of Moses and Miriam

15 Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD:

“I will sing to the LORD,
for he is highly exalted.
Both horse and driver
he has hurled into the sea.

2 “The LORD is my strength and my defense;
he has become my salvation.
He is my God, and I will praise him,
my father’s God, and I will exalt him.

3 The LORD is a warrior;
the LORD is his name.

4 Pharaoh’s chariots and his army
he has hurled into the sea.
The best of Pharaoh’s officers
are drowned in the Red Sea.

5 The deep waters have covered them;
they sank to the depths like a stone.

6 Your right hand, LORD,
was majestic in power.
Your right hand, LORD,
shattered the enemy.

7 “In the greatness of your majesty
you threw down those who opposed you.
You unleashed your burning anger;
it consumed them like stubble.

8 By the blast of your nostrils
the waters piled up.
The surging waters stood up like a wall;
the deep waters congealed in the heart of the sea.

9 The enemy boasted,
‘I will pursue, I will overtake them.
I will divide the spoils;
I will gorge myself on them.
I will draw my sword
and my hand will destroy them.’

10 But you blew with your breath,
and the sea covered them.
They sank like lead
in the mighty waters.

11 Who among the gods
is like you, LORD?
Who is like you—
   majestic in holiness,
awesome in glory,
   working wonders?

12 “You stretch out your right hand,
   and the earth swallows your enemies.
13 In your unfailing love you will lead
   the people you have redeemed.
In your strength you will guide them
   to your holy dwelling.
14 The nations will hear and tremble;
   anguish will grip the people of Philistia.
15 The chiefs of Edom will be terrified,
   the leaders of Moab will be seized with trembling,
the people of Canaan will melt away;
16 terror and dread will fall on them.
By the power of your arm
   they will be as still as a stone—
until your people pass by, LORD,
   until the people you bought pass by.
17 You will bring them in and plant them
   on the mountain of your inheritance—
the place, LORD, you made for your dwelling,
   the sanctuary, Lord, your hands established.

18 “The LORD reigns
   for ever and ever.”

19 When Pharaoh’s horses, chariots and horsemen went into the sea, the LORD brought the waters of the sea back over them, but the Israelites walked through the sea on dry ground. 20 Then Miriam the prophet, Aaron’s sister, took a timbrel in her hand, and all the women followed her, with timbrels and dancing. 21 Miriam sang to them:

“Sing to the LORD,
   for he is highly exalted.
Both horse and driver
   he has hurled into the sea.”