

Devo Guide

Pastor Ron Laney

The Heart of a Giant Killer

1 Samuel 17 – David & Goliath

Devo Guide

From the teaching series on the life of David entitled, Chasing After God

by Pastor Ron Laney

Grace & Peace!

Devo #1

Breaking Free from the Paralyzed Heart

Read: 1 Samuel 17:1-11 (NKJV)

1 Now the Philistines gathered their armies together to battle, and were gathered together at Sochoh, which belongs to Judah; they encamped between Sochoh and Azekah, in Ephes Dammim.

2 And Saul and the men of Israel were gathered together, and they encamped in the Valley of Elah, and drew up in battle array against the Philistines. 3 The Philistines stood on a mountain on one side, and Israel stood on a mountain on the other side, with a valley between them.

4 And a champion went out from the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, from Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span. 5 He had a bronze helmet on his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail, and the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of bronze.

6 And he had bronze armor on his legs and a bronze javelin between his shoulders.

7 Now the staff of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and his iron spearhead weighed six hundred shekels; and a shield-bearer went before him.

8 Then he stood and cried out to the armies of Israel, and said to them, "Why have you come out to line up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and you the servants of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me. 9 "If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will be your servants. But if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall be our servants and serve us." 10 And the Philistine said, "I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together."

11 When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid.



Thoughts

Dismayed = shattered, broken down with fear Greatly Afraid = filled with dread, paralyzed by fear

For forty days, an entire army lived in fear of one man. Every morning and evening, Goliath's taunts echoed across the Valley of Elah, and every time, Israel's warriors retreated deeper into paralysis. The giant had succeeded in his primary strategy: psychological warfare. Fear on this level can lock you up. It brings a certain kind of torment. The mind games our adversary plays can be tough. But you have to win on the battlefield of your mind if you are going to overcome.

Why were they locked down with this paralyzing fear? Israel's army had the wrong perspective. They saw Goliath's height, his armor, his spear, his sword and heard his roaring threats. With each day, their hearts sank deeper into fear and despair. But they forgot the most important thing of all: the power of Almighty God. Crazy sometimes how giants get so big and God gets so small to us.



The roar of the enemy and fear of what might happen has a way of distorting our vision. When we focus on the size of our problems, we lose sight of the greatness of our God. The Israelites, fresh out of Egypt, had witnessed God part the Red Sea, provide manna in the wilderness, and give them victory after victory on their way to the Promised Land. Yet when faced with intimidating giants, they forgot God's faithfulness. Their perspective changed to this idea: they were giants and we were like grasshoppers. Problem was they compared their problems with themselves instead of factoring God into the equation. This very thing repeated itself again there in the Valley of Elah.

Perhaps you've been living with your own "forty-day giant"—a problem that has taunted you day and night, making you feel small and powerless. Maybe it's a financial crisis that seems insurmountable, a health issue that terrifies you, a relationship that appears beyond repair or some other kind of problem. Goliath's strategy hasn't changed: make you focus on its size instead of the God who is with you.



Today, God wants to break you free from the paralyzed heart. It's critical that you break away from the power of fear over your mind. The only thing that breaks fear is faith! Faith that God is with you! The same God who delivered David from Goliath is the same God who stands with you today. Your giant may be real, but your God is greater! Jesus has promised never to leave you nor forsake you!



Scriptures to Hide in Your Heart

This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:8-9)

The LORD your God in your midst, The Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing. (Zephaniah 3:17)

Prayer

Heavenly Father, I confess that I have allowed giants to paralyze my heart with fear. I have focused more on the size of my problems than on the greatness of Your power. Forgive me for forgetting. Today, I choose to shift my focus from my giant to Your love and strength. Help me remember that You are the same God who has delivered me before and will deliver me again. Give me courage to face this day with confidence in Your unfailing love. It's time for me to gather up my sling and my stones and fight in Your Name. Amen.

Devo #2

This is How We Fight

Read: 1 Samuel 17:8-10, 42-47 (NKJV)

8 Then he stood and cried out to the armies of Israel, and said to them, "Why have you come out to line up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and you the servants of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me. 9 "If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will be your servants. But if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall be our servants and serve us." 10 And the Philistine said, "I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together."

11 When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid.

42 And when the Philistine looked about and saw David, he disdained him; for he was only a youth, ruddy and good-looking.

43 So the Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. 44 And the Philistine said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field!"

45 Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. 46 "This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. 47 "Then all this assembly shall know that the LORD does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the LORD'S, and He will give you into our hands."



Thoughts

Goliath's arrogance and defiance echoed across that valley right into the ears of God's people. But he made a fatal mistake, as all of God's enemies do. He failed to realize that God will come to the rescue of the one who cries out to Him. Our spiritual giants and enemies display this same arrogant heart as they launch their fiery darts. These evil spiritual beings whisper lies, threats, temptations and taunts, in order to attempt to take dominance over our lives. Jesus said in John 10:10, that these thieves come to steal, kill and destroy. Addiction and destructive habits scream, "You can't live without me." Fear sticks out it's chest and roars. "You're not strong enough to face this." Depression insists, "Things will never get better." Like Goliath, these giants get their power from taking dominance through psychological warfare: Repeating the soundtrack in your mind, over & over—same lies, same threats, until you begin to believe them.



During these intense spiritual battles in your mind, you've got to feed your faith and then your doubts will starve to death. Turn your thoughts to the Word of God, focus on His promises. This is "taking the shield of faith" so you can quench all those fiery darts of the wicked one. Fear is not just going to leave on it's own, it's too arrogant. It must be driven out by something more powerful: our faith in the love of God, shown to us through the LORD Jesus Christ. One prophet said, "perfect love casts out fear." Let the perfect love of Christ come and run fear right out of your heart. Love is stronger than fear. You've got to fight with humility. This keeps us from just fighting in our own strength. Humble yourself before God in this way and the arrogance of the enemy will not be able to build a stronghold in you. God gives grace to the humble, but He resists the proud. Humility overcomes pride every time.



In the power of Christ, you've got to learn to speak to your giants, forcefully in faith like David did. Let your giant know that heads are about to roll and it's not going to be mine. Have you ever considered not just praying to God about your Goliath, but speaking directly to it in Jesus' name? It's great to pray about it and lay it before the LORD. But there comes a time in the heat of the battle where you've got to speak the Word of the LORD to that giant. Jesus gave us strategies like, "cast it out", "cast it down," "speak to the mountain." Get God's Word on the situation, then pull out The Sword and speak that Word in the name of Jesus! Release God's Word in your battle! A miracle is about to happen! Crazy things happen when you speak in faith and walk in humility and fight in the name of the LORD! God has a way of turning the humble in heart into might warriors. We win when we fight right! By the way, Jesus is the real Undefeated Champion!



Scriptures to Hide in Your Heart

Then all this assembly shall know that the LORD does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the LORD'S, and He will give you into our hands. (1 Samuel 17:47)

You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. (1 John 4:4)

If God is for us, who can be against us? - Romans 8:31

19 Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?"

20 So Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. (Jesus, Matthew 17:19-20)



Prayer

LORD, I recognize that the giants in my life are not just challenging me—they're defying You. Their arrogant threats and intimidating presence cannot stand against Your mighty power. Help me see through their deception and remember that greater is He who is in me than he who is in the world. I refuse to be impressed by their size when I serve the God who created the universe. Give me wisdom to recognize lies and strength to stand firm in Your truth. Help me speak Your Word. Nothing is impossible for You! Teach me how to fight right! In Jesus' name, Amen.



Devo #3

Cultivating a Fearless Heart

Read: 1 Samuel 17:32-37

32 Then David said to Saul, "Let no man's heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine."

33 And Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are a youth, and he a man of war from his youth."

34 But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep his father's sheep, and when a lion or a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock, 35 I went out after it and struck it, and delivered the lamb from its mouth; and when it arose against me, I caught it by its beard, and struck and killed it. 36 Your servant has killed both lion and bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, seeing he has defied the armies of the living God."

37 Moreover David said, "The LORD, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." And Saul said to David, "Go, and the LORD be with you!"

Thoughts

David's fearlessness didn't develop overnight. It was cultivated in the quiet sheep fields of Bethlehem, where a young shepherd learned to trust God through smaller battles. When lions and bears threatened his father's sheep, David didn't run—he fought. When predators attacked what was entrusted to his care, he risked his own life to protect them. These private victories became the foundation for David's public courage. He could face Goliath because he had already experienced God's deliverance in life-threatening situations. The same God who gave him supernatural strength to kill a lion would surely help him defeat a giant.



David's heart was fearless because it was anchored in three unshakeable truths:

First, David knew God personally, not just theoretically. His relationship with the LORD wasn't built just on stories from others but on personal experience. The psalms he wrote reveal a heart in constant communion with God. Ex: My Shepherd, My Rock, My Light, My Strong Tower, My Refuge, My Fortress, etc. You got to know God, not just a few truths about Him. Spend some time with God until He not just The God of the Universe, but My LORD and Savior!



"

lions and bears

Second. he had built his faith through private victories. Every conquered bear and lion was a reminder of God's power. No one was there to witness this but David and God, and that's enough. Every rescued sheep was evidence of God's faithfulness at work in his life. These experiences became his testimonies and counselors. Not one of David's battles went to waste. He knew if God could do that. God could do this, too. Remember God's track record. What "lions and bears" has God helped you defeat? They may have seemed small at the time—a difficult conversation you had to have, a temptation you overcame, a fear you faced, a decision you made to trust God, an answered prayer. These private victories are preparation for your future battles. They're building your testimony and strengthening your faith. Let your past victories prepare you for greater victories.

Third, he was more concerned with God's reputation than his own safety. When David heard Goliath's challenge, his immediate response wasn't fear for his life but righteous indignation that someone would dare defy The Living God. Living for the honor and glory of God's great name should be the motivation of your heart. Step off the throne of your life and let the only who is worthy of that seat take His rightful place.

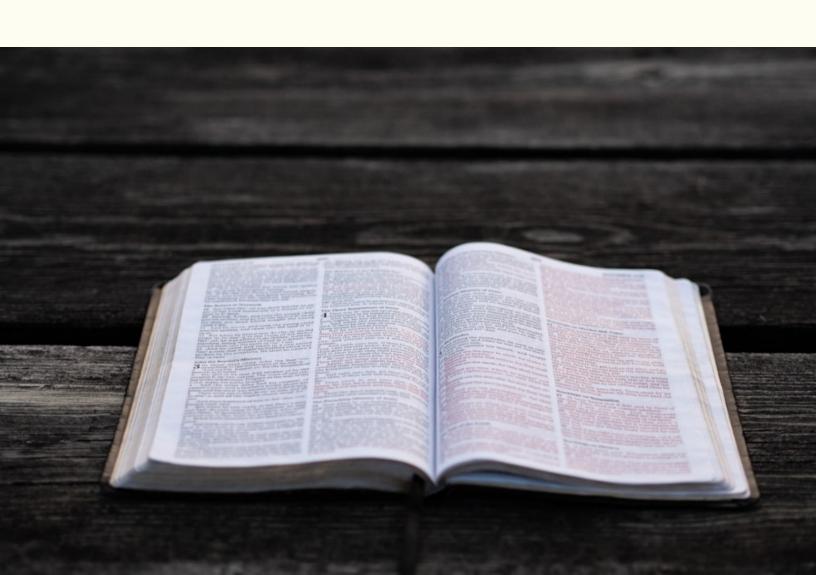


Scriptures to Hide in Your Heart

Moreover David said, "The LORD, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." (1 Samuel 17:37)

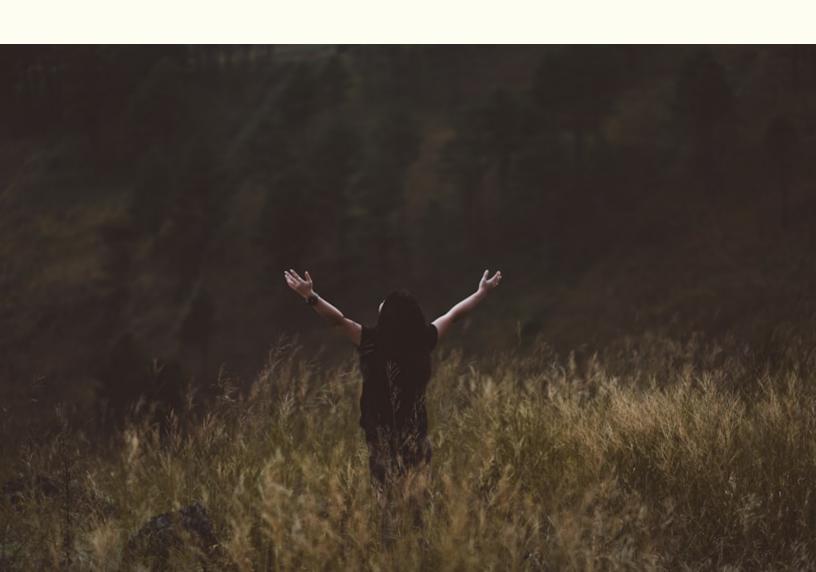
Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. (Philippians 1:6)

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. (Philippians 4:13)



Prayer

Father, thank You for the ways You have been preparing my heart throughout my whole life. Help me remember the battles You have helped me win, and let those victories build my confidence and trust in You. Strengthen my relationship with You so that I know You in a close and life-changing way. Give me a heart that cares more about Your honor and glory than my safety or reputation. Help me trust Your faithfulness so I can become a faithful and loyal follower. In Jesus' name, Amen.



Devo #4

Choose Your Weapons Carefully

Read: 1 Samuel 17:38-47 (NKJV)

38 So Saul clothed David with his armor, and he put a bronze helmet on his head; he also clothed him with a coat of mail. 39 David fastened his sword to his armor and tried to walk, for he had not tested them. And David said to Saul, "I cannot walk with these, for I have not tested them." So David took them off.

40 Then he took his staff in his hand; and he chose for himself five smooth stones from the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag, in a pouch which he had, and his sling was in his hand. And he drew near to the Philistine.

41 So the Philistine came, and began drawing near to David, and the man who bore the shield went before him. 42 And when the Philistine looked about and saw David, he disdained him; for he was only a youth, ruddy and good-looking. 43 So the Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods.

44 And the Philistine said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field!"

45 Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. 46 "This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. 47 "Then all this assembly shall know that the LORD does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the LORD'S, and He will give you into our hands."



Thoughts

When King Saul tried to dress David in his royal armor, the young shepherd couldn't even walk. The helmet was too heavy, the armor didn't fit, and the sword was unfamiliar. David's wisdom shines through in his simple statement: "I cannot go with these, for I have not tested them."

David understood a crucial principle: you must fight giants with the weapons God has given you, not the weapons others think you should use. Saul here represents the way of the flesh that we are warn against in the New Testament. The way of the flesh is the way of the world and the way the good ole boys do things. These kinds of weapons and tactics will not win our battles. In fact, almost without fail, these fleshly ideas just make things worst. One prophet said that is a way that seems right to a man but it's end is destruction. We must fight "by the Spirit" and not "by the flesh."



David's weapons seemed insignificant—a staff, five smooth stones, and a sling. But when combined with faith in "the name of the LORD of hosts," they became powerfully effective. The real battle between David and Goliath wasn't fought with physical weapons—it was fought in the realm of the Spirit where faith defeats fear, truth overcomes lies, and God's power wins over human strength. David's declaration before the battle reveals his strategy: "The LORD saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the LORD's, and he will give you into our hands."



We have access to weapons that are "mighty in God for pulling down strongholds" (2 Cor 10:4). These include:

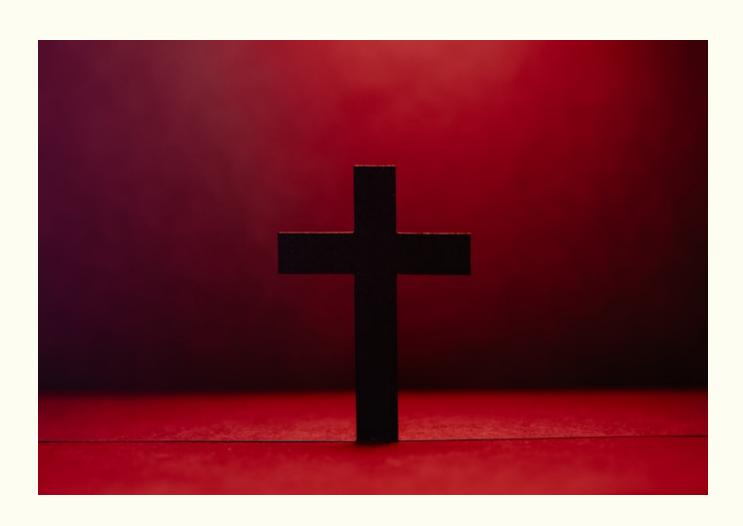
Prayer—direct communication with The LORD of Hosts.

God's Word—The Sword of the Spirit, sharper than any two-edged sword, able to discern thoughts and intentions, able to win every battle.

Faith—Faith is the victory that overcomes the world.

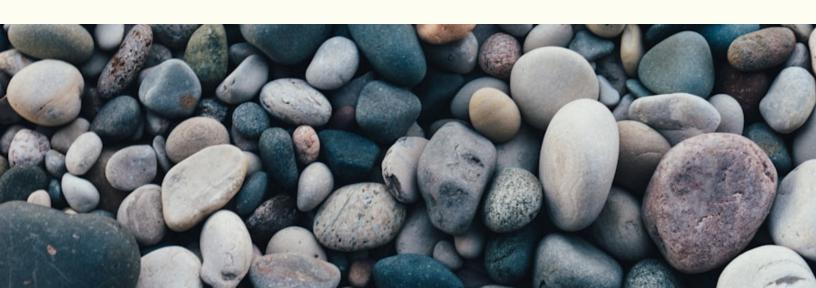
The Power of the Holy Spirit – not by might nor power, but by My Spirit says the LORD.

The Name of Jesus—Name above all names, at which every knee must bow.



Your giants may mock these weapons as primitive or insufficient, just as Goliath mocked David's simple stones. But remember, one stone guided by God's hand was enough to topple that great big giant. The key is not the sophistication of your weapons but the power of the God who wields them through you. But I want you to notice this, David had to choose his stones and David had to throw his stone. God did not do this part. So choose your stones very carefully and learn to use your weapons. This was not the first time David had slung a stone from his sling. He had undoubtledly did this countless times in the fields with his sheep. It's the times we learn to wield our weapons in the secret place that makes a big difference in how things turn out.

Choose your weapons carefully and use them frequently. Learn to throw the stones Jesus has provided for you. In fact, you might want to use the same ones Jesus threw to win all His battles. Take a note from The Champion! That would be the best idea yet!



Scriptures to Hide in Your Heart

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ (2 Corinthians 10:3-5)

"For the battle is the Lord's, and he will give you into our hands." (1 Samuel 17:47)



Ephesians 6

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints

Prayer

LORD, thank You for providing me with spiritual weapons that are mighty in You. Help me not to trust in worldly strategies or try to fight spiritual battles in my own strength. Teach me to use the weapons You have given me. Give me wisdom to know that the battle is Yours, and victory comes through Your power. Help me to be confident in the weapons You have provided and to trust that they are sufficient for every giant I face. Teach how to fight right! In Jesus' mighty name, Amen.



Devo #5

The Power of Giant Killing Faith

Read: 1 Samuel 17:48-58 (NKJV)

48 So it was, when the Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David, that David hastened and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine. 49 Then David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone; and he slung it and struck the Philistine in his forehead, so that the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the earth.

50 So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone, and struck the Philistine and killed him. But there was no sword in the hand of David. 51 Therefore David ran and stood over the Philistine, took his sword and drew it out of its sheath and killed him, and cut off his head with it. And when the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled.

52 Now the men of Israel and Judah arose and shouted, and pursued the Philistines as far as the entrance of the valley and to the gates of Ekron. And the wounded of the Philistines fell along the road to Shaaraim, even as far as Gath and Ekron.

53 Then the children of Israel returned from chasing the Philistines, and they plundered their tents.

54 And David took the head of the Philistine and brought it to Jerusalem, but he put his armor in his tent. 55 When Saul saw David going out against the Philistine, he said to Abner, the commander of the army, "Abner, whose son is this youth?" And Abner said, "As your soul lives, O king, I do not know." 56 So the king said, "Inquire whose son this young man is." 57 Then, as David returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, Abner took him and brought him before Saul with the head of the Philistine in his hand. 58 And Saul said to him, "Whose son are you, young man?" So David answered, "I am the son of your servant Jesse the Bethlehemite."



Thoughts

The moment Goliath began his charge toward David, everything changed. David didn't retreat—he ran toward his giant. David is the only who had the courage to run at the giant. That act of faithful, forward movement, that decision to advance rather than run away, was the difference between victory and defeat. Truth is, when you run from your problems they only get bigger. Facing things and having the courage to run at challenges is half the battle. As long as the enemy has you on the run, he's in control.

Then David reaches in his pouch, loads up one stone, and slung at the head of Goliath. That stone was precisely aimed by David and Divinely guided by the LORD. It struck the giant and brought him down. Notice what happened next: David wanted to make the days of fear and torment from this enemy of God were completely over. David picked up that big ole iron sword of Goliath and finished him off. Think of it this way, the very weapon that had been made to destroy David and the people was used to destroy the giant. I'm reminded of the Scripture that says no weapon formed against you shall prosper. Thank You, LORD!



The victory had immediate and far-reaching consequences. When the Philistine army saw their champion fall, they fled in terror. One person's faith had not only defeated a giant but had inspired an entire nation to victory. Can one person make a difference? Can you make a difference?

This is the power of giant-killing faith: it starts with one person willing to trust God, one person moving forward in faith. This creates a ripple effect that has the potential to impact many others. Your willingness to face your giants in faith doesn't just affect you—it influences everyone around you. Your family watches how you handle fear. Your friends observe how you navigate crisis and challenges. Your coworkers see how you respond to pressure. Those around you watch your faith-filled response to the barking giants on the other side of the valley. How you respond matters.



Please remember this as you press on: Jesus Christ has already defeated the ultimate giants of sin, death, and satan. This truth empowers us to fight our giants. Sin has no more dominion over us. Death has no more power over us. Satan is a defeated foe awaiting his eternal punishment in the Lake of Fire. In Christ, you fight from victory, not just for victory. The war has already been won by Our Champion, who rose from the grave on the third day. You're now simply claiming territory that rightfully belongs to the King of all kings!

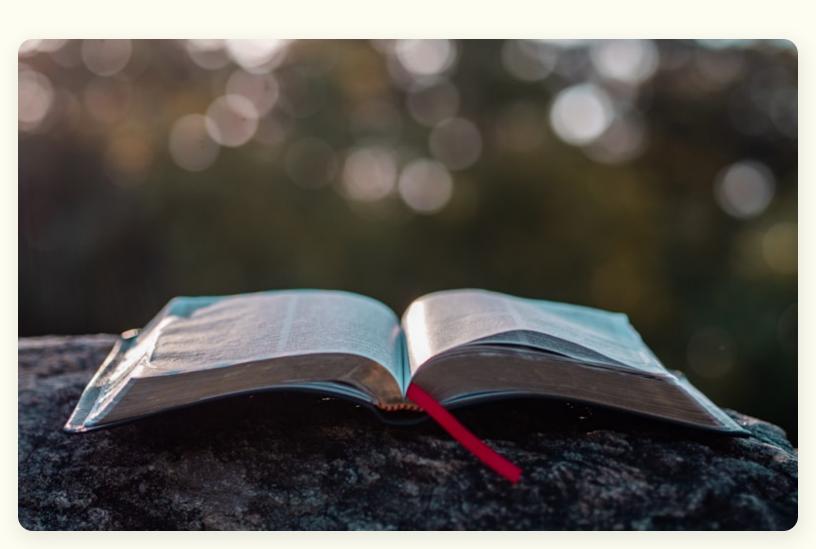
Your giants may look intimidating, but it's already defeated—it just doesn't know it yet. Jesus is just waiting for you to run toward your Goliath, throw your stone and give Him something to work with. Your giant killing faith will make a big difference for you and those fearful souls around you! Go Jesus Go!



Scriptures to Hide in Your Heart

Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. (1 Corinthians 15:57-58)

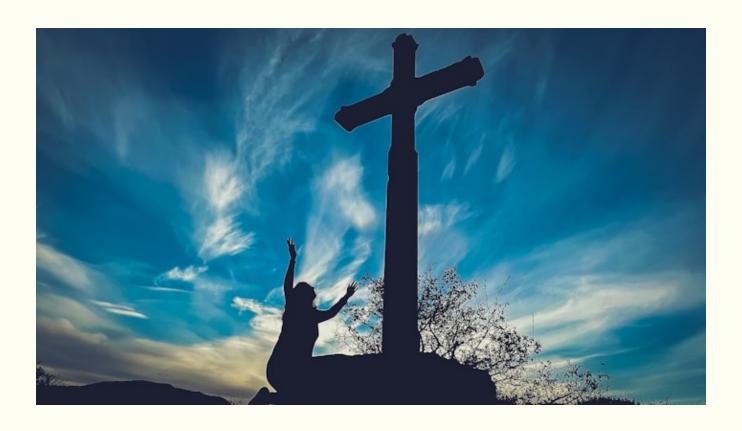
Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place. (2 Corinthians 2:14)

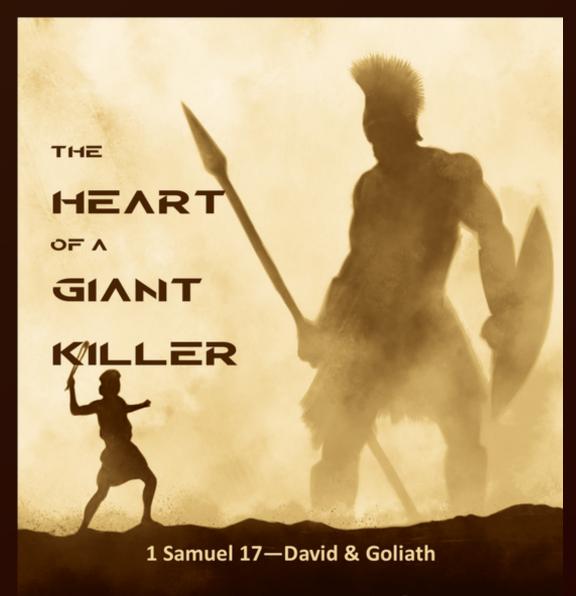


Prayer

Dearest Jesus, thank You the ultimate giants have already been defeated. Help me to move forward in faith, running toward my challenges rather than retreating in fear. Give me courage to take steps of faith, trust in Your help, and have confidence for certain victory. May my faith in You inspire others to trust You with their battles and lives. Help me remember that I fight from victory, not for victory, because of what Christ has already accomplished. Use my life as a testimony to Your power and faithfulness. In Jesus' victorious name, Amen.

Give Me the Heart of a Giant Killer!





Devo Guide

Pastor Ron Laney