

Title: Faith That Can Face the Giants

Scripture: 1 Samuel 17:32-37

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1 Samuel 17:32-37 *“And David said to Saul, Let no man's heart fail because of him; thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine. And Saul said to David, Thou art not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him: for thou art but a youth, and he a man of war from his youth. And David said unto Saul, Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock: And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him. Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God. David said moreover, The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said unto David, Go, and the LORD be with thee.”*

Here are a few quotes: “It seems like some people always have the roses while others are always picking the thorns.” “It’s a strange life; you can skate on thin ice and end up in hot water.” “The brook would lose its song if we removed the rocks.” “The important thing about a problem is not its solution, but the strength we gain in finding the solution.” What do these statements all have in common? They are all talking about troubles. The Israelites mentioned here were facing a problem – the Philistines had risen up against them. For 40 days and 40 nights, a Philistine man would taunt the Israelites. He said if someone could come out to fight him and win, the Philistine people would be servants to the Israelites. This was no ordinary man. He was a man that stood over 9 feet tall and was very intimidating. His armor alone weighed 125 pounds. He carried a weaver’s beam as a spear that weighed 17 pounds and the head of the spear weighing 15 pounds. His name was Goliath. The man [boy] that would take him on would be David.

How did David face this giant?

In verses 45 and 46 David responds to Goliath with these words:

“Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied. This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.”

There are two things to realize in this scripture:

1. David’s giant had a name – Goliath. Goliath means “a sooth-sayer”. This is one who predicts that something is going to happen.
2. Our giant also has a name – Satan. Satan provides us with many giants in our lives. These include and are not limited to: the giant of doubt, the giant of fear, the giant of sickness, the giant of problems in the home, the giant of family problems, the giant of spousal problems. I Peter 5:8 says *“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:”* John 10:10 says *“The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.”* David said in Psalm 34:19, *“Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.”*

How do we face the giants that may be in our lives? With faith. It takes the following to accomplish it:

1. **Simple faith:** It never occurred to David that this giant would defeat God’s people. David was raised on hearing about God’s victories. He was a shepherd boy who knew that God was able. He heard of all the things that God had done. Romans 8:31 *“What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?”*

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- 2. Living faith:** (verse 32: And David said to Saul, Let no man's heart fail because of him; thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine.) David uses the word fail. The simple meaning of this word is to die away. When we are having struggles, a living faith is what gets us through them. Every day you operate on faith although it might not be the spiritual faith that we need more of. You go out every day and expect your car to crank. You expect to make it to work. Hebrews 10:23 *"Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)"*
- 3. Crisis faith:** God gives us the ability to stand when others cannot. Faith demands of us corresponding action. If you neglect his word and neglect fellowship with him on a daily basis, you are in trouble. The problem is that we want God when we are in trouble, but when everything is fine we don't seek him at all. David had the ability to face the lion and the bear, and he knew that Goliath would be simple to face too. It was all because he had faith in God. Faith will shout from our soul saying "I believe!" The most hopeless people in the world are those without hope and faith. We as Christians are not those people. We have the promise that our savior would never leave us nor forsake us. I John 5:4-5 *"For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?"* This faith is a faith that works.

David gives us four keys to use as we face the giants.

- 1. Your encouragement cannot come from the defeated.** Verse 24 says this about Israel *"And all the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him, and were sore afraid."* This meant that the other men were cowards and ran away from the problem. What does this mean for us? Don't seek advice from those who don't know. Don't seek marital advice from a person with a handful of failed marriages. Why does God put us through certain situations? So that we can be an encouragement to others who will face the same situation.
- 2. Remember your past victories.** David spoke of the lion and the bear that attacked his flock. He said God delivered him out of their paws. Think of the dark times in your life – think of the lightness of God that shined through during those times.
- 3. You cannot trust someone else's armor.** In verses 38 and 39 of I Samuel 17, we see this: *"And Saul armed David with his armour, and he put an helmet of brass upon his head; also he armed him with a coat of mail. And David girded his sword upon his armour, and he assayed to go; for he had not proved it. And David said unto Saul, I cannot go with these; for I have not proved them. And David put them off him."* We can't base our victories on the victory that someone else had. Each one of us is different. Saul's armor would not work for David. During your battles you must exercise your own faith. You can't depend on someone else to do all the work. You won't have victory just because someone else did.
- 4. The threats of the enemy giant are just a threat.** Satan can really blow things out of perspective. I Peter 5:8 says *"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:"* The devil roars because he's not a lion. He doesn't have the strength to be a lion. Don't play with fire, but when that fire comes, know that you have the resources to overcome that which tries to overcome you. James said in James 4:7 *"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."*