

Facing Your Giants

April 30, 2017

Dealing With, Overcoming, & Fighting Them One Battle At A Time

INTRO:

The Bible says that God calls David "a man after His own heart" (Acts 13:22)

Scripture dedicates **66 chapters** in the Bible to his story - that is more than anyone else in the Bible other than Jesus. The New Testament mentions his name **59 times**.

TODAY LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT THE GREAT STORY OF DAVID VS. GOLIATH FROM THE BIBLE,:

As we dig a little deeper to you will see that we can learn a great deal from it and how we can apply it to our lives today. It seems that when we look at a lot of characters in the bible we can often times see similarities between the things they were going through then to some of the same struggles or issues we face today.

THINK ABOUT THIS:

What is your "Giant"? What is the biggest obstacle you are facing, right now?

I know that today I am speaking to a group of people today who are facing some giants. How do I know? We all face giants of some kind in our lives. I even have a few.....fear of speaking in front of a crowd, some failures of the past, & others too!

Life is like that - out of the routine, normal day to day stuff emerges a giant, a challenge, a mountain, problem, etc. Surprise!

- The car isn't starting this morning, and you've been warned not to be late any more.
- Three people didn't show up for work today so you will have to work over, and that means missing your child's sporting event that you promised to attend.
- Oh I thought that I would get money back from the IRS this year, but now I have got to pay!
- What do you mean I need some more tests run? Etc.

We all will face giants at one time or another in our lives. By giants, I am speaking of what seem to be insurmountable problems and issues. We try to knock these giants down, but often they seem to only grow stronger with the passing of time.

Think about the giant that your are facing today. Can it be destroyed and it can be defeated! Let's take a look at the great passage in 1 Samuel 17 to gives us precious insight into this.

When you study the life of David you see that when David focused on God, the giants fell; the days he didn't, David did.

- When David focused on God, the giants **TUMBLE**D; When David focused on his giants, he **STUMBLE**D.

KEY SCRIPTURE: 1 Samuel 17:1-51

BACKGROUND:

1. This battle took place in the "Valley of Elah in Israel".
2. On one side were the Philistines (an enemy of Israel), on the other side was the Israelite army.
3. The giant in this story:
 - a. Estimated to be over 9' tall (some say approx. 9'-9" tall).
 - b. He was covered in bronze from head to toe. The total weight of his armor was approx. 175 lbs. (Coat of mail alone was estimated to be 125 lbs.).
 - c. Approx 55" belt size.
 - d. The tip of his spearhead alone weighed over 15 lbs.
 - e. Can you imagine the shoe size? (Shaquille O'Neal - size 22 - he was only 7'-1")
Using algebra - Goliath wore a size +30 shoe.
 - f. He had a personal armor bearer that carried his shield.
 - g. He had both a javelin and a sword for weapons.
4. Israel and the Philistines were carrying out an age old ritual.
 - a. Each army would produce a champion.
 - b. These champions would fight to the death and whichever side won that battle would claim victory over their enemy.
 - c. The loser of that battle would become the servants of the victor.
5. Every day for 40 days and 40 nights Goliath challenged someone to fight him. He taunted them both morning and evening.
6. When David arrives at the battlefield, he finds Saul and the armies of Israel cowering in fear because of the taunts and threats of a giant named Goliath, (verses 10-11). Originally the army of Israel was all going out to fight. But Goliath presented them with a challenge to send out one man only. The odds were greatly in Goliath's favor. He certainly, along with the entire Philistine army didn't think that he could possibly lose.
7. David's father Jesse sent David to take supplies to David's three brothers who were fighting in Saul's army. (verses 12-13, 17-18).
8. When David arrived the Israelite army was leaving for the battlefield. Both armies stood face to face. Israelite army ran in fear when Goliath came out to challenge one of them. (verses 20-24)
9. King Saul even offered a bribe to get someone to fight the giant for him. (verse 25), but there were no takers. No one was willing until the teenager David took on the challenge. It is believed that David was somewhere between the ages of 15-16.

10. David asks questions. "What will a man get for killing this Philistine and ending his defiance of Israel? Who is this pagan Philistine anyway, that he is allowed to defy the armies of the living God?" (verse 26)
 11. Saul wanted David to wear his personal armor. David didn't have any armor with him and quite possibly to make David look like he was Saul.
 12. David told Saul "Don't worry about this Philistine, I'll go fight him!"
 13. David remembers the past - protecting sheep from lion or bear.
 14. David faces the Philistine giant "Goliath"...and declares today the Lord will conquer you!
 15. David runs to meet Goliath as Goliath moved closer to attack.
 16. David kills Goliath!
- ❖ Everyone faces giants! You face problems! You face challenges. You face threats that are bigger than you are.

HOW TO BE A GIANT KILLER

***** KEY POINTS *****

1. First, you need to "**Recognize that we all have giants in our lives**".
 - a. You are not alone in what you are facing. We all face giants of some type at many time in our lives.
 - b. Sometimes we face the same or similar giants at different times.
 - c. There are some giants that seem to grow as time goes by.
2. Second, you need to "**Identify what the giant is that you are facing**".
 - a. When I think of a giant, I usually think the following:
 - I think of a being with human form but superhuman size and strength.
 - a person or thing of unusually great size.
 - power, strong, someone that appears to be indestructible.
 - The sheer size of a giant can be intimidating.
 - Someone or something that I don't want to face!
 - Clearly identify what giant it is that you are facing. You can't fight it until you can clearly identify it.

What is the Giant you might be facing today?

1. Fear.....of failure, fear of all kinds of things.

2. Failure of the past.
3. Depression.
4. Anxiety.
5. Loneliness.
6. Mental illness.
7. Death of a spouse or family member.
8. Loss of a job or income, facing unemployment.
9. A sudden illness, diagnosis.
10. Unbelieving spouse, or prodigal child.
11. Unruly or disobedient child.
12. Relationship issues, divorce, marital problems.
13. Addiction: drugs, alcohol, pornography, food, too much of any one thing.
14. New family member or addition.
15. Dealing with an uncomfortable situation.
16. Financial burden, college tuition.
17. Moving to a new location.
18. Decision you need to make.
19. Someone has slandered you
20. Someone has filed a lawsuit against you.
21. Many others

3. Third, you need to "**Face your giant**".

- a. You may not want to face your giants.
- b. You may want to run from them in fear.
- c. There may be many people here today who have problems you think you can't solve, but it's not that you CAN'T solve them, it's that you WON'T solve them. The reason you won't solve them is that instead of stepping up to the problem, you're running away from the problem. You can't solve marital problems, financial problems, or spiritual problems when you cut and run.
- d. For many of you, the greatest problem is not the problem you are facing. Your biggest problem is that you won't face the problem.
- e. For 40 days and 40 nights, Goliath would taunt the people of Israel. Why was it 40 days and 40 nights? I believe that was God's way of reminding us that when you face a giant in your life and you don't face it and fight that giant, he will keep coming back every single day.
- f. If you don't confront them and you don't conquer them, they will make your life miserable!
- g. You will never win a battle you don't show up for!
- h. You might try to avoid them and hope they will just go away.
 - i. You need to know that your giants will not just go away!
 - ii. They must be faced before you can defeat them, With God on your side it is possible to defeat the giant you face!
 - iii. **When reading this great passage, I am also reminded of Israel's trouble with giants at another time.** (Numbers 13-14)

- ❖ After two years in the wilderness, Israel arrived at the banks of the Jordan River. God had promised them the land on the other side of Jordan, but they stopped to send in spies to examine the land as God had instructed Moses to do. When those spies returned, they reported that the land was a good land, but that it was a land inhabited by many great giants. In fact, ten of the spies were absolutely terrified of the giants they had seen there.
 - Numbers 13:31-33 - ³¹ But the other men who had explored the land with him disagreed. “We can’t go up against them! They are stronger than we are!” ³² So they spread this bad report about the land among the Israelites: “The land we traveled through and explored will devour anyone who goes to live there. All the people we saw were huge. ³³ We even saw giants there, the descendants of Anak. Next to them we felt like grasshoppers, and that’s what they thought, too!”
- ❖ Caleb & Joshua, who had seen the same giants, tried their best to get the people to trust in the Lord, enter Canaan and claim the land, but the people listened to the majority report and refused to battle their giants. As a result, they were all condemned to 38 years of wandering in the wilderness. They were to wander there until that faithless generation had died out.
- ❖ 38 years later, they arrive back at the Jordan River. Moses speaks to them to prepare to enter Canaan. As he does, he lets them know that they are about to face some giants on the other side of Jordan.
 - Deut. 9:1-3 ¹ “Listen, O Israel! Today you are about to cross the Jordan River to take over the land belonging to nations much greater and more powerful than you. They live in cities with walls that reach to the sky! ² The people are strong and tall—descendants of the famous Anakite giants. You’ve heard the saying, ‘Who can stand up to the Anakites?’ ³ But recognize today that the LORD your God is the one who will cross over ahead of you like a devouring fire to destroy them. He will subdue them so that you will quickly conquer them and drive them out, just as the LORD has promised.
- ❖ What is the point? Israel fled from those giants 38 years before, when their children came back 38 years later, **the giants were still there and they still had to be faced.**

4. Fourth, you need to "**Remember the victories of the past**"

- a. David remembered: God had given him strength to wrestle a lion and strong-arm a bear. Wouldn't he do the same with this giant?
- b. In one chapter we see the progression of David's life:
 - i. 1 Samuel 17:15 - David doing the lowest and most menial task - taking care of sheep
 - ii. 1 Samuel 17:17 - Now David has graduated to running errands for his brothers.
 - iii. 1 Samuel 17:32 - David fights Goliath and wins.

God will never let you **TACKLE** great things in your life, until you have proven to be **FAITHFUL** in the little things of your life.

For years David did jobs nobody else wanted to do.

1 Samuel 17:34-36. ³⁴But David persisted. "I have been taking care of my father's sheep and goats," he said. "When a lion or a bear comes to steal a lamb from the flock, ³⁵I go after it with a club and rescue the lamb from its mouth. If the animal turns on me, I catch it by the jaw and club it to death. ³⁶I have done this to both lions and bears, and I'll do it to this pagan Philistine, too, for he has defied the armies of the living God!

A good memory makes heroes; a bad memory makes wimps. Many times "Spiritual Amnesia" can wimp any of us out! You need to remember the successes that God has provided for you.

When giants come into our life, we tend to remember what we ought to **FORGET** and we tend to forget what we ought to **REMEMBER**.

We tend to focus on our failures rather than focusing on our successes. We tend to remember the low points better than the high points.

When you trust God with your **PROBLEMS** they will become **POSSIBILITIES** for God to work in your life.

(1 Samuel 17:37) (NKJV) "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."

It is important to note that David did not say, "The Lord **CAN** deliver me." David said, "The Lord **WILL** deliver me." Has not God been faithful to you in the past? What makes you think He won't be faithful to you in the present to give you the victory you are in need of.

5. Fifth, you need to "Spend time in prayer."

- a. Focus on God **NOT** the giant.
 - i. Don't face your giant without doing the same as David - dedicate time to prayer.
- b. Ephesians 6:18 - Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion, Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.
- c. When you spent time alone with God praying and fasting it can clear the clutter from your life and allow God to give you clear answers and direction
 - i. Spend time listening and don't do all of the talking to God.

6. Sixth, you need to "Allow God to help you to defeat your giant."

- a. Recognize that the odds might be against you but, God is for you!
 - i. (Romans 8:31-32) ³¹What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us? ³²Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else?

- b. Allow God to **FIGHT** the battle for you.
 - i. God is "**Greater**" than the giants you face
 (Matt. 28:18) - Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given **ALL AUTHORITY** in heaven and on earth.
 (Eph. 3:20) - Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.
- c. The God who worked then will still work now
 (Mal. 3:6) - I am the LORD, and I do not change.....
- d. Realize that the battle belongs to the Lord! (1 Samuel 17:47 ---next pg)
 (1 Samuel 17:47) ⁴⁵ David replied to the Philistine, "You come to me with sword, spear, and javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD of Heaven's Armies—the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. ⁴⁶ Today the LORD will conquer you, and I will kill you and cut off your head. And then I will give the dead bodies of your men to the birds and wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel! ⁴⁷ And everyone assembled here will know that the LORD rescues his people, but not with sword and spear. This is the LORD's battle, and he will give you to us!"

David told Goliath, "This is the Lord's battle, and he will give you to us!" (1 Samuel 17:47). That is why giants defeat us again and again—because we face them in our own strength and we lose. We need to realize this is the Lord's battle.

- i. Are you facing a battle in your life? The battle is the Lord's. David understood something nobody else understood: David was not going to fight for **GOD**; God was going to fight for **DAVID**.

7. Seventh, you need to "**Have the proper motives to see your giant defeated**".

- a. When David spoke of killing the giant, his motives were questioned. (vs. 25-27) - Some people may have thought David was motivated by the financial rewards, offered to the man who killed Goliath. (vs 28) - His brother Eliab, tried to accuse David of promoting himself. (1 Samuel Chapter 16) - David's brothers all knew David had been anointed by Samuel. They may have thought we was trying to advance his name in Israel.
- b. What were David's motives? Perhaps David saw the offer of Saul (vs. 25), as a stepping stone to the throne of Israel. Little did he know that many miles and many trials lay between him and his being king of Israel.
 - i. David's heart was motivated by two things only. (Not money, fame, or power). He was motivated by:
 1. **The glory of God. (vs. 26, 29, 36).** Goliath was mocking the God of Israel and David could not stand the thoughts of that happening!

2. **By his role as the newly anointed king - (1 Sam. 16:1-12)** - Just as David had protected his sheep from the attacks of the lion and the bear (vs. 34-36), he would protect Israel from the attack of Goliath.
- c. When you see the giants you are facing in your own life, ask yourself this question: Why do I want this giant to be defeated? What is my motive for wanting this giant dead?
- i. An easier life?
 - ii. Bragging rights?
 - iii. Power in the eyes of others?
 - iv. So that I will feel better?
- d. There are only **two proper motives** for wanting to see your giant defeated.
- i. **A desire for God's glory** - This should be the ultimate motivator for all of life!

(1 Cor. 10:31) - ³¹ So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.
 - ii. **A desire for God's plan to be fulfilled in your life** - It is part of God's plan for you to face your giant, or that giant would not be there.

(Rom. 8:28) - ²⁸ And we know that God causes everything to work together^[a] for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.

(2 Cor. 4:17-18) - ¹⁷ For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever!
¹⁸ So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.

(James 1:2-4) - ² Dear brothers and sisters,^[a] when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. ³ For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. ⁴ So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.

8. Eighth, you need to "Use what God has given to you"

a. David didn't use what was uncomfortable to him.

1. Use the tools that you are comfortable with.

2. Use what you have been successful with in the past.

David didn't use the armor of Saul - it didn't feel right because it wasn't him. The Battle was the Lord's not the armor. David was comfortable with his sling, staff, and 5 stones from a brook. He wanted to use what he knew and what he was successful and practiced up with in the past.

i. Have you ever thought about the faith of Saul?

He placed the fate of his army, and the people of Israel in the hands of a shepherd boy with a sling fighting a giant with a sword. *Remember this:* Saul had made David his armor bearer in Chapter 16.

b. Sometimes we need the help of others to defeat the giants of our lives.

Use the people God has placed in your life to help you and to give you encouragement.

(Galatians 6:1-3) - ¹Dear brothers and sisters, if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself. ²Share each other's burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ. ³If you think you are too important to help someone, you are only fooling yourself. You are not that important.

(Philippians 2:4) - ⁴Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.

(2 Corinthians 1:4) - ⁴He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us.

c. Use the divine weapons he has given you

Stand on the God's Word! He has given us His word to strengthen & encourage us, and to help us to overcome the issue before us! Recite the passage daily that you are in need of. Search the scripture for what you are in need of.

(2 Corinthians 10:3-5 NIV) - ³For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. ⁴The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. ⁵We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

(KJV)³ For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: ⁴(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

9. Ninth, you need to "Attack your giant!"

- a. Goliath had come into the actual territory of the Israelites. He had crossed their line. He was taunting them. And if you tolerate a Goliath, he will take over your territory. He will come right up on your doorstep.
- b. That is why you don't run from giants. You don't negotiate with them. You attack them. As the enemy draws close you DON'T RUN from them, you ATTACK THEM!. The Bible tells us, "As Goliath moved closer to attack, David quickly ran out to meet him" (**vs. 48**). As the enemy drew closer, David ran right at him.
- c. Whatever your giant may be, force it into the light of day. Stop rationalizing it. Stop excusing it. Realize you can't defeat it in your own strength.
- d. Call on God and pray for His power, and then attack it.
- e. Draw lines and be accountable to others. Stay away from people or situations where you would be easily tempted. And don't let that giant back into your life again.

10. Give God the praise for helping you to defeat your GIANT!

Closing/Altar Call:

Video from the movie "Facing The Giants" - 2006.

As you watch this video think about the giant that you are facing today and put yourself into the position of the young man in this clip. They call this the "death crawl".

After the video:

This morning:

- What giant are you facing today?
- Like the young man in the video - What giant is weighing you down this morning?
- Is the burden too heavy and you feel like you just can't go on any longer?
- Put your trust in God this morning to help you fight the battle!
- He will never leave you, or forsake you!
- He always keeps His promises!
- He doesn't punish for the mess you find yourself in.
- He doesn't withhold His love in any way!
- Don't give up! Remember you have God on your side! He is always with you!
- Remember the GIANT that David faced - God won the battle before it even began!
- Don't quit...keep going! Keep fighting!
- Have you said "It's just too hard".
 It's not too hard....you keep going!
- Don't say the Lord CAN deliver me, you say the Lord WILL deliver me.
- When no one else discusses God. David discussed no one else but God.
- Don't look at God in the light of your giant. Instead, look at your giant in the light of God.
- When the odds are against you, do you see God!
- You might be the most Christian & Godly influential person some people around you know....if you walk around defeated so will they! Today is a new day! Today is the day to walk in victory!
- When you overcome a giant, you lift up a standard for other people to do the same!
- You might get knocked down a time or two, but keep getting up and pressing onward!
- **If you have a giant that you are facing right now in your life that you would like to have defeated and you want to be delivered from that giant once and for all please come and let us pray with you!**

Video/song "You Are I Am" by MercyMe.