

**I SAMUEL 17:12-58**

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to I Samuel chapter 17 as we continue our study through the Word of God.

As we have seen so far in our study of I Samuel, God has removed King Saul from the throne because of his disobedience and yet, it will be many years before the next King sits on that throne, David.

As we saw from our last study, **“Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel arose and went to Ramah.”** I Samuel 16:13.

Keep in mind that Saul is still the King in Israel and yet, we see that the prophet Samuel anointed David as King of Israel.

What is going on here?

It was not time for David to ascend to the throne. It was only Samuel and David who were aware of this and yet, as we will see, by the actions of David, the people will begin to see David as their leader!

And notice that the Spirit of the **LORD** had come upon David and will empower David to accomplish the tasks that God wants him to accomplish!

As we concluded last time we saw the armies of the Philistines in a standoff with the armies of Israel in the valley of Elah.

These armies were hiding out in opposing mountains with a valley of Elah in the middle. And each day for forty days the secret weapon of the Philistines would come out to mock the children of Israel and he struck fear in their hearts.

This secret weapon named Goliath stood some 9 feet 6 inches tall weighing over 500 pounds most likely.

His coat of armor weighed between 150 to 200 pounds and his spear weighed 20-25 pounds.

A very impressive figure that the Philistines paraded around, and you can just imagine what the children of Israel were thinking as this giant stepped forward!

And we really don't have to guess what they were thinking. The reason being is that we are told in I Samuel 17:11, "**When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid.**"

Saul was not a man of faith and even though he was the leader, the King in Israel, he was causing this fear to be caught by his soldiers, and they too were afraid.

As we will see in our study this evening, we are going to see what a man of faith looks like and I will give you a hint, a man of faith has legs to walk!

With that said, let's begin reading in I Samuel chapter 17, starting in verse 12 and see what the Lord has for us as we study His Word as this taunting by Goliath continues to go on and we will see who will step forward, walking by faith and not by sight!

## **I SAMUEL 17**

### **VERSES 12-15**

Notice what we are told here. That the three oldest sons of Jesse went with King Saul to fight in this battle.

And at this point we see that Jesse is well advanced in years.

The other sons remained home along with the youngest son, who is mentioned here, and that youngest son of Jesse was David, the great grandson of Ruth and Boaz!

Again, as we saw last time, Samuel anointed David as the next King in Israel, but it was not time for him to ascend to the throne. Saul was still the King.

And if you remember from our last study, in I Samuel chapter 16, we saw that when a distressing spirit came upon Saul that he called for David to play some music to calm the savage beast in Saul you might say.

But keep in mind that this was not something that kept him away from tending to his father's sheep.

He went to Saul only when he was called upon, when Saul was affected by this distressing spirit.

And at this time we see that David is tending the sheep in Bethlehem while his three older brothers are with Saul in this standoff with the Philistines.

Also, keep in mind that Goliath is still taunting the army of Israel and this is going on for forty days as we shall see as we read on!

### VERSE 16

Can you imagine this giant coming out into this valley for forty days, mocking and challenging the children of Israel to send out a man to fight against him!

And this was not just a one-time mocking. We are told that twice a day this giant would come out and mock them!

And no one came out from Israel, why?

Because they were in fear, they are scared to death, and you really can't blame them, could you?

I think you can blame them!

Why do I say that?

Because they did not seek the Lord, they did not bring it to the Lord, and they let the situation they were in cause them to be paralyzed in fear.

When you are paralyzed in fear you won't walk as we see here with King Saul and his army!

What can you do about this?

I think that Paul gives us the answer in Philippians 4:6-7, as he wrote, **“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”**

Give it to the Lord, He can handle it and as we do, He replaces that fear with peace, His peace which surpasses all our understanding!

And here is what we should be focusing upon during those situations where we are facing giants of problems.

Paul goes on to say in Philippians 4:8-9, **“Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy - meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.”**

In other words, get refocused upon God and not the situations you are finding yourself in and you will experience the peace of God, not might – ***YOU WILL!***

As we read on, we are going to see how God is orchestrating the players and the events of this battle.

As we know, David is a major player and yet, he is not in this battle, not yet!

But how is God going to get him there?

Let's read on and see.

### VERSES 17-18

Why did Jesse send food to the captain that was over his sons?

Do I really need to answer that?

He sent this food by the hands of David to make sure they were treated fairly in battle, that they might not be put in dangerous situations. He wanted his boys to have a good relationship with their captain and food is a good way to do that, especially when you are on the front lines as they were since they were of the tribe of Judah!

Now let me ask you this.

Does anyone involved in these events know what is going to happen, that David is going to battle Goliath?

Not at all, not even David.

All that Jesse wants David to do is to see how his brothers were doing, if they were okay and then come back home.

But keep in mind that the Spirit of the Lord is upon David, and he loves the Lord so much that it will cause him to respond very differently than Saul's military men.

VERSES 19-21

Now keep in mind that they were not in hand-to-hand combat at this time.

Every day, for forty days both the Philistines would gather, and the children of Israel would gather at their respective hillsides, and they would scream and shout at each other across the valley! *“Hey, your mother wears army boots!”* or whatever they came up with.

It was trash talking before it was popular in sports, this yelling back and forth. There would be a lot of noise but not much action.

And then the Philistines would parade their giant, Goliath who would shout at the children of Israel and they would cower away, back into the hillside or mountain until the next day!

Remember the taunting of this giant, **“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. 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.’ And the Philistine said, ‘I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together.’ When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid.”** I Samuel 17:8-11.

For forty days this went on, the taunting, these words from this giant and then back to their hideouts you might say, until the next day. And they did this twice a day as crazy as it sounds.

But there has been no fighting yet!

Also, I want you to notice the heart of David here. He did not just leave his sheep unattended. He took the time and made sure that the sheep that were entrusted to him were well cared for while he was away.

What a lesson for pastors that when they are gone from the pulpit, they leave their sheep, the ones that God has entrusted to them, with someone who will care for them.

#### VERSES 22-24

So here comes David, with the supplies for the captain of his three oldest brothers and as he arrives on the scene, he gives these supplies to the supply keeper.

Then we saw him greet and began to talk with his brothers. And as they are talking here comes this giant Goliath, taunting the children of Israel.

And as the armies of Israel see this, they fled from him, they were terrified of this giant!

Imagine, there was not a man in Saul's army, including Saul that was not afraid; they refused to fight against Goliath.

Again, for forty days this pathetic scene went on and now David is taking this in, he is seeing what is going on and how will he respond?

Let's read on and see.

#### VERSES 25-27

Notice the difference between what the men of Israel are focused upon and what David is focused upon.

They tell David, basically, that Saul is in such a desperate situation that he is bribing anyone to step forward and kill this Philistine and if they do, they will be wealthy, they will marry the Kings daughter, and their family would not have to pay taxes.

It sounds great but there is a big problem, there is a giant that is standing in their way of obtaining this.

In fact, no one took the offer that King Saul had made, and it was a good bribe you might say! Can you imagine, no taxes for the rest of your life! Just that is a great incentive, but again, a giant stood in the way of obtaining these things.

Then we see the heart of David, which is opposite of Saul and these men. David is irritated by what their focus is, the material things of this world.

They said, “**This man,**” and David said, “**This uncircumcised Philistine.**”

They said, “**Surely he has come up to defy Israel,**” and David said, “**That he should defy the armies of the living God.**”

They said, “**The man who kills him,**” and David said, “**The man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel.**”

They saw things through the perspective of a man while David saw this from the Lord’s perspective.

That is why he was able to walk in faith, because the battle belonged to the Lord and David knew that the Lord would fight for him while the children of Israel were looking at this situation through their own might, their own strength and they refused to walk, they were in fear even though they wanted the rewards for this victory, they just did not want to be involved in the battle!



Too many Christians today are serving the Lord for monetary gain or for this and for that, earthly treasures and that is the wrong heart attitude.

We need to serve the Lord out of love and as we do, we are blessed above and beyond all that we could ask or think.

And as we serve the Lord out of love it is, or it should be a privilege to serve Him. You see, God owes us nothing, He is a debtor to no one, but He freely gives to us out of love, and may that love be the motivating factor in our service to Him.

In I Peter 1:1-5, and this is from *The King James Version* of the Bible, we are told, **“The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.”**

May you not lose sight of that as you serve the Lord! May we look at situations like David did as he saw things from the **LORD's** perspective. But the men of Israel saw things only from man's perspective.

For David, he was at peace.

For these soldiers, they were in fear!

David was ready to battle this giant, and then, as we will see, his family came in and they threw a wet blanket on the fire that David had burning in his heart. At least they tried to!

Look at what took place.

VERSES 28-30

As David's oldest brother, Eliab heard what David was saying he was mad, he was furious at David.

But why?

Maybe he saw his younger brother as insignificant and what in the world was he doing here when he was to be watching the sheep?

Maybe he felt that he knew the motivation of David's heart here, that he just wanted to see a battle, he wanted to see a fight break out.

That all may be true in the minds of his brother and these men, but that is not the real reason. I believe that the real reason is that David was right.

You see, Eliab and the other soldiers were afraid, they were dismayed over the situation they were in and here comes David and is basically telling them, ***“What in the world are you doing, go and destroy that giant! Put your big boy pants on and go and destroy this giant!”***

Because of what David was saying, they did not want someone, especially this young kid telling them to be courageous, even though they should have been, and thus, he was mad and so were the other men!

Now, in spite of all those ugly words that were spoken against David, he ignored them and did get to the heart of the matter, **“Is there not a cause?”**

You see, David put God before his own feelings, his own personal safety, before everything.

David had a love, a passion for God and he was a man of faith, but where did he get this faith?

I like what Meyer had to say as he wrote, ***“There is no short cut to the life of faith, which is the all-vital condition of a holy and victorious life. We must have periods of lonely meditation and fellowship with God . . . Thus alone can the sense of God’s presence become the fixed possession of the soul, enabling it to say repeatedly, with the psalmist, ‘Thou art near, O God.’”***

Think of faith like this. Faith is like a muscle; it must be exercised, or it will atrophy!

David spent time with God and as God called for him to walk, David took those steps of faith and each time he did he was growing, learning to trust more and more in the Lord and that is what we must do if we want to see our faith grow, we must exercise it, we must walk!

And think about all that David had to endure from his family and those around him before he even did battle with the giant.

Spurgeon put it like this, ***“Immediately before the encounter with the Philistine he fought a battle which cost him far more thought, prudence, and patience. The word-battle in which he had to engage with his brothers and with king Saul, was a more trying ordeal to him than going forth in the strength of the Lord to smite the uncircumcised boaster. Many a man meets with more trouble from his friends than from his enemies; and when he has learned to overcome the depressing influence of prudent friends, he makes short work of the opposition of avowed adversaries.”***

There will always be those that will try to discourage us in the work, thinking they are helping us, but folks, if the Lord is calling, don’t be swayed by their words, just walk in faith and see the salvation that the Lord will bring to your life and the situation you are in!

VERSES 31-32

What words of David were reported to King Saul?

David said, “**This uncircumcised Philistine.**”

He also said, “**That he should defy the armies of the living God.**”

Not only that, but he said, “**The man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel.**”

Lastly, “**Is there not a cause?**”

In hearing what this brave warrior was saying, Saul wanted to meet him and to his surprise, here comes this young, ruddy young man, not a soldier, not a warrior.

But notice David was not boasting about himself, what he could do. He did not say, “***I’ll rip him to pieces, let me at him! I’ll murderize him!***”

No, David was just stating the facts. The focus was on the Lord and how this enemy was defying, mocking the living God!

For forty days Saul waited for someone to step forward and now here he is, David!

The reality was, this was kind of a cruel joke to Saul, kind of like the saying, “***I have good news and bad news for you. The good news is that there is finally someone to fight Goliath. The bad news is that it is this little shepherd boy, David!***”

And maybe David saw the face of Saul and the other men and thus, he tells them, “**Let no man’s heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine.**”

In other words, “***Relax guys, I will take care of this problem. I have everything under control. Well, let me clarify that for you. The Lord has everything under control, and He is the One who will give me the victory!***”

David was not being overconfident; he was just trusting the Lord and walking by faith as opposed to King Saul and these other men who were not!

VERSES 33-37

As you read this you can see that Saul is looking at this situation through his natural eyes and thus, David is a youth, there is no way he could defeat Goliath.

In fact, Goliath has been a warrior longer than David has been alive and thus, there is no way he can overcome this Philistine warrior.

He looked at the outward situation instead of seeing the spiritual dimensions of this battle.

But David is not silent here. David spoke up and he told King Saul that he has protected the sheep that his father has entrusted to him from lions and bears and if they are from Chicago this year, well, the Bears are not too tough, but you get the picture here.

God was preparing David all his life for this battle.

I like the way Spurgeon sees this. He wrote, *“When he kept his sheep and the lion came, David did not raise the question whether he could kill the lion: he killed him, and then the question was settled. When the bear came, and was about to rob him of one of his lambs, he did not say to himself, ‘Have I a call to kill that bear?’ Not he; but he killed him, and then he knew he was called to do it.”*

He goes on to say, *“When David was young in years he was old in experience, because he had watched the hand of the Lord in its dealings with him. He had not been an idler among the hills, but a worshipper, a worker, a student, a practical, living man of God . . . thus he gained his experience by the active discharge of his duty as a shepherd. He did what he was called upon to do with holy daring, and in so doing he learned the faithfulness of God. Many men have lions and bears, but no experience.”*

You see, for King Saul and the children of Israel, as they looked at this situation through the eyes of man, they saw that this giant was too big for them to **MESS** with.

On the other hand, there is David and as he looked at the situation through the eyes of faith, he felt that this giant was too big to **MISS!**

What about you, how do you look at situations?

Here’s the thing. It is not how big the giant is or how big the situation may be. It truly is how big is your God!

You see, God is still at work in our lives, and He is preparing us every day of our lives for the battles that are coming, preparing for what lies ahead of us so we too may stand like David.

Again Spurgeon tells us, *“I charge you, therefore, my beloved brethren and sisters, who know the Lord, be up and in earnest to slay your lions and your bears, that you may learn how to kill your Philistines: that is to say; - serve God with all your heart, and patiently bear the cross for his name’s sake, so that when the time shall come for you to stand as a lone man for Christ, you may do it gloriously, and may bring honor to your divine Leader.”*

One more point here before we move on. David gives us an important lesson that we can apply to our own lives.

David is looking to the past for strength in the present. He is looking at God's faithfulness in delivering David from both the lion and the bear, as a reminder that God will continue to protect him in the present.

We, of course, are not to be living in the past, but we sure can draw strength from it.

David looked at the faithfulness of God in the past to help him in the present battle he was about to enter.

In Psalm 77:10-15 Asaph wrote, **“And I said, ‘This is my anguish; But I will remember the years of the right hand of the Most High.’ I will remember the works of the Lord; Surely I will remember Your wonders of old. I will also meditate on all Your work, And talk of Your deeds. Your way, O God, is in the sanctuary; Who is so great a God as our God? You are the God who does wonders; You have declared Your strength among the peoples. You have with Your arm redeemed Your people, The sons of Jacob and Joseph.”**

Asaph speaks of being in anguish, overwhelmed at what he is seeing but then he speaks of taking his eyes off the situation and placing them upon God, meditating, remembering the faithfulness of God. That is so important for us to do! In other words, *remember in the darkness what you have learned in the light!*

It is as we are told in Lamentations 3:21-24, **“This I recall to my mind, Therefore I have hope. Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness. ‘The LORD is my portion,’ says my soul, ‘Therefore I hope in Him!’”**

When you look and see what God has done in your life, how He has delivered you from past situations, those giants you might say, it gives you peace and comfort to know that what God has done in the past He is more than able to do in the present!

VERSES 38-40

Saul does not want to lose this battle and thus, he is working in the natural.

What is he so concerned about?

Because if this battle is lost, they would have to serve the Philistines, and this King does not want to lose his kingdom!

His solution was to give David his best armor, his helmet, his sword, thinking that would help David out.

And as David puts this armor on, obviously it doesn't fit. Remember, Saul was much taller and probably bigger than David! David could hardly walk in this armor and thus, he could in no way fight with it on.

What is God trying to show us here?

First of all, you are not going to win these battles in your own strength, with your own armor, but with the armor of God applied to your life!

Think about what Saul gave to David, his bronze helmet, but that did not compare to what David had at his disposal, the helmet of Salvation!

Saul gave David his coat of mail, but David had the breastplate of righteousness at his disposal!

Saul gave to David his sword, but David had at his disposal the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God!

Now keep in mind that this was available to Saul if he would have just come to the Lord, but he didn't and thus, he had to rely on these physical weapons, which were not helping him.

How about you, do you apply the armor of God to your life as Paul calls us to do in Ephesians chapter 6?



Paul tells us, **“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 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. 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.”** Ephesians 6:10-13.

Are you doing all that you can to stand?

And when I say that I am not saying that we are to stand in our strength but in the Lord and the – ***POWER OF HIS MIGHT!***

Sadly, many can't walk in the armor that God has given to them because they are not used to using them as Trapp tells us, ***“Press some people to their exercise of prayer, or any other piece of the armour of God, and they must say, if they say truly, as here, I cannot do withal, for I have not been accustomed to it.”***

May you take up the whole armor of God to fight against those giants that the enemy brings across your path. Stand strong!

Secondly, I think that the Lord is trying to tell us not to be somebody we are not.

As God calls you into a ministry, as God calls you to do something for Him, don't try to imitate another, be yourself.

I know that can be scary but what works for me may not work for you.

Years ago, back in Chicago I had a discussion with a brother in the Lord who thought it was not trusting God to have notes all written out, that you just need to study and then rely on the Holy Spirit.

And I did feel bad because I had and still have all my notes written out. Not that the Lord doesn't expound on them when I am teaching, but what you see on the web page are my notes that I use when I am teaching.

And the Lord just showed me, ***"Joe you need notes!"***

And I can't argue that point, for if I didn't have them, who knows where I would be as I taught!

The interesting thing to me, because I go by my notes, I can just post them on the web page, as I have said, without having the studies transcribed from the audio. Yes, I do add things to the study as God leads, but for the most part, the notes are what I am teaching from.

God has made us all unique, we are different with various gifts and talents, characteristics and-so-on. If God has called you to do something, don't try to be somebody else or, as Sammy Davis Jr. sang, ***"I've got to be me, I've got to be me. What else can I be but what I am."***

God will work through us just the way we are because everything else won't fit; it will be awkward and clumsy for us to wear!

So David takes off the King's armor and he grabs the tools of his trade, shepherd tools.

The sling was used to scare the sheep back to the flock as some would wander off from the rest of the flock to areas that might be dangerous. Thus, he would sling a stone behind them to drive them back to the rest of the flock, to safety.

But it was also used as a weapon as they could sling these rocks very accurately as we are going to see.

He also had a staff with him, but not much of a match against a sword!

We are now told that David goes to the brook to pick up five smooth stones.

Now when we were in Israel I got to teach in this valley where this battle took place. And you can see the mountains on either side and then, in the valley is where this brook was. It was amazing to stand there and teach in this area where David and Goliath met!

Don't miss the point. David had to go down into the valley, where the enemy was close by to pick up these stones. That meant that David was prepared for this battle, it was not just talk but he was willing to take those steps of faith as his faith had feet to walk and he did!

One other point here and that is why did David pick up five smooth stones? Did he think he might miss and wanted to have an ample supply of stones to launch at Goliath?

Absolutely not!

How do I know that and what is the reason then?

I think that II Samuel 21:22 gives us some insight to this as we are told, **“These four were born to the giant in Gath, and fell by the hand of David and by the hand of his servants.”**

Now as you read this story in II Samuel it seems that these four were related to Goliath, some were his sons.

In fact, the Hebrew says that these four were born to the Raphah; that is, they belonged to the race of the Rephaim, who seem to have settled in Gath in large numbers.

Thus, David picked up five smooth stones because the first stone was going to kill Goliath and the other four were for the relatives of Goliath if they came after David!

Again, David was a man of faith, and we will see that faith as we continue on in this story.

VERSES 41-44

As David is out in this valley, here comes the giant, Goliath and he says, ***“Fee-fi-fo-fum, I smell the blood of an Israelite. Be he alive, or be he dead, I’ll have his bones to grind my bread.”***

Well, not exactly but very close!

This giant couldn’t believe his eyes. He is thinking and not only thinking but he is speaking these things forth, ***“This is the best they could do; send out this little kid to fight their battles!”***

Goliath was outraged, this insulted him, and he was going to teach this boy a lesson by killing him and feeding him to the birds!

And this giant tells David, **“Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?”**

Now in the Hebrew it is even stronger than that.

This word that is used here for **“dog”** is the Hebrew word, ***KELEB*** and it is used in passages like Deuteronomy 23:18 for male homosexual prostitutes!

You can just see the smoke coming out of Goliath’s ears he is so mad, and he is basically saying to David, ***“Bring it on little boy!”***

Now from Goliath’s standpoint, this was not even a fight. Yes, as you look at this with physical eyes, David is dead meat! I am sure that this giant is laughing at this little boy coming without any armor, physical armor that is, and he is going to defeat Goliath. No way!

Well, yes way! You see, as a person walks by faith, as He walks with God, there is no enemy that is too big to bring down.

It is as Isaiah 54:17 tells us, **“No weapon formed against you shall prosper, And every tongue which rises against you in judgment You shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, And their righteousness is from Me,’ Says the Lord.”**

And you know what, David will bring it on as we will see!

#### VERSES 45-47

Keep in mind that standing in the background are the children of Israel, and they are taking all this in.

Can you imagine how the children of Israel, these soldiers felt after Goliath blasted those words at David?

I am sure they were fearful, even more than before. ***“Great, now he made the giant mad! Were dead!”***

And here comes David, not letting the words of the giant deter him from the course that God has set for him. We don’t see fear in the heart of David.

What he does is he tells the giant that he may have all those physical weapons of war, but he has something better, the ***LORD!***

What faith on David’s part. David knew the battle was not going to be won by his strength, his might, his ingenuity, but by the Lord.

Remember what the Lord said in Zechariah 4:6, **“Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,’ says the Lord of hosts.”**

Now do you think that by David saying, **“I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied”** that Goliath was afraid?

Of course not! He was not a man that was easily afraid and who is the Lord of hosts?

David had no weapons and Goliath towered over him and thus, these words were nothing more than an empty threat, at least in the mind of Goliath!

But he should have been terrified because David was not coming in his own strength but as a representative of the **LORD** of hosts, he was on a mission from God you might say, and he was not going to fail! You see, it was in the Lord's hands and all David had to do was walk by faith and he did!

In fact, that phrase, "**Lord of hosts**" speaks of the Lord being over the armies of heaven as well as speaking of His power and authority! He is in control; nothing will stop the Lord from giving His people the victory that they need!

Yes, we fail many times because we try to accomplish in the flesh that which can only be accomplished in the Spirit or that the Spirit of God is empowering us to finish the work.

We need to look to Him to be our strength.

In I John 5:4-5 John tells us, "**For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world - our faith. Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?**"

What does the word "**faith**" mean here?

Spurgeon said this of this word "**faith**", "*Look at any Greek Lexicon you like, and you will find that the word [faith or believe] does not merely mean to believe, but to trust, to confide in, to commit to, entrust with, and so forth. The very marrow of the meaning of faith is confidence in, believing upon.*"

You see, our victory is found in Christ, not ourselves. If you are lacking victory in your life, I would encourage you to abide in Him, draw close to Him and stand on the promises of God that He has given to us in His word, and then walk by faith! Take up the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the wiles or scheming's of the devil!

VERSES 48-49

First of all, can you imagine this giant running towards you?

I think my first thought would be, ***“Run for your lives! Everybody out of my way!”***

But not David, he runs to the giant even though the giant is running towards him!

How could he do this?

Because he knew that, **“This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand.”** I Samuel 17:46.

But David did not just kick back and wait for God to strike Goliath dead. David knew that he had a role to play in this victory, he needed to walk by faith, and he did, and God brought about this victory.

Also, it speaks of the army of the Philistines running with the giant, probably behind him because they thought that this was a done deal, there was no way that Goliath was going to lose. And once David is dead, they will go to the armies of Israel and they will then have to serve the Philistines!

Now, let me ask you this. Who was with David?

No one!

Well, not exactly. The Lord was with David while the rest of the army of Israel was hiding.

And as David and Goliath meet, David grabs a rock and puts it into the sling and what a shot! One rock in the head and the giant, the secret weapon of the Philistines falls to the ground and what a thundering sound he must have made.

Remember back in I Samuel chapter 5 as the Philistine god, Dagon fell flat on his face before the Ark of the Covenant. That is what we see here with this Philistine giant named Goliath, fallen on his face before the **LORD** of hosts!

And again, the children of Israel, King Saul and his soldier's thought that Goliath was too big to fight.

David looked at it differently.

This giant was too big to miss, and he didn't!

And don't think that a sling could not bring this giant down. This sling was a powerful weapon.

Clarke tells us, ***"In the use of the sling it requires much practice to hit the mark; but when once this dexterity is acquired, the sling is nearly as fatal as the musket or bow."***

What I want you to see here is that David was in this battle and the Lord was in this battle, they were working together. It is not that God needed David, but He used David to bring about this victory for His plans and purposes!

There are some Christians out there who truly believe that we are just to sit back and let the Lord work, but that is not the case.

The Lord works with us most of the time to accomplish His work. He doesn't have to, but He does, and many Christians miss out because they are doing nothing and just waiting for lightning to come down from heaven.



Spurgeon rightly put it like this, and he doesn't hold back.

He wrote, *“The lazy bones of our orthodox churches cry, ‘God will do his own work’; and then they look out [for] the softest pillow they can find, and put it under their heads, and say, ‘The eternal purposes will be carried out: God will be glorified.’ That is all very fine talk, but it can be used with the most mischievous design. You can make opium out of it, which will lull you into a deep and dreadful slumber, and prevent your being of any kind of use at all.”*

May we take those steps of faith as the Lord is leading us!

#### VERSES 50-54

David wants to make sure that Goliath is dead and thus, he grabs the sword of Goliath and cuts off his head! I am sure he needed both hands to handle the sword of Goliath.

Now, in saying that, is there a spiritual lesson there for us?

No, don't cut off the heads of your enemies!

The point here I believe the Holy Spirit is making is that you don't play with sin, you make sure it is dead; you crucify it!

Paul tells us in Romans 13:11-14, **“And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.”**

And in Galatians 5:24 Paul tells us, **“And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.”**

You see, like the giant in David's life, we too must put to death the flesh and the sword of the Spirit is a powerful weapon that we have to defeat the enemy, the Word of God.

May we use it with the empowering of God's Spirit and see the giants that will fall in our lives!

Keep in mind that the children of Israel, Saul's army, were hiding but now that Goliath is dead, they rise up and come after the Philistines.

As the Philistines see what has happened to their secret weapon, they run for their lives and the children of Israel push them back to Ekron, their hometown!

Of this great victory, Spurgeon had these words to say, ***“I wish that young men here would aspire to brave lives for the God of Israel. I would that for truth, and goodness, and the eternal glory, they would be ready to rise to the measure of their destined hour. Why should we all be mean men? Is there not room for a few downright devoted beings, who will lift their hand unto the Lord, and never go back? If self-sacrifice is wanted, let us make it. If some one is needed for a heathen land, or to bear testimony for truth in this almost apostate nation, let us cry, ‘Here am I! Send me!’ God’s David will not hang back through cowardly fear or dread of consequences, but will take up his place as God shall help him, and say, like Martin Luther, ‘I can do no other: so help me, O my God.’”***

May we have that kind of heart that is willing to go forward and do battle in the power of God!

#### VERSES 55-58

So picture in your mind what is going on here. As David comes before King Saul he has the head of Goliath in his hand, maybe he held it up by his hair! David was a tough dude!

Now it says that Saul asked whose son this is. Does this mean that Saul did not recognize David?

How can that be when he played for Saul when a distressing spirit came upon the King?

Some think that David played this music behind the curtain or behind the scenes you might say, but I don't think so.

I believe that Saul knew David but remember, the one who killed the giant their family would not have to pay taxes, and I think that is the point here. That Saul did not know the father of David, he did not know it was Jesse!

And David, in all humility, answers the King and says, "**I am the son of your servant Jesse the Bethlehemite.**"

What a picture of a man of faith and the victories David had and we can have as we look to the Lord!

Let me share these with you from Michael Griffiths. This is what he wrote,

*Both Jonathan (chap. 14) and David initiated action on a small front just where they were, but what they did led to great victories. There is a need for us alike to take the field locally. We cannot hope to take on the whole of the enemy force, but we do not have to do so. There is a work for Jesus ready at your "front." We are called to be bold and to take the initiative where we are. God will take care of the rest when, as a result of our action, the battle spreads along the whole front.*

- Michael Griffiths, Take My Life, p. 128

Let me ask you this question. Where did they meet for this battle?

It was in Ephes Dammim or the boarder of blood! (I Samuel 17:1)

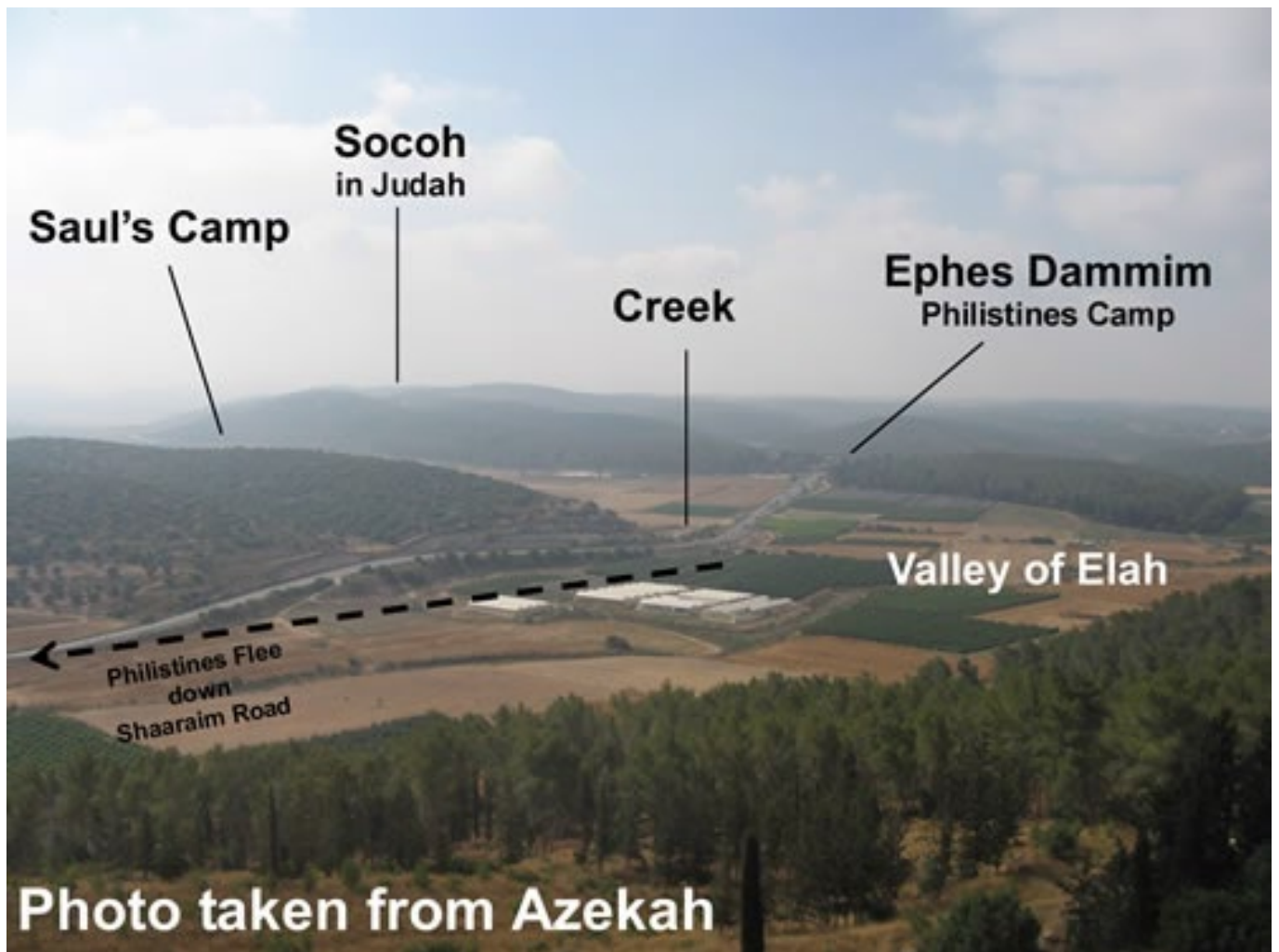
Folk's, the giants will never fall in our life unless we bring them to the boarder of blood, to the cross! It is the blood of Christ that cleanses us from all our sins, may we not forget that.

And let me leave you this evening with these words from Paul as he admonishes us not to give up but to keep moving forward.

He wrote, **“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.”**

May we never forget that!

### Valley of Elah





Valley of Elah during a January storm! It is normally dry!

