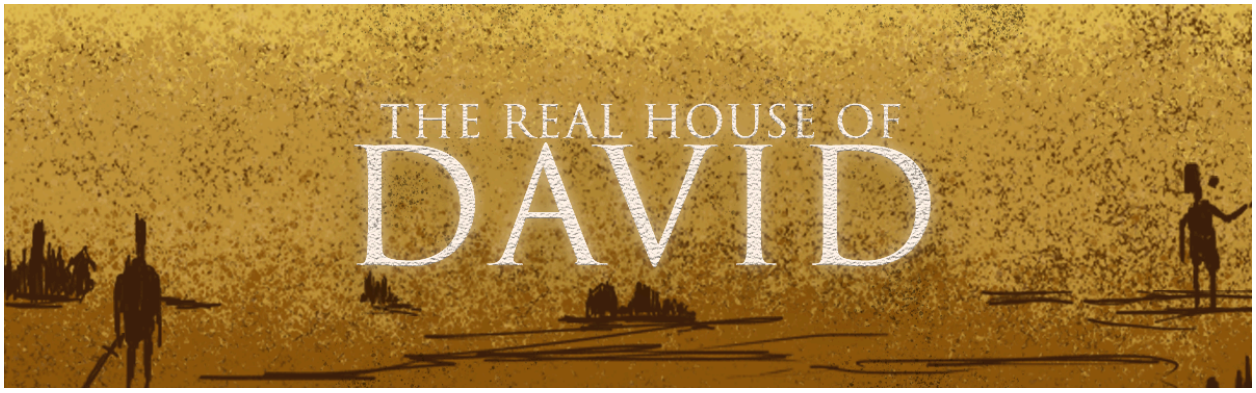


CONFRONT YOUR GIANTS

1 Samuel 17:1-54

- **The story of David and Goliath shows us how we can overcome the problems and problem people of the world by trusting in the Lord.**
- *"This is the victory which overcomes the world, even our faith*." (1 John 5:4)
- ***What does it take to overcome life's giant obstacles and opponents?***

Overcoming Our "Giants" Requires:

EXPECTING BIG CHALLENGES IN OUR WORLD (1 Samuel 17:1-10)

- *"The Philistines now mustered their army for battle . . . Saul countered by gathering his Israelite troops near the valley of Elah. So the Philistines and Israelites faced each other on opposite hills, with the valley between them. Then Goliath, a Philistine champion from Gath, came out of the Philistine ranks to face the forces of Israel. He was over nine feet tall!"* (1 Samuel 17:1-4)
- **When God does a work in our lives, we can expect big opponents and obstacles (2 Timothy 3:12).**
- *"Goliath shouted a taunt across to the Israelites. 'Why are you all coming out to fight?' he called. 'I am the Philistine champion, but you are only the servants of Saul. Choose one man to come down here and fight me! If he kills me, then we will be your slaves. But if I kill him, you will be our slaves! I defy the armies of Israel today! Send me a man who will fight me!'"* (1 Samuel 17:8-10)
- **The Lord and the world are looking for people who stand up to big obstacles and opponents, and sometimes the least likely people become the ones that God uses.**
- "*But the LORD said to Samuel, 'Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.'" (*1 Samuel 16:7)

- **All of us face "giants" in our lives, but we need to understand that a "giant obstacle" is a "great opportunity" for God to show how wonderfully He can provide in our lives.**
- *"I can do everything through Him who strengthens me."* (Philippians 4:13)
- ***What big "giants" am I dealing with these days?***

Overcoming Our "Giants" Involves:

EXPRESSING GREAT <u>CONFIDENCE</u> IN OUR GOD (1 Samuel 17:11-37)

- *"When Saul and the Israelites heard this, they were terrified and deeply shaken."* (1 Samuel 17:11)
- **Fear is one of the giant challenges that most people struggle with.**
- The Lord - *"Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."* (Joshua 1:9)
- **Our confidence must be in what God can provide for us, not what others (or ourselves) can do for us (1 Samuel 17:25, Philippians 4:19).**
- David - *"Who is this pagan Philistine anyway, that he is allowed to defy the armies of the living God?"* (1 Samuel 17:26)
- **To live by "faith" we must be "God-focused" and not "giant-focused" (Hebrews 11:6).**
- **We must not let our confidence in God and in our "cause" be shattered by the concerns or criticisms of others (1 Samuel 17:28-29).**
- **Victories in "little battles" give us confidence for "big battles" and "private victories" get us ready for "public victories" (1 Samuel 17:33-37).**
- Paul - "*We were crushed and completely overwhelmed and we thought we would never live through it. In fact, we expected to die. But, as a result, we learned not to rely on ourselves, but on the God who can raise the dead. And He did deliver us from mortal danger. And we are confident that He will continue to deliver us!"* (2 Corinthians 1:8-10)
- **When we look back and see what the Lord has done in the past we'll have the confidence to overcome bigger opponents and obstacles in the future.**

Overcoming Our "Giants" Involves:

MAKING GODLY <u>CHOICES</u> IN OUR LIVES (1 Samuel 17:38-47)

- *"Then Saul gave David his own armor - a bronze helmet and a coat of mail. David put it on, strapped the sword over it, and took a step or two to see what it was like . . . 'I can't go in these,' he protested to Saul. 'I'm not used to them.; So David took them off again. He picked up five smooth stones . . . Then armed only with his shepherd's and sling he started across the valley to fight the Philistine."* (1 Samuel 17:38-40)

- **We cannot win the great battles of life relying on worldly means (2 Corinthians 10:4).**
- *"Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil."* (Ephesians 6:10-11)
- **When we're living for the Lord, we have His authority and power in our lives.**
- *"Goliath walked out toward David . . . sneering in contempt at this ruddy-faced boy. . . . And he cursed David by the names of his gods. . . . 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.'"* (1 Samuel 17:41-45)
- **We can only win the crucial battles of life by God's strength and power and by recognizing that our battle belongs to the Lord.**
- *"If God is for us, who can ever be against us?"* (Romans 8:31)

- *"David triumphed over the Philistine with only a sling and a stone."* (1 Samuel 17:50)
- **When we fully trust in the Lord, He will enable us to "smack down" our problems and experience victory, and our victories will encourage others towards victory in their lives.**
- *"The men of Israel and Judah arose and shouted and pursued the Philistines as far as the valley, and to the gates of Ekron."* (1 Samuel 17:52)
- **The Israelites perceived God was absent from the conflict, but in David's mind the Lord was the most glorious reality of all (1 Samuel 17:37-47).**
- *"By faith these people overthrew kingdoms, ruled with justice, and received what God had promised them. They shut the mouths of lions, quenched the flames of fire, and escaped death by the edge of the sword. . . . They became strong in battle and put whole armies to flight."* (Hebrews 11:33-34)
- ***What is the Lord communicating to me through this message?***