

# The Book of 1Samuel—17:1-53

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## *“Victory Over Giants”Pt.2*

(11/1/15)

Last week in our study in 1Samuel 17 we looked at one of the best-known and best-loved stories in all the Bible—the story of David and Goliath.

And as we said at that time this story is of great value to us historically because it demonstrates the faithfulness of God in giving victory to a nation that had all but turned its back on Him.

But the real blessing for us is found in the principles that are sprinkled throughout the passage that help us, as the people of God, to face and defeat the ‘Goliaths’ in our lives.

These giants take many different forms—it can be the ‘giant’ of alcohol, drugs, cigarettes, pornography or gambling.

It can be the giant of depression, fear, loneliness, or grief.

Symbolically “Goliath” represents anything that stands in our way to keep us from going forward and possessing all that God has for our lives.

Look, David was no match for Goliath in his strength just like we are no match for the giants that we face in life—but that’s okay because as Paul the apostle said “*when I’m weak then I’m strong*”.

What was the secret of David's victory over Goliath?

Well obviously the secret of his victory was God—but what principles did David cling to that allowed God to give him such a powerful victory over such a formidable enemy like Goliath?

## **Principles for Victory over Giants**

### **1. Stay Close to God**

One thing that was obvious in David's life in spite of all his flaws and failings—he was a man who loved God and maintained a close walk with Him.

Remember that David was a shepherd spending much of his time outdoors, alone, watching over his father's sheep—and that gave him a lot of time to spend with God.

Many of the psalms that David wrote came out of this quiet time, meditating on the Lord, drawing close to Him, looking up into the night sky and saying—

*“The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament shows His handiwork.”* (Ps.19:1);

*“When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained, What is man that You are mindful of him...?”* (Ps.8:3-4)

Spending all that time with the Lord caused David to develop a deep love for and walk with the Lord—which he expressed in Ps.27:4:

*“One thing I have desired of the LORD, That will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the LORD All the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, And to inquire in His temple.”*

This was the main reason for David's success over the enemies in his life—and the number one principle for you having victory in your own life—

You must cultivate and maintain a close and consistent walk with God.

## **2. Get Angry at Your Giant**

**1 Samuel 17:26b (NKJV)**

<sup>26</sup> **...For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?"**

One reason Christians don't have victory in their lives over certain things is because they don't see those things as enemies but more as 'friends'.

Look, things like cocaine, alcohol, and cigarettes are not your 'friends' or 'helpers' to get you through the day—they are your enemies that are slowly robbing you of your life.

They are 'Goliaths' standing between you and God trying to defeat you to keep you from experiencing all He wants to do in and through your life.

Instead of defending them by making excuses for why you need the drugs or alcohol or cigarettes to get you through your day—start hating these things—GET MAD AT YOUR GIANT!

You will never have victory over that substance until you hate it, want to be free from it and get good and angry at it.

### 3. Don't Let Anyone Discourage You from Taking on Your Giant

**1 Samuel 17:33 (NKJV)**

<sup>33</sup> **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."**

There are many people that don't want to fight against the giants in their own life because they like to drink or smoke or take drugs—but they really don't want you to have victory either because that will make them feel guilty.

As the old saying goes—“*misery loves company*”.

And so they will try to discourage you by justifying why drinking (I'm thinking primarily of drunkenness) isn't a sin—“*Jesus drank!*”

“*Paul told Timothy to drink wine to relieve his stomach problems*” they'll say—and so goes the justifications.

There are a lot of cowards in our society and many of them in the church that want to justify their sin instead of fighting against it and being free from it—whatever it is.

The thing you must do to have victory over the giant in your life is to run headlong at it like David did with Goliath—

**1 Samuel 17:48 (NKJV)**

<sup>48</sup> **So it was, when the Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David, that David hastened and ran toward... the Philistine.**

The natural inclination is to want to side step the problem, ignore it, go around it and learn to coexist with it instead of defeating it and driving it from our lives.

Listen to what God told the children of Israel as He was bringing them into the Promised Land to fight against the Canaanites—

**Numbers 33:55 (NKJV)**

<sup>55</sup> But if you do not drive out the inhabitants of the land from before you, then it shall be that those whom you let remain *shall be* irritants in your eyes and thorns in your sides, and they shall harass you in the land where you dwell.

God wants us to have total victory in every area of our life and has provided for it through the victory that Jesus Christ won for us on the cross.

But the tendency of so many of God's people is to ignore it, to pretend it isn't there—but it is there—you know it and God knows it and He wants you to deal with it in His strength.

As Christians we will face constant battles against numerous enemies in the course of our lives.

They take different forms in each of our lives—but they all stand in the way of us enjoying the fullness of all God has for us as His children.

They can't be ignored, side stepped, justified or made excuses for—they must be confronted and defeated—and the sooner the better!

When David's oldest brother Eliab rebuked him for wanting to take on Goliath, David replied in v.29 *"isn't this a just cause?"*

The answer is **YES**—and don't ever let anyone try to discourage you from your fight!

#### 4. Remember Past Victories—They Will Build Faith for Present Battles

##### **1 Samuel 17:33-37 (NKJV)**

<sup>33</sup> 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." <sup>34</sup> **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, <sup>35</sup> 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. <sup>36</sup> 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."** <sup>37</sup> 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."...

There are many that keep a journal of how God has worked in their lives in the past—they read it when they are facing a giant decision or problem in the present.

Those Christians that do this always find it comforts their heart and strengthens their faith for the current situation.

This is what David is doing here—he's remembering how God gave him victory over a lion and a bear (no kid could defeat those two animals by himself)—

This strengthened his faith for his fight against Goliath.

Remembering how God has worked in the past will strengthen your faith for the present.

##### **Psalms 143:3-5 (NKJV)**

<sup>3</sup> For the enemy has persecuted my soul; He has crushed my life to the ground; He has made me dwell in darkness, Like those who have long been dead. <sup>4</sup> Therefore my spirit is overwhelmed within me; My heart within me is distressed. <sup>5</sup> I remember the days of old; I meditate on all Your works; I muse on the work of Your hands.

## 5. When It Comes to Success in Ministry (a giant endeavor) Don't Try to Be Anyone Else—Be Yourself

### 1 Samuel 17:38-40 (NKJV)

<sup>38</sup> 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. <sup>39</sup> 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. <sup>40</sup> 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.

When I first got into ministry I tried to be my pastor (Chuck Smith) because I wasn't convinced God could use me.

So I preached a lot of Chuck's sermons—but they didn't "fit me"—I hadn't "tested" them in the sense that they came from my life experiences.

What I came to realize later was that I was trying to wear "Chuck's armor"—I was trying to be Chuck Smith and not myself.

God eventually taught me that He didn't call me to be Chuck Smith or Charles Spurgeon or John MacArthur or anyone else—He called me to be me.

Now here's something else that is interesting—Saul didn't want to fight Goliath but he wanted David to wear his armor when *he* fought him.

There are a lot of people that don't want to be pastors but they want the pastor to "wear their armor" you might say—

In other words they want to control the pastor to make him do things the way they would do it if they were the pastor—but they're not the pastor.

I learned a long time ago that not only am I not to be anyone else in ministry—I'm also not to let anyone try to make me 'wear their armor' in an effort to turn me into them.

David realized quickly that the only way God was going to give him victory over Goliath was by him being who he was when God called him—a shepherd and then simply using the weapons he was used to as a shepherd—a stone and sling.

As a pastor the stone (rock) is the Word of God—the sling is the delivery system (my own preaching and delivery style).

When it comes to ministry or life in general for that matter—be who God has called you to be and not who others want you to be.

## 6. The Battle is the Lord's

### **1 Samuel 17:45-47 (NKJV)**

<sup>45</sup> 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. <sup>46</sup> This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand...<sup>47</sup> 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."

This is a principle that we all must remember when it comes to victory over whatever difficulty or problem we're facing—the battle belongs to the Lord and He alone can give us victory.

He doesn't want you to promise to 'try harder' or make some lame New Year's resolution to change and give up drinking or smoking or looking at porn or whatever.



He wants you to get serious about your walk with Him and surrender your life to the power of the Holy Spirit—that’s the only way you’ll know victory in your life.

In Romans 7 Paul talks about the classic battle every believer in Christ faces with their fallen nature in wanting to do God’s will—

**Romans 7:19, 22-23 (NLT)**

<sup>19</sup> I want to do what is good, but I don’t. I don’t want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway.

<sup>22</sup> I love God’s law with all my heart. <sup>23</sup> But there is another power within me that is at war with my mind. This power makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me.

Romans 7 is a chapter of defeat and ends with a cry of defeat—“*O wretched man that I am!*”

And yet the next chapter, Romans 8, is a chapter of victory and ends with a cry of victory—“*We are more than conquerors through Him Who loves us.*”

You say, “*What happened? How did Paul go from miserable failure to glorious conqueror so quickly?*”

In chapter 7 Paul uses the personal pronoun “I” and “me” 46 times.

The focus of chapter 7 is “self”—it was Paul’s testimony of when he tried to defeat sin in his life through his own strength and hard work.

And that’s why it is a chapter of defeat ending with a cry of defeat.

But in chapter 8, a tremendously uplifting and victorious chapter, the key word is ***Spirit***; it is used 23 times more than in any other chapter in the Bible—and that’s why it’s a chapter of victory and it ends in a cry of victory.

## 7. You Must Believe the Promises of God If You're Going to Be Victorious

**1 Samuel 17:46a, 49-50 (NKJV)**

**<sup>46</sup> This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you... <sup>49</sup> 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. <sup>50</sup> So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone, and struck the Philistine and killed him.**

Have you ever asked yourself how David could have been so sure that he was going to kill Goliath and not the other way around?

It was because he believed the promise of God.

You see back in chapter 16 verse 13 God had Samuel anoint David as the new king of Israel.

As of chapter 17 David hadn't taken the throne yet.

David believed what God promised him—therefore he knew Goliath couldn't kill him or else God would be a liar and that was incomprehensible to David.

God has given us many great and precious promises in His Word.

We can choose to believe what God has said or not—but it will be the difference between victory and defeat.

**1 John 2:25 (NKJV)**

<sup>25</sup> And this is the promise that He has promised us--eternal life.

**Philippians 4:19 (NKJV)**

<sup>19</sup> And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

**Hebrews 13:5 (NKJV)**

<sup>5</sup> ... For He Himself has said, "*I will never leave you nor forsake you.*"

**Isaiah 41:10 (NKJV)**

<sup>10</sup> Fear not, for I *am* with you; Be not dismayed, for I *am* your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.'

*"That's all well and fine—but if the Lord is with me why am I still struggling with \_\_\_\_"* (fill in the blank).

Here's the thing about victory in our lives as Christians—it is a gradual process and has purposely been designed by God to be so.

**Exodus 23:29-30 (NKJV)**

<sup>29</sup> I will not drive them out from before you in one year, lest the land become desolate and the beast of the field become too numerous for you. <sup>30</sup> Little by little I will drive them out from before you, until you have increased, and you inherit the land.

In other words victory over all the enemies in our lives is a slow, gradual process that takes place over a long period of time as we walk with Him faithfully every day.

And God has designed it that way to keep us in a constant state of dependency upon Him.

Think about it—if victory came too easily or too quickly for Israel back then or for us as Christians today we would fall into pride, self-reliance and into an independent attitude which would lead to our down fall.

Warfare is good for us—it keeps us on our knees in a place of dependence upon God and as Paul reminded us in 2Cor.12:9-10—

**2 Corinthians 12:9-10 (NKJV)**

<sup>9</sup> And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. <sup>10</sup> Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

So don't be discouraged at the slow pace of your growth or the lack of total victory in your Christian life up until this point.

God's promise to you is that He will continue to drive the enemy out of your life little by little until He completes the work He started in you (Phil.1:6)—just don't give up.