

FACING GIANTS IN LIFE & WORK

TRANSFORMED— Part 7

1 Samuel 17:1-52

Pastor Brian

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1 Samuel 17:1–7 (NLT)

The Philistines now mustered their army for battle...² Saul countered by gathering his Israelite troops near the valley of Elah.³ So the Philistines and Israelites faced each other on opposite hills, with the valley between them.⁴ 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!⁵ He wore a bronze helmet, and his bronze coat of mail weighed 125 pounds.⁶ He also wore bronze leg armor, and he carried a bronze javelin on his shoulder.⁷ The shaft of his spear was as heavy and thick as a weaver's beam, tipped with an iron spearhead that weighed 15 pounds. His armor bearer walked ahead of him carrying a shield.

THE OTHER 'GIANTS' DAVID HAD TO FACE

1. DELAY.

"Now David was the [youngest] son of a man named Jesse...Jesse's three oldest sons...had already joined Saul's army to fight the Philistines... David's three oldest brothers stayed with Saul's army, but David [was held back] so he could help his father with the sheep in Bethlehem." (1 Samuel 17:12–15, NLT)

2. DISCOURAGEMENT.

"Goliath stood and 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!" When Saul and the Israelites heard this, they were terrified and deeply shaken." (1 Samuel 17:8–11, NLT)

"For forty days, every morning and evening, the Philistine champion strutted in front of the Israelite army." (1 Samuel 17:16, NLT)

"As [David] was talking with [his brothers], Goliath, the Philistine champion from Gath, came out from the Philistine ranks. Then David heard him shout his usual taunt to the army of Israel. As soon as the Israelite army saw him, they began to run away in fright." (1 Samuel 17:23–24, NLT)

3. DISAPPROVAL.

*"But when David's oldest brother, Eliab, heard David talking to the men, he was angry. "What are **you** doing around here anyway?" he demanded. "What about those few sheep you're supposed to be taking care of? I know about your pride and deceit. You just want to*

see the battle!” “What have I done now?” David replied. “I was only asking a question!”” (1 Samuel 17:28–29, NLT)

4. **DOUBT.**

“Don’t worry about this Philistine,” David told Saul. “I’ll go fight him!” “Don’t be ridiculous!” Saul replied. “There’s no way you can fight this Philistine and possibly win! You’re only a boy, and he’s been a man of war since his youth.”” (1 Samuel 17:32–33, NLT)

HOW TO DEFEAT GIANTS

1. **REMEMBER HOW GOD HAS HELPED ME IN THE PAST.**

“I 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! The LORD who rescued me from the claws of the lion and the bear will rescue me from this Philistine!” (1 Samuel 17:36–37a, NLT)

2. **IGNORE THE DREAMBUSTERS.**

“David was now in great danger because all his men were very bitter about losing their sons and daughters, and they began to talk of stoning him. But David found strength in the LORD his God.” (1 Samuel 30:6, NLT)

3. **USE WHAT GOD HAS GIVEN ME.**

“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, for he had never worn such things before. “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 from a stream and put them into his shepherd’s bag. Then, armed only with his shepherd’s staff and sling, he started across the valley to fight the Philistine.” (1 Samuel 17:38–40, NLT)

4. **EXPECT GOD’S HELP.**

“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. 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! 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!”” (1 Samuel 17:45–47, NLT)

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