

## Introduction

### An underdog story

Two questions: How did David get the power to defeat Goliath (this week), and what motivated him to fight the giant (next week)?

## Where David’s Power Came From

### Did David do this sheerly through his own power?

Judges 20:16 “Among all this people were seven hundred select men who were left-handed; every one could sling a stone at a hair’s breadth and not miss.”

1 Sam 16:18 “Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, who is skillful in playing, a man of valor, a man of war...”

### Did David do this sheerly through God’s miraculous power?

1 Sam 17:47 “For the battle is the LORD’s, and he will give you into our hand.”

### The answer

*God’s power works through faithful people who give themselves to the process of growing in a.) their reliance on God and 2.) their skills in following him.*

### **It was this way for David.**

1. Reliance on God
  - a. Spirit of God rushed upon him (16:13)
  - b. Knows God is with him and Israel (17:26)
  - c. Knows God saves, and that the battle is his (17:47)
  - d. Understands God’s worldwide purposes (17:46)
2. Skills in following him
  - a. Bear and Lion (17:34-37)
  - b. Previous training and testing (17:39)
  - c. Weapons of a shepherd (17:40)

### **It was this way even for Jesus.**

Luke 2:52 “And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man”

Hebrews 5:8 “Although [Jesus] was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation...”

**This is how it will be for us.**

1 Timothy 4:14 “Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you. <sup>15</sup> Practice these things, immerse yourself in them, so that all may see your progress.

**How We Can Grow in the Power of the Lord**

Be faithful in obscurity

David grew in God’s power because he was faithful in his current station as a shepherd.

Embrace the slow process of progress

David grew slowly over the course of years.

Luke 16:10 “One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. <sup>11</sup> If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches?”

Fight with God’s weapons

David grew in God’s power because he fought with God’s weapons.

Compare Saul’s armor to Goliath’s armor. In contrast, David chooses the weaponry of the shepherd leaders of God’s history – Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, and especially Moses.

Jesus embraced a power that was categorically different than what the world expected. The ultimate shepherd warrior, who lays his life down for the sheep.

2 Corinthians 10: 3-5 “For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. <sup>4</sup> For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. <sup>5</sup> We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ...”

**Questions for Study and Reflection**

1. How does this passage show David’s victory to be a mixture of his preparation and God’s power?
2. Do you fight with God’s weapons, or in your own strength? Explain your answer.
3. Does the slowness of your progress in Christ frustrate you? How does this passage provide hope?
4. How does this passage teach us about Christ, and his victory on our behalf?