

Faith Part 4 – Faith to Fight (3-31-2019)

Faith Series: Seeing our way Home

Key Verse: “For we walk by faith, not by sight.” (2 Corinthians 5:7)

Review: Last 3 weeks . . . **Faith becomes Action**

1st action: God moves towards us

2nd action: We believe that to be true & take Him at His Word

3rd action: We pursue Him back (in spite of and in light of all obstacles & our own short-comings)

This Week: “Faith to Fight”

Hebrews 11:32-34 (ESV)

(32) And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets— (33) who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, (34) quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight.

Note: David shows us the road map to victory and overcoming obstacles on our journey home. Let’s take a look at the classic story of David & Goliath for some ideas on how we can have faith to fight!

3 Keys to understanding the victory David has over Goliath . . .

1) David’s Giants

2) David’s Weapons

3) David’s Advantages

1) David’s giants

a. **1st Giant:** The in-action, fear, & discouragement from “God’s people” and his own brother

1 Samuel 17:11, 16, 24 (ESV)

(11) When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid . . .

(16) For forty days the Philistine came forward and took his stand, morning and evening . . . (24) All the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him and were much afraid.

Notes: David was surrounded by people who were dismayed, fearful, stuck, and running away.

Unfortunately fear & in-action in the face of giants is the norm, even among God’s people. Many of us never even make it past this giant.

If the inaction & fear all around David wasn’t enough, he then got some quality time with his big brother . . .

1 Samuel 17:28 (ESV)

Now Eliab his eldest brother heard when he spoke to the men. And Eliab's anger was kindled against David, and he said, "Why have you come down? And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your presumption and the evil of your heart, for you have come down to see the battle."

Notes: David's brother doesn't acknowledge and face his own fear; instead he tries to tear down David's faith:

- Angry with David & questions David – why are you really here?
- Calls him irresponsible & demeans who David is and what he does.
- Presumes to know David's motives – accusing him of having selfish, evil motives

Giant #1: The first giant we face is the voice of the fearful & accusing right beside us!

b. **2nd Giant:** Trying to be like someone else, even someone worthy of admiration

1 Samuel 17:38-39 (ESV)

(38) Then Saul clothed David with his armor. He put a helmet of bronze on his head and clothed him with a coat of mail, (39) and David strapped his sword over his armor. And he tried in vain to go, for he had not tested them. Then David said to Saul, "I cannot go with these, for I have not tested them." So David put them off.

Notes: Comparison is a killer. It cripples us with unrealistic expectations, & undermines our confidence.

c. **3rd Giant:** Goliath - the primary giant that must be faced & overcome

*Don't sleep on the fact that David identified the real enemy – many of us are distracted by the other giants and live in ignorance or denial about the real giant that needs to be slayed.

1 Samuel 17:4-7 (ESV)

(4) And there came out from the camp of the Philistines a champion named Goliath of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span. (5) He had a helmet of bronze on his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail, and the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of bronze. (6) And he had bronze armor on his legs, and a javelin of bronze slung between his shoulders. (7) The shaft of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and his spear's head weighed six hundred shekels of iron. And his shield-bearer went before him.

Notes: (These numbers are the most conservative estimates): Goliath - about 9'9" tall. Goliath's armor - weighed about 125 pounds. Goliath's weapon the long spear had a 15-pound iron tip!

1 Samuel 17:8-10 (ESV)

(8) He stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, "Why have you come out to draw up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not servants of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me. (9) 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." (10) And the Philistine said, "I defy the ranks of Israel this day. Give me a man, that we may fight together."

Notes: He didn't just look impressive, he sounded intimidating: Arrogant, defiant, terrifying!

2) David's weapons – past preparation, using what he has available, His God

a. 1st Weapon: Past preparation

*It is devastating to watch people wait till a huge giant shows up, and then look around for help wondering what to do.

David had been preparing for this his whole life, even though he never knew it . . .

1 Samuel 17:34-36 (ESV)

(34) But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep sheep for his father. And when there came a lion, or a bear, and took a lamb from the flock, (35) I went after him and struck him and delivered it out of his mouth. And if he arose against me, I caught him by his beard and struck him and killed him. (36) Your servant has struck down both lions and bears, and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, for he has defied the armies of the living God."

1 Samuel 16:18 (ESV)

One of the young men answered, "Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, who is skillful in playing, a man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a man of good presence, and the LORD is with him."

Notes: Worship God today, Protect today's sheep, and fight today's lion! - Then you'll be equipped for tomorrow's Giant!

b. 2nd Weapon: Using what he has available to him

1 Samuel 17:40 (ESV)

Then he took his staff in his hand and chose five smooth stones from the brook and put them in his shepherd's pouch. His sling was in his hand, and he approached the Philistine.

Notes: He moved on from trying the weapons of Saul, instead embracing the weapons he knew best! His staff, his pouch, and his sling – then he approached the giant!

What you have is enough: So, take stock & use every weapon in your bag. Think how dumb David must have felt taking a stick to a sword fight. Actually this ended up being his best weapon – it distracted Goliath from the fact that He was the one who was out-gunned!

c. 3rd Weapon: His God

1 Samuel 17:37 (ESV)

And David said, "The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." And Saul said to David, "Go, and the LORD be with you!"

Notes: This shows me that David already understands what we talked about the last few weeks: God is with him & his bigger than the obstacles he faces.

3) David's advantages

We always think of this as an underdog story, but underdogs have more advantages than we think!

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| a. David - faster & nimbler | Goliath - slow & plodding |
| b. David - aerial assault | Goliath - ground troops |
| i. Basically, Goliath brought a knife to a gunfight! | |
| c. David - Clear-sighted perspective | Goliath – underestimated his enemy |

1 Samuel 17:43-47 (ESV)

(43) And the Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. (44) The Philistine said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and to the beasts of the field." (45) Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword and 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. (46) This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head. And I will give the dead bodies of the host of the Philistines this day to the birds of the air and to the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, (47) and that all this assembly may know that the LORD saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the LORD's, and he will give you into our hand."

Notes: David saw Goliath for what he was, and still knew - God's got this! David understood that picking on God's people is picking on God

Conclusion: Our fight won't look exactly like David's. Hebrews 11:33-34 gives several different examples of people having faith to fight: maybe we'll kill some giants, or maybe we stand firm in the face of attack . . .

- Daniel & his friends' had a similar perspective: Maybe God will save us & maybe he won't, but we're not bowing down to the enemy!
- Whatever the giant you face, the realities are the same. You need to . . .
 - Know the giants you face
 - Use the weapons you have
 - Recognize the advantages of an underdog

Homework: We have weapons & advantages too – Read Ephesians 6:10-18

Next Week: Faith to Endure