



# gracefellowship

Goliath *Must* Fall  
March 21, 2021  
Grace and Giants

Today we are wrapping up our series called Goliath *Must* Fall. We have been using a book by that name, written by Louie Giglio to give us some source material in learning how to deal with giants we face in our lives. The shepherd boy David leaned into the power of God when everyone else cowered in fear and God gave him victory over Goliath. Here's one thing we haven't talked about yet in this series- David's victory became everyone's victory! He had told Goliath when he came out to fight him, "Today I'm going to strike you down and cut off your head!" But then he turned to the army of the Philistines and yelled out, "This very day I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds and the wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel."

When Goliath fell the army of Israel was energized and pursued the Philistines and won a huge victory! David's victory over Goliath meant victory for Israel. I think we can say the same thing today about the giants we face. Finding victory over our giants gives hope to others who are struggling with giants. When Jesus sets you free and you begin walking with renewed passion and focus, your loved ones experience freedom. When you walk in freedom from giants you have been plagued by others in our church start to get the sense they can also find freedom through Christ. That's why it's important to share our stories! Your victory, through the power of Jesus at work in your life, can open doors for others to seek Jesus and find hope and healing in Him.

- If you have a story to share of overcoming through the power of Jesus we would love for you to share that with us. One of the best ways we can make that available to encourage people is by recording your story. We would love to capture some stories on video that we can share publicly and encourage others that there is hope for them over their giants! Please let us know if you have a story you can share.

But let's ask a difficult question today:  
**What happens if my giant doesn't fall?**

What if anger and fear and comfort continue to be things you struggle with?  
What happens if you continue to face rejection?  
What if you relapse in your addiction?

I want to try to tackle this question today because we need to be reminded of something we said at the beginning of this series: our giants are dead- Jesus accomplished that work on the cross- but they are still deadly. We need to know that our giants will always come for us, but that we can prevail over them through the power of Jesus in our life. And when times come that our giant gets a victory, we need to return to the power of the cross that provides grace for us to get back up and continue to follow Jesus.

David, the shepherd boy who defeated Goliath, wrote one of the most famous passages of Scripture we have. Read this with me:

**:: Psalm 23**

**1 The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.**

**2 He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters,**

**3 he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake.**

**4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

**5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.**

**6 Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

David knew what it meant to be a shepherd. In fact, that was what he pointed to when he talked to King Saul about going to fight Goliath. David pointed out the fact that as a shepherd he had provided protection for them in some hostile areas. He even had to kill a bear and a lion who had tried to steal his sheep. But in this Psalm, David says that God is his shepherd. And David tells us a lot about the characteristics of God here:

- God is a provider: David said he lacks nothing!
- God is a guide: He leads us to green pastures and quiet waters and along the right paths.
- God is a comforter: He carries a rod and a staff to go to battle against the things that might attack.
- God is a protector: He prepares a table for us in the presence of our enemies (we're going to talk more about that in a minute)
- God is a healer: He anoints our head with oil- this was to provide a protective barrier around a sheep's head to keep flies and insects from tormenting them. It brought peace to a sheep to have their head covered in oil by the shepherd.
- God is a lover: His goodness and love follow us all the days of our lives.

We could do a whole teaching series on this Psalm, but I want to focus in on one aspect of it today specifically as we deal with the question: What happens if my giant doesn't fall?

Here is the reality of life in our broken, sin-filled world: we will always struggle with sin and hardships and temptation and pain. And while Jesus has come to set us free from sin and all the damaging effects of sin, we will always have battles to face as we walk with Christ. It's one of the things that keeps us dependent on Him. In fact, here is what David wrote in Psalm 23, "You prepare a table for me in the presence of my enemies." God puts a whole table of provision right in front of you, not minus your enemies, but in their presence. When I think about a table of provision I think about Thanksgiving! Every delicious food known to man is on the table at Thanksgiving and you eat until your stuffed! Jesus sets a table like that right in the middle of our giants. But He doesn't invite them to eat! He invites you to sit with Him and enjoy His provision for you.

God never promises that our life as Christians will be easy and completely free of sin, temptation and persecution- but He did promise He would always be there to shepherd us through so that we can enjoy Him at all times. This is important for us to know. Just like when a lion or a bear came after David's sheep and he pursued them to kill them and rescue the sheep- Jesus does that with us! When we give in to sin and start back down a road that leads us away from the glory and goodness of Jesus, He comes after us in His grace.

Grace is God's gift to restore us when we lose to one of our giants. God pursues us and helps us get back up and return to right standing with Him. God knows how to take our trials and difficulties and use them for His glory.

**:: James 1:2-4**

**2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds,**

**3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.**

**4 Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.**

It's important for us to remember that we don't overcome our giants on our own. We need Jesus in our lives fighting for us and pursuing us in order to overcome our sin. Sin typically tries to isolate us from Jesus and from Christian community, but it's when we are struggling with our giants that we need to run toward Jesus the most.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer once wrote:

**"Sin demands to have a man by himself. It withdraws him from the community. The more isolated a person is, the more destructive will be the**

**power of sin over him, and the more deeply he becomes involved in it, the more disastrous is his isolation. Sin wants to remain unknown. It shuns the light. In the darkness of the unexpressed, it poisons the whole person.”**

So, if you find yourself coming under attack and losing the battle once again to a giant that has had power in your life, let me give you three questions to consider:

- 1. Am I acting in my power and not leaning on Jesus?**
- 2. Am I isolated from my community of faith?**
- 3. Am I in Christ?**

**:: 2 Corinthians 13:5-6**

**5 Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test?**

**6 And I trust that you will discover that we have not failed the test.**

The only way to have victory over the giants we face is to be in a relationship with Jesus where we surrender our lives to His lordship. It's never wrong to ask the question: Am I sure I'm in Christ? And then to let the Spirit of God affirm your position in Him or convict you that you are not His child and need to embrace Him. There are far too many "cultural Christians." You think because of your church attendance or your morality that you are in Christ, but the reality is you've never embraced the call of Jesus to give up everything to follow Him.

Here's the last thing I want to leave us with today.

**Not everything we face in life is a giant- but God's grace is sufficient for all our needs.**

Paul was shown an incredible revelation by God, but then he tells us in his letter to the Corinthians that in order to keep him from becoming conceited, he was given a "thorn in his flesh"- he called it a messenger of Satan to torment him. We don't know exactly that that thorn was, but it was something that troubled Paul immensely. In 2 Corinthians 12 we are told that Paul prayed three times for God to remove this difficulty from his life. And instead of finding victory over this thing in his life by it being completely removed, here is the answer Paul received:

**:: 2 Corinthians 12:9-10**

**9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.**

**10 That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in**

**hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.**

When you go through painful seasons and have trials and hardships or face persecution it is powerful to know that God's grace is sufficient for you! When you have a giant of sin in your life that you can't seem to completely shake, it is powerful to know that God's grace is sufficient for you.

Here's how I want to close this series- with a challenge:

We have seen the tactic Goliath used against the army of Israel; every day he would come out in the morning and he would come out in the evening and he would shout his defiance of the God of Israel. He woke the Israelites up with fear and he sent them to bed with fear. Our troubles and our hardships and our trials and our giants are there day and night. So we need to lean into our Shepherd for protection and victory day and night. Here's the challenge: For the next 40 days read Psalm 23 each morning and each evening!

Remind yourself over and over who your Shepherd is and what He is doing for you. Jesus is the good shepherd who takes care of His sheep. He is fighting your battles! When you look around like David and see your enemies all around you remember that Jesus has set a table for you right in their presence. You are in the presence of giants, but you are eating with a giant killer!

**:: 1 John 4:4**

**4 You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.**