



gracefellowship

Goliath Must Fall
February 14, 2021
Fear Must Fall

:: 1 Samuel 17:8-11 // 24

8 Goliath stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, “Why do you come out and line up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not the servants of Saul? Choose a man and have him come down to me.

9 If he is able to fight and kill me, we will become your subjects; but if I overcome him and kill him, you will become our subjects and serve us.”

10 Then the Philistine said, “This day I defy the armies of Israel! Give me a man and let us fight each other.”

11 On hearing the Philistine’s words, Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified.

24 Whenever the Israelites saw the man, they all fled from him in great fear.

- Pray

I don’t know what keeps you awake at night or what you face on a consistent basis that brings fear to your heart, but I know one thing is certain:

Fear is a giant we all face!

Fear is universally felt. Maybe you fear...

...not being able to pay your bills.

...losing someone you love.

...spending your life alone.

...getting sick- or making someone you love sick.

...screwing up your kids!

I know that fear is a giant we all face because the Bible is literally full of statements that tell us over and over again in different ways not to be afraid! I’ve never counted personally, but it is said that there are 365 times in the Bible we see some form of the phrase: “Do not be afraid.” One for every day of the year! God has to remind us and encourage us not to be afraid because fear is a giant that Satan loves to throw at us as a way to keep us from walking in the freedom

Jesus intends for us to have. Today we need to make the declaration that FEAR MUST FALL!

Now, I'm not promising you that after this message today you will find immediate freedom from the giant of fear, but I hope you'll at least discover some tools help you identify the giant and you'll learn how to see where Jesus is fighting on your behalf in the face of the giant of fear, as well as what your role is seeing this giant lose it's voice in your life.

The armies of Israel, led by King Saul, were under psychological attack and fear spread through the camp that was palpable. Goliath had set the terms for the war. Instead of it being the Israelites versus the Philistines, Goliath called out one man to be a representative for the whole nation.

Fear wants to make you think you are all alone.

Fear keeps saying:

No one else is standing with you.

No one else can identify with your struggle.

No one else has answers for your problems- they are too big.

You're all alone! And I'm bigger than you!

That was Goliath's battle tactic- and it was working!

:: 1 Samuel 17:16

16 For forty days the Philistine came forward every morning and evening and took his stand.

Does that sound familiar to anyone? Do you wake up in the morning hearing that voice of fear telling you it's going to be with you all day? Do you hear it right before you go to bed at night?

Illustration: When we moved here to become part of GFC it was an exciting time. But after about a month I started hearing a voice. The voice wasn't audible, but I heard it loud and clear! I would wake up in the morning and could hear, "You made a mistake. You shouldn't have come here. You're going to mess this up." Then during the day I could get busy and not think too much about it, but guess what happened as I was trying to go to sleep at night? The voice was back. It would take me forever to fall asleep as that voice would just beat me up and intimidated me. "You made a mistake. You shouldn't have come here. You're going to mess this up."

Do you ever hear that voice? Giants are relentless! They never take a day off! What are we supposed to do about it? We are going to come back and answer

that question in a few minutes.

Saul had been hearing the voice of Goliath every morning and every evening for 40 days and it sent him into his tent afraid to take action. In Saul's life we get a picture of 3 areas that can birth fear.

Fear Comes From:

1. Conditioning

This wasn't the first time Saul had cowered to the giant of fear. We aren't told much about Saul's childhood, so I'm going to speculate a little here, but there's a chance Saul was conditioned to fear by his upbringing. Maybe he had a parent who was risk averse and always tried to keep him safe at home. It could have been that his Dad was a worrier. In fact, in one story from Saul's life the family donkeys got lost and Saul went after them. When he and a friend searched for them for a few days he turned to his friend and said, we should just give up and go home, my Dad will stop worrying about the donkeys and start worrying that something has happened to us!

Right after that, the Saul went to the prophet Samuel to inquire about the donkeys. God told Samuel to take Saul and anoint him King of Israel. Saul couldn't believe it. In fact, when he made it back home he didn't tell anyone he was about to become King! On the day Samuel assembled the people of Israel together to name the new King it came time to inaugurate Saul, but he was nowhere to be found! When they started asking for him someone told them Saul was hiding among the luggage carts!

- Something in Saul's past had conditioned him to avoid the big moment. Fear pushed him back into hiding in his luggage and when Goliath came, fear pushed him to hide in his tent.
- Our conditioning can tell us to always play it safe; don't take the risk; keep people at arm's length; avoid conflict, etc...
- The environment you grew up in or something that happened to you along the journey of life may cause you to shrink back in the face of the giant of fear.

Fear also comes from:

2. Concealing

Much later in Saul's life he is again at war against the Philistines and Saul is terrified by their army (1 Samuel 28). The prophet Samuel has died and the Spirit of the Lord has left Saul because of his sin. Since he has no avenue to hear from God, in order to find out if he will be successful in battle, Saul disguises himself, concealing his identity, and goes to a medium. His fear caused him to dress up, go out in the cover of darkness and seek advice from someone whose profession

he had made illegal in Israel! Fear caused Saul to sin in the cover of darkness.

When we keep things concealed in the dark, fear has power over us. We make mistakes, we sin, but we don't confess and repent. Mostly because we feel embarrassed or ashamed of what we have done.

Fear causes us to conceal what we are feeling and struggling with so we won't get the help we need to overcome the giant.

Finally, fear comes from:

3. Controlling

When David comes into the camp and hears the taunts and blasphemous words of Goliath he steps up and says he will fight the giant. Saul immediately starts trying to control the situation.

First, he tells David that he can't fight- Goliath has been a warrior since he was a young man and David was nothing special from all appearances. In fact, when David stands in front of Goliath we are told that Goliath hates him because he was little more than a boy, glowing with health and handsome! (v 42)

When David tells King Saul he has done battle with lions and bears and has won, the king reconsiders- after all, no one else is willing to fight! But he wants to control the situation. He dresses David in his tunic and puts his armor and helmet on David. Now, here is something else we know about Saul from earlier in the book of 1 Samuel: Saul is a head taller than everyone else! This stuff wasn't going to fit David!

Did anyone ever get hand-me-downs from an older sibling or cousin that didn't fit, but your parents made you wear them anyway. You would be like, "Mom, I can't wear this to school; the other guys will beat the crap out of me for wearing this!"

David says the same thing, "I can't wear your stuff- I'm not used to them!"

Question: Do you feel like you need to be in control of everything? I get like that sometimes. I have perfectionist tendencies and I want everything done my way.

Trying to control everything and everyone is exhausting!

When you are a controller you fear all you can't control.

I had to come to a place this summer where I was dealing with a lot of anxiety because of how many people I knew who were really struggling in the middle of the pandemic. I knew of marriages that were falling apart; people who were having a hard time financially; people who were in a crisis of faith, etc...

And I just wanted to fix it all! I wanted control. But I quickly realized that I was not in control of any of it. A friend told me about an app called "Pause" that I used for weeks. Twice a day it prompted me to take a pause in my day and do some

meditating on God's truth. Over and over again it repeated this phrase: Jesus, I give everyone and everything to you! I give everyone and everything to you, Jesus." And it took me a little time, but slowly I started letting go of my need to be in control of people's problems and give things over to God in prayer.

So, we identify the root causes of our fear- if you're facing worry or anxiety or you're disheartened about something, fear is the culprit behind all those emotions and feelings. How, then, do we overcome fear?

The antidote to fear is faith!

"The opposite of fear is not being bold and courageous. The opposite of fear is faith." - Louie Giglio

(Nelson, put these two points on the same slide, please.)

In faith we lean into Jesus and we keep reminding ourselves that our God is bigger than our giants! What gave David eyes to see beyond the fear that held everyone else captive? Faith!

- David kept saying, "The Lord will rescue us..."; "The Lord will deliver you (Goliath) into my hands..."; "The Lord will give all of you (Philistines) into our hands."
- David had a faith in the power of his God to do what no person thought was possible. It wasn't just that David manned up in his own power and felt brave; David stood in faith and felt the power of God on his side!

So, to close up our time together today let me give you four things that Louie mentions in the book, *Goliath Must Fall*, that can help us stand in God's power against the giant of fear. What do you do when you hear the voice of the giant of fear over and over again coming against you?

1. Remind myself God is able.

If the giant of fear has gripped you for a long time and you're worked up into a mess of worry and anxiety and stress, it may take some time to see the giant ultimately fall. But God is able to bring this giant down. It's important to know that God often works through a process. That process begins with confession:

- Confession: God, I believe you are able to rescue me and I need you to fight for me and with me against my fear."
- Community: Get some people around you that you can talk openly with about what you're facing. Let them help you through the fight by praying for you, encouraging you and speaking truth into your life.

2. Keep my focus consistently on Jesus.

Our gaze needs to be fixed on Jesus. We are fixated on the thing that has our

focus. If you've lost sight of the power of Jesus to fight your giants it may be because you are so focused on the thing that is causing you to fear in the first place.

:: Psalm 16:8

8 I keep my eyes always on the LORD. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

If all you ever think about are the negative things that can happen or the challenging things facing you, you will never have time to lift your eyes and see the glory and majesty of Jesus- the giant killer!

3. Name the thing keeping you up at night.

You're anxious and stressed for a reason. Identify that specific thing, name it, write it down. Now, give it to Jesus! I love what Louie says in the book:

“We don't minimize the situation; we maximize our view of the only One who we can totally trust. We don't simply deny the problem we threatened by; we relocate it to the hands of the only One who can manage it well. And we leave it there as we close our eyes to sleep.” - Louie Giglio

4. I fill my mouth with praise.

This is so important for us to understand, so I hope you'll write it down.

If faith is the antidote to fear, the soundtrack of faith is worship!

If you want to see the giant of fear fall bring worship to the battle! Here's why: worry and worship can't occupy the same space!

:: James 3:9-11

9 With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness.

10 Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be.

11 Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring?

James is telling us that in one breath we praise and worship, then in the next breath we turn and curse other people. But you can't do both at the same time. And we shouldn't do both at all! That's why worship has to win out. When we worship we bring the presence and power of God into our circumstances.

When David went to battle against Goliath he didn't run to the battle lines yelling, "My name is David of Bethlehem, and you've offended me so you're going down, punk!"?

No! He said, "You come at me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come

against you with the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel.”

David invoked the Name of God; David brought worship to the battle lines- and the giant fell! Your giants can't stand up to the power of worship.

Read Scripture aloud // Sing at the top of your lungs // Pray with fervor // Keep the Name of Jesus on your lips! He is bigger than your giants! And He wants to see the giant of fear fall in your life.

- Pray