**Faithful Regardless**

*Facing Goliaths*

**1st Sam 16:23** “And it came to pass, when the evil spirit from God was upon Saul, that David took a harp, and played with his hand: so Saul was refreshed, and was well, and the evil spirit departed from him.”

David was filled with the Spirit of God,

v. 13 “and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David.”

Saul was not,

v. 14 “Now the Spirit of the Lord had departed from Saul.”

Saul was spiritually tormented void of the Spirit of the Lord,

David was filled with the Spirit of the Lord and was therefore able to minister to Saul.

It was not just the music, although David played skillfully.

It was the Spirit of the Lord upon him that brought peace, comfort and God’s presence into a dark and tormented environment.

Each of us who believe and call upon the Lord, have the Spirit of the Lord within us. (Eph 1:13)

We are surrounded by people in the world whose minds are set on things of the flesh, as a result they are void of peace. WE have the same Spirit of the Lord that David had and because of that we have life and peace.

**Romans 8:6“**The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace.”

the fruit of the spirit?

love, joy, peace,

These are things that this troubled world desperately needs and they can only come from the spirit of the Lord, in those who love by the Spirit.

Today we are going to read about David and Goliath.

One of the most famous stories in the entire Bible.

This story is so familiar to us, that we run the risk of missing the opportunity to learn something new from it.

What is the Lord speaking to you in this chapter that perhaps you haven’t heard before?

**1st Samuel 17:4-50**

**4**A champion named Goliath, who was from Gath, came out of the Philistine camp. His height was six cubits and a span. **5**He had a bronze helmet on his head and wore a coat of scale armor of bronze weighing five thousand shekels; **6**on his legs he wore bronze greaves, and a bronze javelin was slung on his back. **7**His spear shaft was like a weaver’s rod, and its iron point weighed six hundred shekels. His shield bearer went ahead of him.

The spear head’s weight was almost 17 lbs.

Goliath’s scale armor alone weighed at least 125lbs.

**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.

**12**Now David was the son of an Ephrathite named Jesse, who was from Bethlehem in Judah. Jesse had eight sons, and in Saul’s time he was very old. **13**Jesse’s three oldest sons had followed Saul to the war: The firstborn was Eliab; the second, Abinadab; and the third, Shammah. **14**David was the youngest. The three oldest followed Saul, **15**but David went back and forth from Saul to tend his father’s sheep at Bethlehem.

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

**17**Now Jesse said to his son David, “Take this ephahof roasted grain and these ten loaves of bread for your brothers and hurry to their camp. **18**Take along these ten cheeses to the commander of their unit. See how your brothers are and bring back some assurance[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Samuel%2017&version=NIV#fen-NIV-7637e)] from them. **19**They are with Saul and all the men of Israel in the Valley of Elah, fighting against the Philistines.”

*[The valley is still there, it’s about ½ west of Jerusalem. It’s filled with smooth stones.]*

**20**Early in the morning David left the flock in the care of a shepherd, loaded up and set out, as Jesse had directed. He reached the camp as the army was going out to its battle positions, shouting the war cry. **21**Israel and the Philistines were drawing up their lines facing each other. **22**David left his things with the keeper of supplies, ran to the battle lines and asked his brothers how they were. **23**As he was talking with them, Goliath, the Philistine champion from Gath, stepped out from his lines and shouted his usual defiance, and David heard it. **24**Whenever the Israelites saw the man, they all fled from him in great fear.

{David visits the battlefield)

**25**Now the Israelites had been saying, “Do you see how this man keeps coming out? He comes out to defy Israel. The king will give great wealth to the man who kills him. He will also give him his daughter in marriage and will exempt his family from taxes in Israel.”

**26**David asked the men standing near him, “What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and removes this disgrace from Israel? Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?”

**27**They repeated to him what they had been saying and told him, “This is what will be done for the man who kills him.”

**28**When Eliab, David’s oldest brother, heard him speaking with the men, he burned with anger at him and asked, “Why have you come down here? And with whom did you leave those few sheep in the wilderness? I know how conceited you are and how wicked your heart is; you came down only to watch the battle.”

*[David’s brother was either very jealous or hateful toward him]*

**29**“Now what have I done?” said David. “Can’t I even speak?” **30**He then turned away to someone else and brought up the same matter, and the men answered him as before. **31**What David said was overheard and reported to Saul, and Saul sent for him.

**32**David said to Saul, “Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him.”

**33**Saul replied, “You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a young man, and he has been a warrior from his youth.”

**34**But David said to Saul, “Your servant has been keeping his father’s sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, **35**I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. **36**Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. **37**The Lord who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine.”

Saul said to David, “Go, and the Lord be with you.”

**38**Then Saul dressed David in his own tunic. He put a coat of armor on him and a bronze helmet on his head. **39**David fastened on his sword over the tunic and tried walking around, because he was not used to them.

*[ Instead of Saul going into battle himself, he tried to make David wear his armor, and take his sword, it did not fit or work for David]*

“I cannot go in these,” he said to Saul, “because I am not used to them.” So he took them off. **40**Then he took his staff in his hand, chose five smooth stones from the stream, put them in the pouch of his shepherd’s bag and, with his sling in his hand, approached the Philistine.

**41**Meanwhile, the Philistine, with his shield bearer in front of him, kept coming closer to David. **42**He looked David over and saw that he was little more than a boy, glowing with health and handsome, and he despised him. **43**He said to David, “Am I a dog, that you come at me with sticks?” And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. **44**“Come here,” he said, “and I’ll give your flesh to the birds and the wild animals!”

**45**David said to the Philistine, “You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. **46**This day the Lord will deliver you into my hands, and I’ll strike you down and cut off your head. 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.

*[ the same threat Goliath made to David]*

**47**All those gathered here will know that *it is not by sword or spear that the Lord saves; for the battle is the Lord’s,* and he will give all of you into our hands.”

**48**As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him. **49**Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell facedown on the ground.

**50**So David triumphed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone; without a sword in his hand he struck down the Philistine and killed him.”

I want us to ask ourselves after reading this chapter,

* What is your Goliath?
* What are Saul’s armor and sword?
* What is your stone?

1. What is your Goliath?

Your Goliath is probably not a Giant person who wants to kill you and *“give your flesh to the birds and the wild animals*”.

Your Goliath is probably a seemingly impossible situation, a health crisis, fear, depression or an adversary that directly threatens you and is imposing and intimidating.

Your Goliath could be something in your life that seems to represent your defeat and demise. It is something that others fear as well and most people run from or succumb to.

Whatever it is in your life, you need to approach it in faith and courage, not fear and doubt. God is bigger and more powerful than any enemy we face and it’s His battle not ours.

#### **Eph 6:10** “Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.”

1. What are Saul’s armor and sword in your life?

Saul’s armor is representative of the methods, practices and traditions of someone else. Perhaps they worked for someone else’s battle years ago, but they are not yours and are not only ineffective, but cumbersome.

They may make you feel important or part of something greater than you are, but they are not what God has for you and will actually make your more vulnerable to the enemy not more protected.

Saul’s armor is the temptation we all have to do things our way not God’s way. To rely on manmade strength and methods instead of the Lord’s.

Sometimes we grasp for external things that make us appear stronger and more formidable than we really are.

Sometimes we hide behind armor or defense mechanisms or use our own weapons to protect ourselves from harm.

God wants us to go forth in battle without these things, even if we appear small and weak compared to our adversary.

**2nd Cor. 12:9-10 “**His strength is made perfect in weakness... For when I am weak, then I am strong.”

1. What is your stone?

Your stone represents your faith in God. It’s the thing that God uses against all odds to bring you victory. It is the thing that seems like no match for the weaponry that it is coming against you, yet proves effective and victorious despite its appearance.

Your stone is faith in action. It does not need much, but it is powerful enough to bring down any Goliath.

David could have collected “five large rocks” or “five jagged stones”. Instead he only grabbed five smooth stones, and only needed one. He was both prepared and faith-filled.

It wasn’t just the sling and stone that killed Goliath, it was the power of God. God used it, but only because of David’s faith.

If David was relying solely on his slingshot marksmanship the story would have likely ending differently.

David had faced adversaries before. He told Saul that he had fought off both Lions and Bears who tried to steal his sheep.

V. 36-37 “**36**Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. **37**The Lord who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine.”

David gives full credit to God for his victory over these wild animals not himself, and has learned how to rely on and operate in faith (trust) in Him.

In fact his message to Saul was not “*trust me”* because I am a great warrior, but I “*TRUST God*”, because he has proven Himself to me in times past.

This is the key to David’s victory and could be the key to ours.

David had no sword, or spear, or javelin, or helmet or breastplate.

Goliath had giant versions of all these things.

But David came in the power, protection, and faith in the name of the Lord.

v. 45 “You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty”.

Many of us are facing a Goliath even today. You are experiencing very serious threats in your life.

Perhaps your Job, Your Family, Your Health (both mental and physical), your finances perhaps even your Spiritual life is under attack.

* Our normal response is to do all we can do to rectify the situation or protect yourself.
* God wants to give you the victory, but only if you trust Him for it not your own strength.
* He will give you the wisdom, power and courage to overcome your Goliath.
* He will provide a way where there is no way, or give you an abundance of grace to endure it.

Your temptation. Will be to doubt God and try to figure it out yourself. Don’t fall into that trap.

Proverbs 3:5&6 *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your paths.”*

*[ Health challenge, fireman ladder story. ]*

Proverbs 3:5&6 *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your paths.”*

Think of the Goliaths you are facing right now,

Ask God to help you trust Him for the victory.

Be willing to relinquish your own methods and understanding and fully trust in Him.

*v. 47 “…it is not by sword or spear that the Lord saves; for the battle is the Lord’s!”*

Turn over your fear, anxiousness and doubt to God. He will fight for you.

**In Exodus, the children of Israel were being chased down after fleeing from Egypt, not by a Goliath but by the most powerful army in the world, complete with chariots and horses.**

**Moses’ message to them, is the same message to us, no matter how many, or what kind of enemies we face…**

**Ex 14:13-14** “Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. **14**The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still.”