

Who's Battle, Yours or HIS?

Reading: 1 Samuel 17 – David vs. Goliath

For sure you have read or heard about the story of David killing the giant, Goliath. If you think this is just a story in a book, well this is a true story and it happened during the time of King Saul as written in the Bible.



[Source](#)

Reflection:

What are the GOLIATHS (challenges/trials) you encounter in your life today?

1 Samuel 17:4-7

Then Goliath, a Philistine champion from Gath, came out of the Philistine ranks to face the forces of Israel. He was over nine feet tall! He wore a bronze helmet, and his bronze coat of mail weighed 125 pounds. He also wore bronze leg armor, and he carried a bronze javelin on his shoulder. The shaft of his spear was as heavy and thick as a weaver's beam, tipped with an iron spearhead that weighed 15 pounds. His armor bearer walked ahead of him carrying a shield.

Goliath's bronze coat was even heavier than me. He is like carrying another person. He must really be a one big giant man. Who can survive fighting him?

Are your trials in life like that? When you think about it, do you feel like it is hopeless and you are already losing?

What can FEAR do to you?

1 Samuel 17:8-11

Goliath stood and shouted a taunt across to the Israelites. "Why are you all coming out to fight?" he called. "I am the Philistine champion, but you are only the servants of Saul. Choose one man to come down here and fight me! If he kills me, then we will be your slaves. But if I kill him, you will be our slaves! I defy the armies of Israel today! Send me a man who will fight me!" When Saul and the Israelites heard this, they were terrified and deeply shaken.

1 Samuel 17:16 - For forty days the Philistine came forward every morning and evening and took his stand.

1 Samuel 17:24 - Whenever the Israelites saw the man, they all fled from him in great fear.

For more than one month, the Israelites had to face the same fear every day. They can't do anything except to be terrified and ran away from Goliath. Have you been in the same situation, you can hardly sleep and doesn't want to wake up the next morning because of great fear and worries?

What was their focus why the Israelites were in great fear? To whom were they depending for strength and victory? This is the same question we can ask ourselves every time we encounter problems and challenges in life. If we let fear get into our mind, we will be paralyzed just like the Israelites. We can't think and act out properly to overcome our problems. We just keep running away.

How can you FACE your GOLIATHS?

During this battle, David was not in the battle field. He was taking care of their flock when his father, Jesse asked him to bring food to his brothers in the army.

1 Samuel 17:26

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?"

1 Samuel 17:28

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."

When David saw Goliath, you can never see any trace of fear in him. He knew who God is and what God can do for the Israelites. His brother could have thought of him as conceited and wicked, but David was not focused on himself.

However, this is a reminder for us. Sometimes, we get so conceited and be full of pride that we feel we don't need help from anyone especially from God. We think we can do it on our own, when the truth is we could not. We need to have the right mindset and attitude as we face the giants in our lives.

To face your goliaths in life, you must first overcome fear. How? Change your focus. Focus on God and not on yourself.

David faced Goliath with confidence in God. What can a little boy really do against a giant? But God was with him.

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." (1 Samuel 17:45)

How do you PREPARE for your battles?

1 Samuel 17:32-37

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

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.”

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, 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. 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. 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.”

Sometimes, we wonder why we need to do certain things in our life. For example, you were sent for training by your manager and you feel at that moment that the training has no relevance to your current work. You might even think that it would just be a waste of time. Months passed, an opportunity opened for you because of that training you went through.

David, before he became a king, he was a shepherd boy. If David will have an option, he would have preferred to immediately become a king. However, **God sees the bigger picture**. David had to go through a lot of trainings as he would be fighting not just a giant when he becomes a king.

God prepared David through lion and bear to fight Goliath. Just like David, God never let us face trials in life without preparing us. He will always enable us to handle relationship, career, financial, health problems, etc. as long as we put our trust in Him and continue to depend on Him.

Are you doing the RIGHT thing?

1 Samuel 17:38-39

Then Saul dressed David in his own tunic. He put a coat of armor on him and a bronze helmet on his head. David fastened on his sword over the tunic and tried walking around, because he was not used to them. “I cannot go in these,” he said to Saul, “because I am not used to them.” So he took them off.

They say that if there’s an easier way, why go through the trouble of doing things the hard way? Nothing is wrong with the easy way as long as it **does not compromise** the right values you believe in. This world can offer us a lot of options to solve our problems but if it is not right with God, **we should learn to say “No.”** Trust that God’s way is always the best way. Our actions will always have bad consequences if we do things that compromise our walk with God.

David would have fell down even before Goliath hits him with the armor that was put on him. Even before he fought, he could have been defeated already. This goes the same with how we handle our trials with compromises.

How are you USING what is ENTRUSTED to you?

1 Samuel 17:40

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.

If there's one of the many things that David was good at, it was using a slingshot.

God has entrusted us with so many things that we fail to use them properly and wisely – treasure, time, talents/skills, relationships, influence, intellect, wisdom. How have we been maximizing these when we face our own trials in life?

As God enables us to fight battles, He also equips us. We need to do our own part just like David as he slung that stone and struck Goliath's forehead. The rest, we leave it to God. God will be the one that will make our trials fall, face down on the ground just like what He did to Goliath.

Have you been using your own slingshot? Or, are you so focused on what you don't have thinking that could help you solve your problems?

Who's battle, yours or GOD's?

1 Samuel 17:46-47

"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. 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."

The most important thing that we have to remember, our battles are not our own. When we face each battle, God is going before us, fighting for us. Our battle is also His battle. We are not alone as long as we let God fight for us.

David trusted that God will bring down Goliath with just a mere stone. After all, what can really a stone do to a giant? It could just be like a poke to him.

How David responded was very different on how the Israelites army did. David knew that it was also God's battle. The Israelites thought it was a battle they have to fight on their own.

How have you been facing your problems and trials in life? Have you ever let God face it for you?

There was a time when our family had a lot of debt to pay. My father had less than a year then he will have no work anymore. I was thinking how we can continue to pay our debts. God impressed to me to pray for an onshore assignment in Canada. I was thinking at that time that would really help us in our financial need. However, I didn't know if there would be a possible opportunity. But still, I prayed. And

indeed, God made it happen. There were fears that it might be cancelled but then I told God that time that if it was His will for me to go, nothing will hinder His plan for me. And so, I just let God took care of things that were beyond my control.

God does not want us to feel defeated. The moment we believed what Jesus did for us and accepted Him in our life, we have become more than conquerors. We have become victors because Jesus has overcome the greatest battle and that is to be eternally separated from God.

These battles that we have now are momentary battles only. There is nothing that God can't win for us when He already won the greatest battle for us through the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Today, I pray that you would face your trials and problems in life like David. Do your part but focus on what God can do and not on what you can or can't.

Prayer:

You can say this prayer as you face your battles in life.

Dear God,

Thank you for giving me the strength to face each day no matter how hard it could get. I ask that you continue to sustain me that I will never give up. Help me to always focus on You and not on my own strength. Remind me always how great, good and powerful You are that there is nothing or no one that can defeat You. I entrust to you my trials knowing that there is nothing You can't handle. Thank you for the hope and the peace that overcomes my fears and worries. This I pray in Jesus' Name, Amen.

***"I can do everything through Jesus who gives me strength."
Philippians 4:13***

Song:

Whom shall I fear? (God of Angel Armies) by Chris Tomlin

Verse 1:

You hear me when I call
You are my morning song
Though darkness fills the night
It cannot hide the light

Whom shall I fear?

Verse 2:

You crush the enemy
Underneath my feet
You are my Sword and Shield
Though troubles linger still

Whom shall I fear?

Chorus:

I know Who goes before me
I know Who stands behind
The God of angel armies
Is always by my side
The One who reigns forever
He is a Friend of mine
The God of angel armies
Is always by my side

Verse 3:

My strength is in Your name
For You alone can save
You will deliver me
Yours is the victory

Whom shall I fear?

Whom shall I fear?

Bridge:

And nothing formed against me shall stand
You hold the whole world in your hands
I'm holding onto Your promises
You are faithful
You are faithful

And nothing formed against me shall stand
You hold the whole world in your hands
I'm holding onto Your promises
You are faithful
You are faithful
You are faithful

Chorus:

I know Who goes before me

I know Who stands behind

The God of angel armies

Is always by my side

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