

Going Deeper

Your weekly guide to understanding God with others

David - Part 1

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Introduction

The narrative of David and Goliath is a well-known account of the underdog winning over impossible odds. Yet there is more to the story. David recognises the situation for what it is: an illegitimate assault against the army of the 'Living God'. Despite his youth, lack of military experience and rudimentary equipment, David introduces Goliath to the 'Giant Slayer' – God Almighty. No matter what your giant looks like, "if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you." (Romans 8:11)

Read 1 Samuel 17:1-51

Discuss

The location of the battle was the Promised Land, that is, land promised to the descendants of Abraham as part of God's covenant. This section of land had been allocated to the Israelite tribe of Judah (Joshua 15:20-21, 35). This was not just a physical inheritance, but a physical expression of a spiritual inheritance.

1. What do you understand your spiritual inheritance to be?
2. What do you believe is the physical expression (or evidence) of that spiritual inheritance in your life (in areas such as relationships, raising children, health, work ethics, overcoming, coping with change, etc)?
3. Looking ahead, what differences do you hope to see in the future?

The Promised Land included valleys, mountains, fertile plains and rocky desert terrain, and the Israelites were to inhabit it as they could fill it. It was not all easy land to inhabit, and they also had to overcome the defiance of a giant-sized enemy.

Note the response of Saul and Israel in 1 Samuel 17:11. Consider this in the light of God's promise to Moses, which was reiterated to Joshua and all the

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people of Israel: “Only be strong and courageous” (Joshua 1: 3, 5-7a, 9).

David viewed Goliath in the context of God Almighty, the God who gave the Promised Land to Israel. Anything that stands between you and God’s promise (as written in His word) is just like this Goliath. Like David, we could – and should – trust that God Almighty is infinitely larger than any giant that may confront us.

Consider 1 John 4:4

4. Discuss how this can become a reality in everyday life and when faced with giants.
5. David displayed the attributes of knowing he was anointed (1 Sam 16:13), faithfulness (1 Sam 17:17-20), boldness (1 Sam 17:26b), reliance on God (1 Sam 17:37), and faith (1 Sam 17:45). Discuss how or why these attributes may grow to maturity in the way we approach our giants.
6. David showed a deep strength in ignoring his brother, Eliab (1 Sam 17:28-30). When confronting giants, we may experience feelings of doubt or opposition from naysayers. Why is it important to overcome the battle in our thinking as a first step to defeating the giants we confront?
7. David was able to ignore his brother’s ridicule because he knew who he was and whose he was. He defined himself in the light of God’s promise to him and his people. How do you define yourself? How can we stop defining ourselves within the limitations of our self-image, experiences, age, regrets, etc?

Respond

Taking hold of the promises of God, and living with the blessings of those promises, is knowing your salvation as a believer and understanding your relationship as a child of Father God. The victory won by Christ means that the enemy has no legal right to rob us of that spiritual inheritance that begins in this life and continues into eternity. Let us not be ignorant of the devil’s ways – he prowls around like a roaring lion (1 Peter 5:8-9) – but if we abide in Father God through Christ, all the devil can do is run to the end of his chain and bark. But we need to occupy the Promise Land and overcome the enemy when he tries to stop us.

What are you willing to change to apply God’s promises to those areas of your life that need healing or growth?