

# SERMON NOTES

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## GROWING THROUGH CONFLICT Studies in the Life of David

### I SAMUEL 17 - "Conflict With a Giant"

#### INTRODUCTION:

There comes a time in every one of our lives when we are confronted by a threat that is twice our size. Whether it be, "cancer", "bankruptcy", or a "failed marriage", that unexpected giant that threatens to undo us, we will all one day face.

It's been said "What life does to us is often determined by what life finds in us".

Our character is most clearly seen by how we handle a crisis.

Today we look at one of the most familiar and loved stories in the Bible! . . .

The story of David and Goliath.

We learn how we can conquer our most painful giants. .

1. First let's look at the story deriving some lessons for our lives!
2. Then we'll look at the secret of David's courage and strength in his conflict with the giant.

Why were Saul and the men of Israel so beaten down and filled with fear?  
(vs. 11, 24)

They focused on the bigness of the giant, and not on the Greatness of God.

They lost their perspective!

They lost their confidence!

They lost their peace, and the joy of victory!

How about you?

When we take a look at David we find quite a contrast!

David was confident, he had a proper perspective, and he was not fearful. His focus was on God not Goliath, and he experienced the joy of victory.

What made the difference in David's life was his "FAITH".

What kind of faith did David have?

1. "It was born in secret and nursed in solitude"

David was a man of faith because he spend many hours in quiet meditation and fellowship with God!

Playing his harp and worshiping God!

Psa. 19, 23

Public victories are first won in our private devotions!

2. It had been exercised by past conflicts"

The lion and bear!

David's faith became strengthened by use!

How about you? Are you exercising your faith?

Step out!

How?

Teach

Give

Go

Serve

3. "It was pure in its motive".

Why did David crave victory?

Not for money!

Not Saul's daughter

Not tax free!

Not to make his name great!

The answer (vs. 46):

"That all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel"

I wonder how many battles we have lost because our motives have been selfish?

We've prayed with impure motives to bolster our reputation, to make life easier, to prove we are right or, to satisfy selfish desires.

As you face your giant, is your motive for victory pure?

Do you desire God's glory alone?

4. "It was a faith that had God alone as its object" (vs. 47 , 50)

David resisted the reasoning of the flesh V 30

David used a sling and a stone, but his faith was in God!  
(Pro 3:5)

Heb "He saw Him who was invisible"

How?

By faith!

No armor but breastplate of righteousness.

No sword but, the sword of the Spirit, God's Word.

(Pro. 3:5) "Trust in the Lord"

David said (Psa 11:1) "In the Lord I put my trust.

David speaking (Psa 44:5-8)

5. Through thee will we push down our enemies:  
through thy name will we tread them under that rise  
up against us.
6. For I will not trust in my bow, neither shall my sword  
save me.
7. But thou hast saved us from our enemies, and hast  
put them to shame that hated us.
8. In God we boast all the day long, and praise thy  
name forever. Selah.

(Psa 56:1) "In God have I put my trust, I will not be afraid  
what man can do unto me!"

What are you trusting in?

We all trust something or someone!

5. It was faith with action (vs. 48)

David "ran", he put feet to his faith".

Perhaps you're facing a giant right now!

A giant of fear, bitterness, jealousy, lust,  
depression, loneliness, grief, pain.

Giants are tough!

it's easy to talk about how to handle them when they're miles  
away. But it's something else when you find yourself nose to  
knee with one on your own doorstep.

We need to remember, "that no giant is bigger than God!"

That's not to say that our battles will be won as easy as David's  
was. Even David would still have to fight bigger giants than  
Goliath and the victories wouldn't come as easy!

Faith does not keep us from the battles.

It brings us through the battles!

Our giants must always be compared to God not ourselves!

We need to:

1. Spend time in secret fellowship with God!
2. Exercise our faith every opportunity we get!
3. Purify our motives and seek God's glory!
4. Make God the sole object of our faith!