

February 1, 2004
AM Service
Patchogue Church of the Nazarene

“David Kills Goliath”

1 Sam 17:32-51 NLT

"Don't worry about a thing," David told Saul. "I'll go fight this Philistine!"

33 "Don't be ridiculous!" Saul replied. "There is no way you can go against this Philistine. You are only a boy, and he has been in the army since he was a boy!"

34 But David persisted. "I have been taking care of my father's sheep," he said. "When a lion or a bear comes to steal a lamb from the flock, 35 I go after it with a club and take the lamb from its mouth. If the animal turns on me, I catch it by the jaw and club it to death. 36 I have done this to both lions and bears, and I'll do it to this pagan Philistine, too, for he has defied the armies of the living God! 37 The LORD who saved me from the claws of the lion and the bear will save me from this Philistine!"

Saul finally consented. "All right, go ahead," he said. "And may the LORD be with you!"

38 Then Saul gave David his own armor--a bronze helmet and a coat of mail. 39 David put it on, strapped the sword over it, and took a step or two to see what it was like, for he had never worn such things before. "I can't go in these," he protested. "I'm not used to them." So he took them off again. 40 He picked up five smooth stones from a stream and put them in his shepherd's bag. Then, armed only with his shepherd's staff and sling, he started across to fight Goliath.

41 Goliath walked out toward David with his shield bearer ahead of him, 42 sneering in contempt at this ruddy-faced boy. 43 "Am I a dog," he roared at David, "that you come at me with a stick?" And he cursed David by the names of his gods. 44 "Come over here, and I'll give your flesh to the birds and wild animals!" Goliath yelled.

45 David shouted in reply, "You come to me with sword, spear, and javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD Almighty--the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. 46 Today the LORD will conquer you, and I will kill you and cut off your head. And then I will give the dead bodies of your men to the birds and wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel! 47 And everyone will know that the LORD does not need weapons to rescue his people. It is his battle, not ours. The LORD will give you to us!"

48 As Goliath moved closer to attack, David quickly ran out to meet him. 49 Reaching into his shepherd's bag and taking out a stone, he hurled it from his sling and hit the Philistine in the forehead. The stone sank in, and Goliath stumbled and fell face downward to the ground. 50 So David triumphed over the Philistine giant with only a stone and sling. And since he had no sword, 51 he ran over and pulled Goliath's sword from its sheath. David used it to kill the giant and cut off his head.

The Philistine army, prepared for battle, camped on one side of a valley and the Israelites camped on the other. So the Philistines and Israelites faced each other on opposite hills, with the valley between them.

Then Goliath, a Philistine champion from Gath, a giant of a man, came out of the Philistine ranks to face the forces of Israel. Goliath stood and shouted across to the

Israelites, "Do you need a whole army to settle this? Choose someone to fight for you, and I will represent the Philistines. We will settle this dispute in single combat! If your man is able to kill me, then we will be your slaves. But if I kill him, you will be our slaves! I defy the armies of Israel! Send me a man who will fight with me!" (This was actually practiced in that day. One man from each army would be selected. They would fight and the winner would mean victory for that whole nation. Perhaps Goliath wanted to fight Saul, the king of Israel himself. Imagine doing that today. We could have President Bush fight Osama Bin Laden. I think he could take him! ...with the Lord's help. And that would mean an agreement to end terrorism.)

When Saul and the Israelites heard this challenge from the giant, they were terrified and deeply shaken. We all have our "giants" to face and defeat. Habits, situations, circumstances and the anger, worry, fear that comes from those situations. Our battle is against sin and there may be one particular sin that is a major battle for you. From this incident with David and Goliath we find some principles that can help us in our battles.

1. Face problems don't run from them. Don't deny there are problems; don't pretend they don't exist but face them. We have a tendency to run from our problems. Saul and the Israelites were afraid. Only David was willing to face Goliath. How do you react to trouble that comes into your life? Do you run from it rather than come up against it? Maybe sometimes you feel like this [show picture]. Our problem, seems insurmountable. The little guy in the picture is not running but facing his problem. He has a lot of faith (faith is saying, "Lord I will face my problem but if you don't help me I'm dead").

2. Faith in God will overcome problems. This doesn't mean that you do nothing. You must trust that God is with you but you must also do the things God wants you to do. (In the D.R. did cement work. First had to build a frame then cement could be poured into the frame. We need to trust in the Spirit of God as we face our troubles but we must do the things that will allow God to pour out His Spirit into our lives. Spiritual disciplines like worship, Bible reading, prayer, obedience is the form in which God Spirit can come to us.

It is vital what weapons you use as you fight. David was given worldly weapons and armor. And he said, "I can't go in these, I'm not used to them." So he took them off again. We are not to fight our battles with the weapons of the world (denial, anger, selfishness, evil, retaliation, bitterness, resentment, fear, worry, cowardice). Rather take up weapons of faith, hope, love, truth. We need the weapon and armor described in Eph 6:10b-18 NLT - Be strong with the Lord's mighty power. 11 Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies and tricks of the Devil. 12 For we are not fighting against people made of flesh and blood, but against the evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against those mighty powers of darkness who rule this world, and against wicked spirits in the heavenly realms.

13 Use every piece of God's armor to resist the enemy in the time of evil, so that after the battle you will still be standing firm. 14 Stand your ground, putting on the sturdy belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness. 15 For shoes, put on the peace that

comes from the Good News, so that you will be fully prepared. 16 In every battle you will need faith as your shield to stop the fiery arrows aimed at you by Satan. 17 Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. 18 Pray at all times and on every occasion in the power of the Holy Spirit. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all Christians everywhere.

When you use these weapons then you can shout at your Goliath, "You come to me with sword, spear, and javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD Almighty!" The battle is the Lord's but you have to do the things and act the way that He says so that He will be able to help you. Die to you old ways of handling problems and start to handle them God's way. The Bible will instruct you of God's way. But you must first be willing to trust in Him and His way.

3. Fully destroy your enemy. David "rocked" Goliath and Goliath stumbled and fell face downward to the ground. Then David killed the giant and cut off his head. This giant was never going to raise its ugly head again. David made sure of that. The things that God has told you to stop doing; the things God has told you to get rid of in your life; destroy them completely so they can not raise their ugly head again. Pray for a change of heart, that you will want to please God. And be wise. Don't put yourself in a place of temptation. When negative emotions come remind yourself – you are going to pray and trust God. When temptations come remind yourself you now belong to God and don't have to live the old way anymore.

The World War II Allied invasion of France in 1944 to defeat Hitler's Nazis was epic in scope and costly in human lives.

Thanks to the great sacrifices of many brave souls, many of whom did not return home and are buried in Europe, the world, including you and me and our families, was again saved from evil tyranny...

A fact-based television documentary about the invasion was extremely realistic and graphic in depicting the horrors of war. It portrayed the paratroopers of our heroic 101st Airborne Division, who were dropped behind enemy lines in advance of the Normandy coastal assault. The danger was unimaginable.

During the height of one bloody battle, an older American soldier counseled a young private who was petrified with fear as he witnessed the carnage of dead and mangled Germans and fellow Americans strewn all around him. The young man feared an almost certain, similar fate for himself in the days ahead of sometimes building-to-building fighting, bullets flying and grenades and artillery shells exploding everywhere.

The older soldier's counsel was chilling but poignant: "Accept the fact that you are already dead. The sooner you accept that the sooner you'll be able to function as a soldier is supposed to function... All war depends upon it."

Oh, what a biblical truism in the life and spiritual war in which we find ourselves as followers of our Lord Jesus Christ! Truth in the natural often portrays truth in the spiritual. The apostle Paul used similar words:

"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me" (Galatians 2:20, NIV) -- "For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God" (Colossians 3:3) -- "If Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness" (Romans 8:10).

We are in a spiritual war. "We are not fighting against people made of flesh and blood, but against the evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world" (Ephesians 6:12, NLT).

A Christian cannot be an effective soldier in this fight and live for our Lord until he has died to self. As the older soldier advised during World War II, "Accept the fact that you are already dead. The sooner you accept that the sooner you'll be able to function as a soldier is supposed to function... All war depends upon it." (Bill Bright)

4. Failure will come. That is always a possibility. The spirit may be willing but the flesh is weak. If failure does come, immediately confess, repent and continue in faith. Don't wallow in self-pity; don't nurse your wounds with discouragement. 2 Samuel records the many failings of David. Yet, we would never label him a failure. Why not? Because David had a heart for God. In fact God said, "David son of Jesse is a man after my own heart" (Acts 13:22 NLT). David sincerely desired and tried to serve God and do what is right. He was a man of faith. Did he fail at times? Yes! And terribly. But David was truly repentant. He admitted his failures, was sorry for his sins and got his heart back in tune with God's. His mission and purpose was to love God and bring glory and honor to Him. If you fail, bring your failures to God. Ask His forgiveness and then forget them. Recommit yourself to getting your heart back in tune with God, prepared for the next battle and ready to shout at it, "I come to you in the name of the LORD Almighty!"