

Introduction: *The Italian Tomato Garden*

Opening Remarks: There will be a lot of information flying at you today ... we will not have time to read all scripture ... it will be more than you can digest immediately ... write or purchase a cassette from Tony

Outline:

- I. David's Battle or God's
- II. Our Battle
- III. The Challenge of the 21st Century Church

Scripture References: [Ephesians 6:10-13 ... 1Samuel 16: 18-51 ... 1Samuel 17: 17-27, 31 – 51 ... 2 Samuel 7:16 ... Acts: 1-8 ... Luke 24: 49](#)

Opening Reference: Fly Boys by James Bradley see pages 16, 17

Read: [Ephesians 6: 10-13](#)

First Recognize that all believers Old Testament – New Testament who give their hearts to the Lord, and commit their lives to follow him are in a battle

As we look to David's battle today with the giant recognize that if you are here for more than routine ... you will face the giant or are facing the giant because you are a threat!

Read: [1Samuel 17: 17-27, 31 – 51](#)

As you read this amazing account of the ultimate underdog v the evil giant ... you cannot come away without being impressed with the courage and character of this young man. Perhaps still in his late teens.

To say that David had a warrior's heart would be a correct conclusion but there in lies the danger of missing what this battle was really all about!

- ❖ Yes it was David had the courage to face the giant alone when the entire Israeli army collectively withdrew in fear when he approached to make his challenge
- ❖ Yes it was David's decision to face the monster with shepherd's tools not warrior's weapons.
- ❖ It was David's skill and aim that launched the stone and hit the giant

But it was God's Spirit brought that Hulk crashing down to earth!

First order of business ... Do not be satisfied with a Sunday school, child's story level of understanding for this account or God's word in general.

To grow in the Lord you must read his word the Bible with a new adult hunger!

Read this again for yourself.

This is not just a brave teenager taking down an invincible warrior, there is far more going on.

Goliath is an unnatural, frightening, nine foot man but there is something about him that is even more frightening than his size.

He is Nephilim an unusual hybrid, men that Genesis refers to as the *Bar Elohim* the Sons of God. ... a reference relating to fallen angels and their offspring ... (Anti Christ)

For 40 days (a significant number) the giant casts his challenge into the teeth of the Israeli Army. Demoralizing the troops, not even Valliant Jonathan stepped forward.

What set David apart from the rest of the men and King?

See: **1 Samuel 16: 10- 13** Key verse 13

David was anointed and *filled with the Holy Spirit* for a task that was yet years away. David accepts King Saul's offer to stand off against the Philistine Champion

No sword or shield ... Shepard's staff and sling, selecting 5 smooth stones for his ammunition. One giant five stones!

David knew that this was not just a battle between two men, he knew that he was being used by God as his champion not the champion of the Israeli army.

How many Christians see the battle for what it is? When you make an effort to be honest in your business dealings to stand up for your convictions you are going to hear the threats and rumblings and we misunderstand.

We begin to ask why am I being attacked? ... The battle is not really against you it is against who you believe in!

David understood and identified publicly what was going to happen (prophetic) And he correctly identified whose battle this really was. The battle is the Lord's!

Consider this At what point was the giant defeated?

Goliath was a dead man before David ever stepped on that battle field, he just didn't know it!

The giant had to fall! Turn again to **Ephesians 6**

God who is Spirit is dealing on another level ... another level an invisible spiritual dimension

On the invisible plane the tactics and strategies are being laid down

- ❖ God planned to bring the Messiah, his son through the line of David, if David is killed there is no lineage no Joseph or Mary ... God's word is false his promise forfeit. We are dead in our sins, without a savior!

Reference: 2 Samuel 7:16 God's covenant with David

Satan also has knowledge of the future ... his greatest objective is to foil God's plan of Redemption, sending his Son to be the sacrifice for our sins.

His Champion Goliath will destroy David there will be no Virgin Mary to say, yes Lord I am your servant.

Do you begin to see what Paul is speaking about in Ephesians?

The Battle was not David's, it truly was the Lord. It was the power and presence of the Holy Spirit that gave David understanding and courage and God's power that was unleashed through David defeating Satan once again.

What did those soldiers see that day? What do you see? What are you hearing right now?

II. Our Battle

Our battle as believers is similar in every way

We are involved in Spiritual warfare and Satan's greatest strategy is to stay under the radar screen. He doesn't want you to know you are in a fight; he doesn't want you to believe that he even exists.

Keep everything casual, putting your spirit into a lifeless relationship with God. It doesn't matter if you come to church every week if you are no different during the week.

George Barna an evangelist (Christianity today calls the specialist on church research)

Read quote...

Other tactics of the Devil to keep you distant from God and thereby powerless

Anger

Confusion

Greed

Overwork

Anything to break down what God wants, closeness, friendship with him and to make you alive in filled and empowered by his Spirit.

III. The Challenge of the 21st Century Church

Getting back into the battle and changing the world for Jesus Christ,

Problems in America : myriad of them, Our culture is becoming increasingly hostile to Christianity and Biblical teaching.

The forces behind the politics are pushing to end and remove all prayer, visual or audio references that might connect our people with the God of the Bible from any public view. Removing the Ten Commandments from court rooms, prayers from school, phrases from money,

A graduating class in a small town became creative when on cue the 92 graduates behind the valedictorian all sneezed together. The Student speaker closed his speech responding God bless you each and every one.

Political battles in Congress to establish same sex marriages, laying the groundwork to destroy foundation of our society the family unit.

The unprecedented dramatic use of the filibuster to prevent a vote from coming to the floor of the Senate in relation to the nomination of Supreme Court Justices that for fear the legal abortion of children might be hindered in the name of women's rights

What does the church really need in this time?

Fresh Fire of the Holy Spirit!

Read A.W. Tozer In Pursuit of God page 146

Jesus words

Acts 1: 8 "You shall receive power after the Holy Spirit comes upon you."