

Sunday, March 22nd, 2026

Giant Killer

A Confident Testimony

1 Samuel 17:33

³³ And Saul said to David, “You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you *are* a youth, and he a man of war from his youth.”

After David received criticism from his own family, King Saul, the most powerful and influential man in the entire nation said, “You can’t fight against this Philistine giant. You’re just a youth, and he’s a man of war. You don’t stand a chance!”

David was bold because he believed God and was aware of his covenant. He recognized that this Philistine was uncircumcised and had no relationship with God. But even though David’s faith was in the promises contained in God’s Word, what he said next reveals where his confidence came from.

1 Samuel 17:34-37

³⁴ But David said to Saul, “Your servant used to keep his father’s sheep, and when a lion or a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock, ³⁵ I went out after it and struck it, and delivered the lamb from its mouth; and when it arose against me, I caught it by its beard, and struck and killed it. ³⁶ Your servant has killed both lion and bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, seeing he has defied the armies of the living God.” ³⁷ Moreover David said, “The Lord, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.”

And Saul said to David, “Go, and the Lord be with you!”

David was saying, “Look! I’ve already proven God to be faithful. I have a history! This isn’t the first time I’ve ever believed God. I’ve trusted Him and seen Him work miracles through me before. Because of this past experience, I have confidence and hope, and I believe that it’s going to happen again!”

One of the reasons David was able to overcome the giant when the others couldn’t was because he had been faithful and proven God in the small things.

Jesus said in Luke 16:10:

¹⁰ He who *is* faithful in *what is* least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in *what is* least is unjust also in much.

In other words, if you aren't faithful in a small thing, you won't be entrusted with the great things. Most people are waiting until they get into a crisis situation to believe God. However, they aren't trusting Him on a daily basis. They're taking the easy way out. Either they're learning to cope with things or they're not fighting for their God-given rights. They're taking a shortcut to get their needs met, but they aren't believing God.

In the area of health, some people plan to trust God if cancer ever knocks on their door. However, they pop a pill just as soon as they get a headache and they rely on medication to treat their colds. They take something to wake them up and something else to put them to sleep. They aren't trusting God for their health in the small things, but when the big thing comes like cancer, they think they're going to trust Him then.

Don't misunderstand what I'm saying. God isn't mad at you if you take aspirin or cold medicine. I'm not saying you cannot take medication or that you're evil if you rely on those things. But I am asking: When are you going to start trusting God with your health? Are you waiting until something tragic happens and the doctors can't do anything about it, and only then will you begin to trust Him? If that's the way you're thinking, your faith isn't going to work.

It's a Growth Process

Your faith has to grow and increase with use. You do not go from zero to a thousand miles per hour in the Spirit instantly. You have to accelerate. You have to build up momentum and speed.

Jesus gave this illustration to help us understand the kingdom of God:

Mark 4:26-28

**²⁶ And he said, so is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground;
²⁷ And should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how. ²⁸ For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear.**

The kingdom of heaven works like a **seed**. You don't just plant an acorn and then—BOOM!—instantly it becomes a full-grown oak tree. It takes **time** and many **seasons** for the seed to go through the growth process to **mature**.

First the **blade**, then the **ear**, after that the full corn in the ear. (*Maturity*) – Mark 4:28

This is a principle of God. It's how everything works. You don't just go from never having trusted God to all of a sudden killing a giant. You must start trusting the Lord in smaller things and then progress and increase.

This battle between David and Goliath didn't happen the way some people imagine it. David didn't just go out there and all of a sudden, this spirit of faith came upon him enabling him to rise up and kill this giant. No, David had been seeking God. He had been faithful in smaller things.

In fact, David had been faithful in seemingly insignificant things. We don't know exactly how many sheep David kept, but according to Eliab's statement, it was just a few (**1 Samuel 17:28**). No matter what size the herd really was, in some ways it was insignificant. The herd certainly wasn't worth David's life. Even though shepherds were expected to defend the sheep by attempting to scare off wild animals, surely Jesse wouldn't have wanted David to die trying to save one lamb from a lion or a bear. He might have expected David to try to shoo the predators off doing things that are prudent, but certainly he did not expect his young son to go up and grab a lion or a bear by the beard, but that is exactly what David did. No father would want his son to risk his life to save a sheep. Sheep are important, but not that important.

So basically, David had a very small responsibility. He wasn't tending to a huge herd of sheep. In most people's opinion, the job definitely wasn't worth risking his life over. It was small, insignificant. But David was faithful, even to the point of laying his life on the line.

This is how you become a giant killer. You don't wait until big things like cancer knock on your door. You start trusting God in the small things every day. You fight to keep your joy and peace, as if you are fighting a giant out there. You stand on principle on the small things, doing what's right, even when nobody else is watching.

David was out by himself with no one around as he tended to sheep. The grandstands weren't full. Nobody even knew what was going on. David may or may not have told other people what had happened when he fought the lion and the bear. This certainly wasn't something that hit the front pages of the local news.

Many people want the great **victory** and **fame**, but few are willing to **pay** the **price** of **faithfulness**. Everybody wants to kill a giant and hear the people sing their praise, but very few are willing to risk their lives on the backside of the desert when nobody is watching. If you aren't faithful in small things, you won't be ruler over much. If you haven't started trusting God for the ability to overcome headaches and colds, chances are you won't be able to stand against cancer when it comes your way.

You need to learn to trust God in the everyday things. Do you control your temper when somebody cuts you off in traffic? Or are you someone who gets upset, lays on the horn, and flashes them an obscene sign? If you can't control yourself with something small like

that, you'll never make it when the big things come. If you aren't faithfully working for your boss, you'll never become the boss.

Why should God give you a better car if you aren't even taking care of the car you have now? Is your car so full of food and trash that it's hard for somebody else to get in? Why would the Lord give you a new car to mess up? You might say, "Come on Pastor Joel, this isn't that important!" It may not be to you, but that's probably the reason why you haven't seen the great exploits yet with God. That very attitude may be why God hasn't been able to use you in a bigger way.

One of the common traits you'll noticed among people whom God is using in a mighty way is that they are faithful in the little things as well as the big. They're people of integrity who are faithful in the little things. They aren't just faithful when big things are on the line and someone's watching. They do the right thing even if nobody's looking.

This is one of the reasons God used David to kill Goliath. David was faithful in small things. He faithfully served his father and protected the sheep. This gave David confidence to fight the big battle.

You can't prepare any better for the **future** than by just starting to be faithful **today**. Make a decision today that you are going to start believing God, walking in joy, choosing to do the right thing, controlling your emotions, studying the Word, and blessing other people. Choose to spend time with God, even if there's nothing pressing. Just do it to be a faithful servant. Faithfully serve other people. Serve your boss today. Do things with integrity and excellence. If you do this over a period of time and prove yourself faithful, then when the giant comes knocking on your door, you'll have the ability to stand against him and overcome.

Right after David testified to Saul about killing the lion and the bear, he boldly declared, "This uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them!"

1 Samuel 17:37

³⁷ And Saul said to David, "Go, and the Lord be with you."

This was nearly as big a miracle as David killing Goliath. The terms of this contest had already been set forth. If Goliath won, all the Israelites would become the Philistines' servants. But if an Israelite won, all the Philistines would serve the Israelites. So, when Saul said, "Go," he was basically putting his entire kingdom, the whole nation of Israel, into the hands of this youth whom he had just moments before told, "You don't stand a chance!"

Apparently, David's response to Saul's previous comments persuaded him that David did stand a chance against the giant. David spoke with such conviction concerning God's faithfulness when he was faced with both the lion and the bear. He testified of how the Lord had proven Himself and come through for him again and again. There was so much

authority and anointing on David's words that it literally caused the king to place his entire kingdom into his hands. Now that's a miracle!

I think Saul recognized the anointing of God on David's life. Saul had experienced this in his early years. He became a new man and was able to win some impossible battles. I believe Saul was not only putting his faith in David, but also in the power of God that was on David's life.

As you mature, people will respond to you. As you recognize your covenant and believe God, as you stand up and speak forth your faith, as you are faithful in the small things and grow, you'll come to a place where what you say will command respect. When you have absolute faith and confidence in what you're saying, it will inspire faith and confidence in those who hear you. **When you know** what you're talking about because of **revelation** and **experience**, not just theory, people will **respond** to you in ways they don't respond to others.

People can perceive when you're ministering God's Word from your heart. It rings true and gives you credibility in their sight. That's when they will respond to you. God has called each and every one of you to be a leader, you need to apply these truths and become totally convinced of what God has given you to share.

When you believe what you speak with all of your heart, then the people who listen to you will be able to believe it with all of their heart too. That's the importance of having a Confident Testimony.

People will try to talk you out of serving God. They'll say, "You're a fanatic. You can't do it." But if you persist, they will finally say, "Well, okay. Do it. But at least do this." And they will then try to give you their theories about how it should be done. But their theories aren't working for them. They aren't doing anything. There's no victory in their lives, yet they're quick to tell you what to do. "Here, put on my armor that isn't working for me!"

God may have spoken something to you, and you may be trying to obey Him. You are taking a step of faith, but the truth is that you aren't going with what's in your heart. You are not doing what God told you to do. You're trying to live off of somebody else's revelation.

They may mean well, but you can't go by what God has told someone else to do. You can't just attend some seminars and figure out how another person grew a church or business and then go back and do it that way, thinking if it worked for one, it'll work for another. You need to hear what God is telling you. You need to get in the presence of God and develop your own relationship with Him. Don't just take what He gave someone else. Hear for yourself what the Lord tells you to do, then go with it!

You need to become secure in the Lord and hear from Him. You need to have God tell you some things. Then, when He tells you something, don't let other people talk you out of it.

Don't reason it away by saying, "Well, here's what God says, but it doesn't make sense. So, I think I'll go ahead and do it this other way." You're getting off onto thin ice when you start doing something like that. You need to follow God and do what He says. That's where your strength lies.

David's strength wasn't in armor or a sword. It was in trusting God.