

"BEFORE THE GIANT"

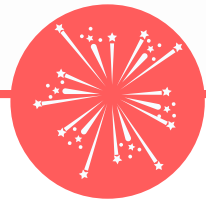
SERIES BREAK



WORD

"All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD's."

1 Samuel 17:47
(Read also 1 Samuel 17)



SPARKS

- Have you ever felt discouraged or unqualified because of what someone said about you?
- Have you ever wondered why God has you doing small things when you are praying for something bigger?
- What is one thing God has already helped you overcome that can remind you to trust Him in your next challenge?

When people think about David and Goliath, they usually remember the giant, the sling, and the stone. We remember the moment David defeated Goliath. But before David faced the giant, there were several encounters that prepared him for that moment. David encountered Jesse, who asked him to bring food to his brothers. He encountered the soldiers who were afraid of Goliath. He encountered Eliab, who discouraged and questioned him. He encountered Saul, who doubted that he could fight. And finally, David encountered Goliath. The giant was David's biggest battle, but it was not his first test. Many times, we want the big victory, breakthrough, promotion, or answered prayer. But God may be using our current season to prepare us for what comes next. Before the giant, there was preparation.

1. BEFORE THE GIANT, DAVID LEARNED OBEDIENCE

1 Samuel 17:17-18

17 Take this basket of roasted grain and these ten loaves of bread, 18 And give these ten cuts of cheese to their captain.

Jesse simply asked David to bring food to his brothers. David was not looking for Goliath. He was simply obeying his father.

What looked like a small assignment brought David to the exact place where he would face his giant.

Sometimes we ask God for a bigger assignment while overlooking the small things He has already placed in front of us.

Before God gives us a bigger assignment, He often prepares us through smaller acts of obedience. What small thing might God be asking you to be faithful with right now?

1

2. BEFORE THE GIANT, DAVID LEARNED TO TRUST GOD

1 Samuel 17:23-24, 28-39

24 As soon as the Israelite army saw him, they began to run away in fright..

28 But when Eliab heard David talking to the men, he was angry.

38 Then Saul gave David his own armour—a bronze helmet and a coat of mail. .

Everyone saw the same giant, but they responded differently.

The soldiers saw a problem. David saw an opportunity for God to show His power. Eliab questioned David, but David did not allow his brother's words to distract him. Saul doubted David, but David remembered what God had already done through him. Before Goliath, David had already faced a lion and a bear. Those private victories prepared him for his public battle. David also refused Saul's armour because it was not what God had given him. He chose what he knew—a sling and five stones. David did not need someone else's armour. He trusted what God had placed in his hands. Sometimes we allow fear, criticism, comparison, or other people's opinions to distract us from what God has called us to do. Don't fight your battle with someone else's armour. Use what God has placed in your hands. What voice or distraction do you need to turn away from?

What has God already brought you through that you need to remember today?

2

3. BEFORE THE GIANT, DAVID LEARNED WHOSE BATTLE IT WAS

1 Samuel 17:45-47

⁴⁵ David replied to the Philistine, ‘You come to me with sword, spear, and javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of Heaven’s Armies; ⁴⁷ This is the Lord’s battle, and he will give you to us!’

David stood before Goliath with a sling and stones, while Goliath had a sword, spear, and armour. But David knew something that Goliath did not understand: The battle belonged to the Lord.

David said: “You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty.” David used the stone, but God gave the victory. The victory was not in David's strength, armour, or weapon. The victory was in the Name of the Lord. When David finally faced the giant, he already knew where the victory came from. The battle is the LORD's.

LIVE IT!

- What is God asking you to be faithful with in this season?
- What “small” thing have you been overlooking?
- What voice or distraction do you need to turn away from?
- What past victory can you remember when facing your current giant?
- Are you trusting God, or are you trying to fight with someone else’s “armour”?



PRAYER

- Thank God for preparing and strengthening us through every season and battle.
- Pray for wisdom, discernment, and courage to face every “giant,” distraction, and discouraging voice, knowing the battle belongs to the Lord.
- Pray for faithfulness in the small things, especially during seasons of waiting, doubt, and preparation.
- Pray that we trust God’s process, avoid comparison, and use the gifts He has given us.
- Pray that our lives point others to God, so they may know the God who gives us victory.

