DAVID

Faith that faces a giant

1 Samuel 17



1 Samuel 17

2 And Saul and the men of Israel were gathered, and encamped in the Valley of Elah, and drew up in line of battle against the Philistines.

3 And the Philistines stood on the mountain on the one side, and Israel stood on the mountain on the other side, with a valley between them.

4 And there came out from the camp of the Philistines a champion named Goliath of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span.

8 He stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, “Why have you come out to draw up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not servants of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me.

9 If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will be your servants. But if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall be our servants and serve us.”

11 When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were **dismayed and greatly afraid.**

16 **For forty days** the Philistine came forward and took his stand, **morning and evening**.

17 And Jesse said to David his son, “Take for your brothers an ephah of this parched grain, and these ten loaves, and carry them quickly to the camp to your brothers.

18 Also take these ten cheeses to the commander of their thousand. See if your brothers are well, and bring some token from them.”

26 And David said to the men who stood by him, “What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? **For who is this uncircumcised Philistine**, that he should defy the armies of the living God?”

27 And the people answered him in the same way, “So shall it be done to the man who kills him.”

28 Now Eliab his eldest brother heard when he spoke to the men. And Eliab’s anger was kindled against David, and he said, “**Why have you come down?** And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your presumption and the evil of your heart, for you have come down to see the battle.”

31 When the words that David spoke were heard, they repeated them before Saul, and he sent for him.

32 And David said to Saul, “Let no man’s heart fail because of him. Your servant will go and fight with this Philistine.”

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

34 But David said to Saul, “Your servant used to keep sheep for his father. And when there came a lion, or a bear, and took a lamb from the flock,

35 I went after him and struck him and delivered it out of his mouth. And if he arose against me, I caught him by his beard and struck him and killed him.

36 Your servant has struck down both lions and bears, and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, for he has defied the armies of **the living God**.”

37 And David said, “**The LORD who delivered me** from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.” And Saul said to David, “Go, and the LORD be with you!”

38 Then Saul clothed David with his armor. He put a helmet of bronze on his head and clothed him with a coat of mail,

39 and David strapped his sword over his armor. And he tried in vain to go, for he had not tested them. Then David said to Saul, “**I cannot go with these**, for I have not tested them.” **So David put them off**.

40 Then he took his staff in his hand and chose five smooth stones from the brook and put them in his shepherd’s pouch. His sling was in his hand, and he approached the Philistine.

41 And the Philistine moved forward and came near to David, with his shield-bearer in front of him.

42 And when the Philistine looked and saw David, he disdained him, for he was but a youth, ruddy and handsome in appearance.

43 And the Philistine said to David, “Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?” And the Philistine cursed David by his gods.

44 The Philistine said to David, “Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and to the beasts of the field.”

45 Then David said to the Philistine, “You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, but **I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel**, whom you have defied.

46 This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head. And I will give the dead bodies of the host of the Philistines this day to the birds of the air and to the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel,

47 and that all this assembly may know that the LORD saves not with sword and spear. **For the battle is the LORD’S**, and he will give you into our hand.”

48 When the Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David, **David ran quickly toward the battle line** to meet the Philistine.

49 And David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone and slung it and struck the Philistine on his forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the ground.

50 So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and struck the Philistine and killed him. **There was no sword in the hand of David.**

DAVID

Faith that faces a giant

1 Samuel 17



Two Armies, One Valley, Forty Days of Fear

40

DAYS

The same challenge, morning and evening.

Israel sees the obstacle

Saul and the all Israel feel dismayed and greatly afraid.

David arrives to serve

An ordinary errand places him where faith will require a response.

1 Samuel 17:1–24

1. Remember What God Has Already Done

“The LORD who delivered me”

David remembers God’s past care
and trusts Him with the present challenge.

What has God already brought you through?

2. Do Not Fight in Someone Else’s Armour

Borrowed armour

Saul offers David what
has worked for Saul.
David has never tested it.

Familiar preparation

Years of quiet shepherding
have prepared David to use
what he already knows.

“I cannot go with these, for I have not tested them.”

3. Do Not Let Intimidation Define You

Goliath attacks his identity

He mocks David’s appearance
and what seems small.

David answers with truth

The size of the opposition
does not change who God is.

Whose voice will define your response?

David places his confidence
in the living God.

4. Know in Whose Name You Stand

“I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts”

David’s confidence rests in the God he represents.

Faith remembers who God is while the challenge remains.

5. Remember Who Owns the Battle

“The battle is the LORD’S”

Our responsibility

Prepare carefully.
Serve faithfully.

Our posture

Entrust the outcome
to God.

6. Let Faith Move You Forward

David ran towards the battle line. 1 Samuel 17:48



Faith is trusting God when the Giant is right there.

Avoidance can make challenges feel larger.

David remembers God’s faithfulness and
moves forward in His name.

**Faith says, “God is with me.
I will take the next step.”**

7. Use What God Has Placed in Your Hand



God uses what David has learnt in obscurity.

Experience gained through difficulty.
A willingness to serve.
A skill developed over time.

What has God placed in your hand?

Stand in the Victory of the Greater David

Look to Christ, the greater Son of David.
His victory over sin, death and the devil is ours by faith.

Remember God’s faithfulness.
Refuse the giant’s verdict.

Take the next obedient step.
Use what God has placed in your hand.

The battle belongs to the Lord. The victory belongs to Christ. Trust Him!

DAVID

Faith that faces a giant

1 Samuel 17

