



Take Five

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If I told you I'm going to talk about David and Goliath, you may delete this and move on with your day. After all, you've already heard this well-known story many times, right?

Well, stay with me, please. There's always more to learn. I can't wait to tell you what I recently discovered in this famous account about a showdown with a giant!

One thing before I continue: I've recorded a video of this writing. It captures the points in this teaching, including a few more incredible discoveries. (You can access the 18-minute video here.) I hope you take advantage of it.

That said, check this out:

In 1 Samuel 17 (**read the entire passage here**), the Philistines (bad guys) came up to battle against the Israelites (good guys). Goliath, a terrifying Philistine giant, threatened and mocked the Israelites every day for forty days. **Five** times in this chapter, the Bible says Goliath defied God and His people.

Here is the Hebrew root word for our English word, defy:
To Defy = to reproach, taunt, blaspheme, threaten.

Remember, while the Bible documents real historical events, it is also God's Word. It personally applies to our lives today. So, let us ask these questions:

What giant does Goliath represent in your life?
What circumstances or what things in your heart or mind are taunting and threatening you?

The giants say something like,
"You actually think God will heal you?"
"You really believe He'll come to rescue you?"
"Who do you think you are? No one cares about you."
"You can't do anything right. Just give up. You are too small."

Goliath is a big mouth, representing the things that look impossible or seem to overpower us. Our giants may be physical, emotional, mental or spiritual-- whatever seems overwhelming and undefeatable.

Well, God's got good news for us.

David, a young Israelite, heard about Goliath's defiance, and his response provides a glorious pattern for us to follow: not only was he willing to stand up against the giant, but he was also filled with a righteous anger against *"this uncircumcised Philistine who defies the armies of the living God"* (verse 26). He went to a brook and chose **five** smooth stones for his sling.

This young man's sling shot was his only apparent weapon...*or was it?* Read what he said (verses 45-47) to the bully as he stood up to him:

“You come to me with a sword, 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.

This day the Lord **will** deliver you into my hand,
and I **will** strike you and take your head from you.

And this day I **will** give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines
to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth,
that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.

Then all this assembly **shall** know that the Lord does not save with sword and spear;
for the battle *is* the Lord's, and He **will** give you into our hands.”

David made **five** confident declarations of faith in the Lord's victory.
One confident response for each cry of defiance from the enemy.
One proclamation of triumph for each stone.

David was *sure* God would deliver him. *Why?*
Because *he knew the Lord*. He'd read the Scriptures.
He'd made a habit of praying continually.
He'd spent countless hours with God,
serving Him in the fields as a shepherd boy.

And He had experienced God's deliverance first-hand (see verses 34-37).

As you probably know, David ends up defeating Goliath with his first stone. It hits the giant on the head and knocks him out. David then exuberantly cuts off the enemy's head *with Goliath's own sword*. Yup, the very weapon the enemy threatened to use against David was the very thing used to behead that big bad bully. How's that for a triumphant win? This is how the Lord works in our lives, too!

Here's a new observation that intrigued me as I studied and taught this
Scripture last month.

Why did David take **five** stones?
Why not one? Or three? *Why five?*

Did he lack faith? We're all human, and David was no exception. Might he have thought, *"God, I know you can do this, but then...maybe I should get four more stones as a back up, just in case...?"*

Another consideration is that David was just a practical kind of guy. Possibly he figured, *"Certainly within **five** shots, I'll get him."*

Or was there more to the situation than meets the eye?

I'd like to propose another possibility.

This is so exciting!

Look what the Lord reveals to us in 2 Samuel 21:15-22 (**read all the verses here**).

Several years after his victory over Goliath and the enemy army, David defended himself yet again against the Philistines. He and his men faced four more giants, and they conquered all four. Guess what? Scripture describes one of these giants as *"the brother of Goliath,"* and then says of all four giants,

"These four were born to the giant in Gath, and fell by the hand of David and by the hand of his servants."

If one was Goliath's brother,
and all four were born to the same giant,
then all four were related, right?

What if David was operating with such great faith,
that he knew God would not only take out Goliath with one stone,
but also eventually give him victory over four more giants?

Even if this is assuming too much, what we do know is this:

David took **five** stones,
used one on Goliath,
then together with his servants later,
defeated four more.

While he didn't literally use those four stones at that later date, when I discovered these wonderful verses, I was left with a challenge. May I pass it along to you?

CHALLENGE

Name the giant you are facing today.

Is it fear, anxiety, or hopelessness?

Is it anger, bitterness, or envy?

What about pride or self-righteousness?

Name it.

No, go further than that.

Name **five** of your giants.

They're all related, and they work together.

Since our Rock is Jesus, and Jesus is the Word of God,
find one Scripture for each of those giants.
Then, speak the Word against each one of those overwhelming things.
Take up the Word and fling it at the enemy!

Put it in that sling of yours and throw it at those giants!

How dare they defy the living God?

Stand up with a holy passion and take them down.

Operate with the faith of David and say,

*"Lord, I'm not only going to crush **anxiety** today, but I'm also using Your Word against its brother, **fear**. In fact, I'm taking down its cousin, **depression**, as well. And **despair**, you're finished, along with your relative, **self-pity**."*

Then take **five** Scriptures and speak them against these **five** giants, believing you have victory in Jesus' name.

Do you believe you have the victory?

If not, you've missed the best part: God is with *you*, not your giant.
He is for *you*, not the giants. *You* have the Lord of hosts on your side; your giants don't.

Now go, take five, and defeat those giants.

A Worship Song

Want a song to go with all this?
It's my latest fav, and it fits this teaching perfectly. I think you'll really appreciate it. Click/Tap the link below.

"Same God" Worship Song

This May marks 7 years since I began these monthly writings! Would you like to peruse past blogs? They can be accessed **here**.

BONUS: Our Giants are Our Bread

Did you know that God says *your giants will be your bread*? Yup, He'll feed them to you for lunch (rather than the other way around). I explain this and more in an 18-minute video. The video includes what is in this writing plus additional soul-nourishing nuggets you don't want to miss! Watch and forward as you are led. May the Lord of hosts empower you as you take up the Word and conquer your giants.

Watch Here for the Video of this Writing plus More Insights

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