

"In the beginning  
was the Word,  
and the Word was  
with God, and the  
Word was God."  
—John 1:1

The Lord's Flock  
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PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES



**“ The Brothers of Goliath - Part 1 ”**

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2 Samuel 21:15-22

*“There was another battle between the Philistines and Israel. David went down with his servants and fought the Philistines, but David grew tired. Dadu, a descendant of the Rephaim, whose bronze spear weighed three hundred shekels, was about to take him captive. Dadu was girt with a new sword and thought he would kill David, but Abishai, son of Zeruiah, came to help him, and struck and killed the Philistine. Then David’s men swore to him, “You must not go out to battle with us again, lest you quench the lamp of Israel.” After this, there was another battle with the Philistines, in Gob. On that occasion Sibbecai the Hushathite struck down Saph, a descendant of the Rephaim. There was another battle with the Philistines, in Gob, and Elhanan, son of Jair from Bethlehem, killed Goliath of Gath, whose spear shaft was like a weaver’s beam. There was another battle, at Gath, and there was a giant, who had six fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot—twenty-four in all. He too was descended from the Rephaim. And when he insulted Israel, Jonathan, son of David’s brother Shimei, struck him down. These four were descended from the Rephaim in Gath, and they fell at the hands of David and his servants.”*

By calling the four men “descendants of Rephaim,” the writer was saying that they were giants.

2 Samuel 22:1-4

*“David proclaimed the words of this song to the LORD when the LORD had rescued him from the grasp of all his enemies and from the grasp of Saul. He said: ‘O LORD, my rock, my fortress, my deliverer, my God, my rock of refuge! My shield, my saving horn, my stronghold, my refuge, my savior, from violence you keep me safe. Praised be the LORD, I exclaim! I have been delivered from my enemies.’”*

“GOLIATH” is a symbol of our problems.

David killed Goliath using only five small stones, and removing all his protective gears from King Saul that would otherwise be his defense when he fought Goliath. (ref. 1 Samuel 17: 4-51) David did not fear fighting Goliath because of his faith and trust in God. He trusted God fully because he knew that the battle is not his but God's.

In our life’s battle, no matter what our ways are, we cannot fight the battle that we have now on our own because ours is not just a physical battle, but a spiritual one. As believers, we should remember that we are always in a battle. We should always be ready to fight against the schemes of the enemy (Satan) and we should be firm in trusting the Lord.

In our life, our real battle is spiritual. As mentioned in Ephesians 6:12, *"For our struggle is not with flesh and blood but with the principalities, with the powers, with the world rulers of this present darkness, with the evil spirits in the heavens."*

Clearly, our Goliaths are the spiritual forces of evil.

## 1. THE GIANT OF APATHY

David told Saul in 1 Samuel 17: 34-36 *"Your servant used to tend his father's sheep, and whenever a lion or bear came to carry off a sheep from the flock, I would chase after it, attack it, and snatch the prey from its mouth. If it attacked me, I would seize it by the throat, strike it, and kill it. Your servant has killed both a lion and a bear..."*

David held on to his experiences as a shepherd, who always rescued his sheep against its attackers.

This was David's testimony on the power of God in his life. In the same way, he was witnessing to Saul that he was a shepherd; he used to tend the sheep from the flock. And when his sheep was at risk because of a lion or a bear, ready to attack, he will do everything to save his sheep. With this in mind, he believed that the Lord will do the same to him.

Apathy is a lack of interest or concern. We, followers of Christ, cannot afford to be indifferent to God's call to witness for Him.

We cannot witness if we have not experienced it. Our neighbors and friends need to see in us our trust in the Lord before they can decide to receive Christ. The most convicting argument for the reality of salvation is a person who has found Christ who satisfies his deepest need. We, who have experienced the Lord, have to give our testimony how much we have been cared for by God; and how He tended us as one of the children of God.

In Psalm 34: 8, David said, *"Oh taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed is the man who trusts Him."* In other words, David was saying, *"Try it, you'll like it."*

To the unsaved, our lives can be an effective invitation to taste and see the goodness of the Lord. Through our testimony, they can experience the goodness of God.

David, known as a man after God's own heart (Ref. Acts 13 and 1 Samuel 17), was living close to God because he was a worshipper who loved God wholeheartedly and always communicated with Him. Because of his close personal relationship with the Lord, he trusted God greatly and completely.

If we abide in the Lord, we can truly testify, in words and in deed, that Jesus truly does satisfy.

The Psalmist said in Psalm 107:2, *"Let the redeemed of the Lord say so."*

God needs witnesses who have experienced His goodness and His love. Live in such a way that, if people get to know you, they would know Christ better. Becoming living witnesses to Christ will cost us something. It will cost time. Are we willing to stop and spend time just talking about God to others? Do we have the passion to do so? It takes passion to do so. Are we willing to sacrifice? Are we willing to pay the price?

## WITNESSING

Learn to adjust to what God wants us to do. Like a salesman, we need to know our product very well in order to endorse it. When we endorse Jesus, do people see Him in us? Will they taste and see also the goodness of the Lord? We need to share to others the beauty of a life with Jesus and the Spirit that we are experiencing.

We need to endorse God and to witness for Jesus. Just like David, he was a very effective witness because he experienced how God personally took care of him. We, who have experienced the goodness of God, should, in turn, witness to other people.

The first commission of God is to preach and then make disciples. We need to make disciples of people and take care of them.

Matthew 28: 19 *“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit...”*

### **4 Laws of God:**

1. God loves us and has good plans for us.
2. We will not experience God's love if we sin.
3. God is the Truth, the Way and the Life.
4. We need to accept God as our Lord and Savior.

Mark 16: 15-16, 19-20 *“He said to them, ‘Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved; whoever does not believe will be condemned’... So then the Lord Jesus, after he spoke to them, was taken up into heaven and took his seat at the right hand of God. But they went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the word through accompanying sign.”*

Matthew 10:19-20

*“...do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say. You will be given at that moment what you are to say. For it will not be you who speak but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.”*

When we talk about God, it is He who is speaking and attracting people. We need to open our mouth and talk about our product – the Lord, and how He has changed us.

Just like David, we can defeat our first “Giant” by knowing who our Lord is. Our faith comes from hearing the word of God. David had only a simple faith in a big God. We only need a simple faith to make God happy.

*“Faith without action is dead.”* (Ref. James 2:17) Faith in God should be accompanied by obedience to His words. One of which is to witness, to make disciples, and to take care of His flock. People will know that we are truly followers of Christ when they experience the same love, concern and compassion of Jesus in us.

Battles are testings of faith, temptations, and trials. All these are allowed by the Lord for a purpose. Let us be among those who will say "We are not afraid because,after the stormy weather, the sun will shine."

You and I do not fight literal giants but temptations, discouragements, setbacks, difficulties, and blessings. Let us all pray then that we may be able to "kill" these "giants."

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