

to fight. Therefore, you must possess such a true faith in God that you will not fear anything or anyone else more than God (Psalm 23:4; Hebrews 13:5-6)!

Humility. The third thing that jumps out about why David chose to fight is his humility. Although volunteering to fight may not initially seem like humility and David was accused of being arrogant (1 Samuel 17:28), David knew it was only by God that he would defeat Goliath (vv. 37, 45-47)!. Similarly, you must have the humility to know that you will not defeat your giants alone! Sadly, many have tried and failed to defeat the giants of life without God. For, even if they succeed physically, they still lose the war for their souls because they do not fight for God. So, be assured that your victory over the giants will not be by your own intelligence, wisdom, or strength (Proverbs 16:18); but by God through Jesus Christ (Philippians 4:13)!

Bold determination. The fourth things that jumps out about why David chose to fight is his bold determination. Once David chose to fight, he was not deterred (even by naysayers and discouragement). He was so determined that fighting the giant was the right thing to do and that God would cause him to win that it did not matter what anyone else thought or said about him! Similarly, you must have such bold determination to overcome any obstacles and challenges to do what is right. Know that God wants you to fight against your giants and will cause you to defeat them if you fight His way, and Satan will flee (James 4:7)!

Conclusion

You must choose to fight against the giants that threaten to defeat you! Again, it does not matter how many times you have chosen to retreat from these giants in the past. Today is your day to choose to fight and win! If you will have faith, courage, humility, and bold determination, you will choose to fight God's way. If not, you will continue to be defeated by the giants. Choose today – for you may not have another opportunity!



Everyone reaches a point when the moment for choosing has come – to either fight against the giants or retreat. Sometimes people will linger in the decision-making zone for too long, thinking and planning but not making a definitive choice! This is essentially what the Israelites did for 40 days, while David quickly made a choice. Today, people often stand on the “sidelines” rather than making firm decisions. From the “sidelines,” they can think about fighting, imagine winning the battle, plan to go up against the giants, and deceive themselves by imagining they will fight and win while actually choosing to retreat.

The purpose of this lesson is to learn to make the choice to fight your giants by considering how David chose to fight Goliath, the choice you will make about fighting, and what it takes to fight.

David Chose To Fight Goliath

Everyone else retreated. In the previous lesson, we saw the choice most of the Israelites made when Goliath challenged them (1 Samuel 17:8, 10). The entire army retreated (1 Samuel 17:11, 24). Perhaps some of them thought they would have the courage to fight “tomorrow,” made plans for how to defeat him, or thought they were wise in not going up against him. Yet, they stayed on the sidelines and made the choice to retreat!

David was faced with a choice. David faced the same choice the others faced; yet saw it from a different perspective. Although David did not appear to come to the battle with the intention of fighting, he heard Goliath's challenge and saw all the Israelite army retreat (1 Samuel 17:20-24). Then, David began to speak about the king's reward and he was eventually brought to King Saul. 1 Samuel 17:32 records his choice to fight Goliath! Appreciate, though, that David chose to go head-to-head against a giant who was likely three to four feet taller than him, put his own life on

Discovering God's Word Bible Study Series

Written by Eric Krieg

Watch video @ WWW.GODSAIDSO.COM/DGW403

the line, and let the Israelite nation's freedom be decided by whether he won or lost. So, this was certainly *not* an insignificant choice!

Why David volunteered for the battle. Why do you suppose David made such a bold choice while none of the others did? Consider three things. First, David saw Goliath's challenge as being against God (1 Samuel 17:26) – and he could not stand by idly while this giant challenged God. Second, David knew the reward for fighting (1 Samuel 17:25) – and served as an extra incentive for David. Third, David knew God would make him win (1 Samuel 17:37) – and there was nothing so special about this giant that would make him superior to God.

David ignored the naysayers. David did not just choose to fight a giant. Instead, he refused to listen to all the naysayers who should have been encouraging him but weren't. For example, David's oldest brother falsely judged David's motives in coming to the battle (1 Samuel 17:28). Later, when David was brought before King Saul, the king told David he could not fight the Philistine (1 Samuel 17:33). Then, as David got closer to the giant to fight him, the giant mocked him (1 Samuel 17:41-44). While many may have given up when they experienced such opposition and ran away, David did not!

You Will Make A Choice About Fighting Your Giants

"I can't." Many of the Israelite soldiers may have thought like King Saul thought about David and concluded they could not fight the giant (1 Samuel 17:33). Many reason the same about fighting their giants today (i.e. can't put down the bottle, beat the drug cravings, control eating, stop lusting, control temper, overcome the past, stop worrying/being afraid, etc.). Yet, how many of the Israelites do you suppose *could* have defeated Goliath? I suppose any of them could have if they had trusted in God the way David did! Today, there are many who look at their giants and believe something about them prevents them from winning the battle (i.e. because they are "too far gone," some genetic or mental flaw about them, peer influence, etc.), though they believe others can defeat their giants. However, this person has limited himself/herself and God by the excuses and physically-focused reasoning – and has already been defeated before giving an honest and complete try!

"Someday." Some of the Israelite soldiers may have thought they would volunteer to fight Goliath "someday." Many reason the same about fighting their giants today (i.e. someday I'll do what must be done – stop looking at pornography, stop having illicit sexual relations, put down the cigarettes, develop a positive attitude, learn to be humble, start telling the truth, cut off evil companions, take control of my emotions, etc.). This

"someday" thinking holds out hope and offers a false sense of comfort for winning without actually fighting. Yet, the reality of this delusion is they procrastinate in finding their freedom. Sadly, most people who say they will fight their giants "someday" never find the "right" time – as there is always something that gets in the way, some excuse, a "better" time, etc. In fact, many will die planning to conquer their giants "someday."

"I will fight." David stood out from the rest of the Israelites because of the choice he made to fight (1 Samuel 17:32)! There are few who will be like David and choose to fight their giants. Yet, this choice is essential to defeating the giants. You simply will never win by choosing not to fight (as the giants are not going to magically disappear because they have mercy on you)! The question, then, is: When should you choose to fight? From all indications, David chose to fight after he heard the first challenge! However, please recognize that it does not matter how many times you have failed to make the choice to fight your giants in the past or have retreated from your giants. Today is a new opportunity – and the only decision you have to make right now (2 Corinthians 6:2)!

Having What It Takes To Fight

Faith. As you think about what made David different from all the other Israelite soldiers who faced the same challenge, the answer is both *nothing* and *everything*! In some ways, there is nothing different between those who defeat their giants and those who don't because all are capable of defeating the giants by God's power. But, in other ways, there are many key differences.

The first thing that jumps out about why David chose to fight is his faith in God (1 Samuel 17:37). Every Israelite soldier *should* and *could* have had the same faith in God, but they did not. This faith will give you the assurance that you will win (Hebrews 11:1)! While none of the Israelites thought they would win if they fought Goliath, David fought fully believing he would defeat Goliath. If you will have full faith in God (His reality and promises), your faith will give you enough confidence to choose to fight your giants (Hebrews 11:6)!

Courage. The second thing that jumps out about why David chose to fight is his courage. David had seen God deliver lions and bears to him in the past and was now fully confident God would give the giant to him. He was so confident that he courageously ran into battle with five stones and a sling against the giant and his armor-bearer. Similarly, you will only choose to fight your giants if you are courageous enough to do whatever God says. Even though many (or all) of the Israelite soldiers would have likely professed faith in God, they did not allow faith to give them courage