

Many give up. Sometimes people begin to fight against their giants, but one of two things happen. First, some begin to fight and then lose faith during the battle. When the battle gets tough and requires difficult sacrifices, many retreat and let the giants win again (Luke 14:25-33). Some fail as they begin to fight because they don't use the right weapons and armor, and depend on their own human wisdom (i.e. self-help books, counseling based on earthly things, medication, etc.). Yet, this will never *fully* equip you for the battle. Second, some begin to fight and then quit when things seem "good enough" (like the Israelites who often failed to completely drive out and destroy the Canaanites in the promised land). Failing to finish off the giants results in the giants just sleeping and waiting for the right opportunity to strike again! Rather, you must not get tired of doing good (Galatians 6:9) – even when the battle rages for a long time and you become discouraged!

Most do not have faith. Ultimately, the entire issue of fighting against the giants comes down to faith in God. For, while most got lost in the physical challenge Goliath presented, David saw the same challenge through the eyes of faith! Today, many people focus on their own inability to win their battles. But, while we cannot defeat all the giants by ourselves through physical means, we can defeat them through faith in God and Jesus Christ (Philippians 4:13; 1 Corinthians 10:13)! When people only view things from a physical perspective, fear and earthly challenges are all they see. But, when people view every situation through faith in God, the possibilities are endless (2 Corinthians 5:7). The one true God is certainly bigger, stronger, and wiser than any of the giants we face!

Conclusion

Most times, the giants win. This was true with the Israelites before David arrived and it is true today. But, it does not have to be this way! While we have learned an important warning that we can easily be defeated by the giants, we will now begin focusing on how we can defeat the giants. However, take a moment and consider whether the giants are winning in your life right now – or whether you are defeating them through Jesus Christ.



Standing up to the giants is a daunting task. David defied all odds from a physical perspective and defeated Goliath! Today, you should be as courageous and faithful as David to face your giants, trusting God will deliver you to victory. However, the reality is that most times, the giants win in our world – physically (sports, war, business, etc.) and spiritually (addictions, depression, worldliness, fear, stuck in comfort zone, complacent in serving God, etc.). Although we will be exploring why this does *not* have to be the case spiritually, you need to recognize that the giants beat most people and they will defeat you unless you do the things we'll be discussing. For, while people all over this world want to beat their giants, they often don't (for various reasons)!

The purpose of this lesson is to learn how Satan is successful in using giants to defeat most people by considering that Goliath almost won against Israel and why many will be defeated by giants today.

Goliath Almost Won By Default

Goliath's challenge went unanswered. Picture the scene at the battle front, with the Philistine army and their champion warrior (remember how he was described) on one hill and Israel on the other. Then, the challenge was given (1 Samuel 17:8-10). Though they should have remembered God had promised to be with them, no one would stand up to fight Goliath (1 Samuel 17:16)! For 40 days (morning and evening), every person in the Israelite army decided not to go up against the giant. This is the point David enters the story, hears the challenge, and appears to do on the first day what the entire army had failed to do for 40 days! Who knows how long Goliath's challenge would have went unanswered without David!

Discovering God's Word Bible Study Series

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Goliath defeated every other Israelite. Think about King Saul. He was a head taller than the rest of the Israelites (generally), had armor and a sword, and should have had faith to go against Goliath when others did not. However, he did not – only offering a reward to the one who defeated Goliath and the use of his armor and sword. Next, think about Abner (the commander of the army). Abner had heard Goliath’s challenge and did not answer it and watched David fight (alongside King Saul, 1 Samuel 17:55). Then, think about David’s three oldest brothers (Eliab, Abinadab, and Shammah, 1 Samuel 17:12-14). Though they were all present, they did not volunteer and the oldest was even upset at David for coming (v. 28). And, the same is true for every person in the Israelite army. Goliath can be said to have defeated all these by default because they had all basically forfeited (as the champion remains the champion when no one steps forward to challenge him)!

The entire Israelite army retreated from Goliath. Read 1 Samuel 17:11. Although we may understand this reaction the first time seeing the giant, you would have hoped things changed during the 40 mornings and evenings of hearing the challenge. But, no one trusted enough in God to volunteer for the fight. Instead, this same cowardly response continued when David arrived (1 Samuel 17:20-24). Apparently, the Israelite army continued going through the motions over these 40 days, shouting their battle cry and then retreating after Goliath’s challenge in terror! So, their battle cry was all talk and no action as it related to fighting the giant. No person was willing to fight him in battle – until David came. When David heard this challenge and saw the response of the Israelite army, he began answering the challenge. Yet, before we focus on how David defeated Goliath throughout this series, recognize that Goliath won on most days and against most people. David was the exception.

Why Most Will Be Defeated By The Giants

Many choose the easy path. Most people will be defeated by Satan and experience eternal destruction in Hell (Matthew 7:13-14). One of the themes we see consistently throughout the pages of the Bible is that there are few who faithfully follow God. Jesus said this is because the narrow path God wants us to walk on is difficult. It is simply easier (in some respects) not to live for God. For, you do not have to trust in anything/anyone besides what you see. You can live however you want. You can do whatever pleases yourself. You don’t have to push yourself more than you want to. You don’t have to deny yourself. You can believe whatever you want to believe. You will fit in with people in this world. So,

most choose this path. In doing so, they never have to fight against the giants if they don’t want to (letting the giants defeat them, ignoring the giants, making excuses for the giants, or even joining forces with the giants). Jesus even demonstrates how this is true with many people who profess to follow Him (Matthew 7:21-23). Today, there are many religious people like this who do not defeat their giants (like the Israelites) because they choose to take the easy path.

Many focus on physical things. This was almost certainly a reason the Israelites did not defeat Goliath before David (as nobody in Israel matched up physically). Today, when people face their giants, they continue focusing on physical things and may only see the fun and pleasure a giant offers (i.e. drugs, sex, worldly possessions, friendships, etc.) or how difficult a giant will be to defeat (i.e. overcoming an addiction, changing a habit, etc.). They may get lost in the despair of looking at a physical situation and see no way to have a better life on this earth besides what physical things offer. Think about how Jesus’s parable of the sower demonstrates how physical things keep people from following Jesus and defeating their giants (Mark 4:3-8, 14-20). Three categories of people in this parable do not live as God desires because they are focused on physical things. The soil along the path is too focused on worldly things to pay attention to God’s word and give it a chance. The rocky soil gets intimidated by the physical threats of persecution or distress for following Jesus. And, the thorny soil gets distracted by the worries of earthly life, the deceitfulness of earthly wealth, and the desires for earthly things. Most people are described by these three types of soil and will be defeated by their giants. Few will be like the good soil and carefully cultivate the fruit of living for God.

Many do not even try. The Bible never records anyone besides David even trying to fight against Goliath! Today, many live with their giants challenging them every day and retreat from them rather than mustering up the faith and courage to try to defeat them. Instead, they just learn to live with the giants. Some do not try because they do not know what they should do. Some do not try because they are afraid of failing (1 Samuel 17:11, 24), believing it is better not to try than to try and fail. Some do not try because they don’t think anything is wrong, accepting the giants as a part of their lives and making excuses for them. Yet, if you desire to defeat your giants and be victorious in the war for your soul, you must choose to fight against Satan and the giants (James 1:22, 26-27)! Although you may deceive yourself into thinking the giants are okay, you are not okay if you are not obeying God!