

testing the other pieces of armor. Similarly, faith will provide a first line of defense against Satan's challenges through faith in God, Christ, God's word, the afterlife, etc. The evidence of faith for all the unseen things God has promised will help you march into battle against fierce giants and Satan, even when the physical odds seem stacked against you (Hebrews 11:1, 6; 1 John 5:4-5).

Salvation. Ephesians 6:17. The helmet would protect the head/brain from devastating and deadly injuries to this critical part of the body. Similarly, without the hope of something better than this earthly life (with all its struggles and challenges), you would be an easy target for the devil. However, the hope God has provided for those who live for Him in Heaven (Revelation 21:1-22:5; 1 Peter 1:3-9; Romans 8:14-39) will reassure you that everything will work out for your spiritual good if you live faithful for Him and that all the sufferings of this life will be worth it in the end (2 Corinthians 4:16-18).

Word of God. Ephesians 6:17. The sword was useful to defend against attacks from the opponent and to advance the cause the soldier was fighting for. Similarly, the Holy Spirit-inspired word of God will defeat Satan by using it to know how He wants you to live (Matthew 4:1-11; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:3) and then using your knowledge to fight against Satan's army and rescue others from Satan by preaching the gospel to them (2 Timothy 2:24-26).

Prayer. Ephesians 6:18. Although not equated with a physical piece of armor, God identifies prayer as having an important role in the fight against Satan – both for yourself and for others (James 5:16). In addition, prayer is the avenue through which Christians can find forgiveness when they lose a battle against the giants and Satan (Acts 8:22; 1 John 1:9).

Conclusion

You must properly equip yourself for battle if you desire to be victorious! Although God will make you victorious through Jesus Christ, He still requires you to do what you can. And, God has promised that *if* you will fully equip yourself with the armor He provides every day, you will be able to defeat Satan and your giants! But, if you fail to equip yourself in this way or leave certain pieces of armor off, Satan will use your giants to defeat you.



Once you have chosen to fight and developed the necessary confidence for fighting your giants, you must get ready to do battle. For, proper preparation prevents poor performance. As David volunteered to fight Goliath, he took some time and made some efforts to equip himself properly rather than just rushing into battle. Unfortunately, many decide to face their giants and rush into battle without a battle plan – and are defeated (and, therefore, think they cannot defeat the giants). But, you must give Satan more credit than to think you can defeat the giants on your own and without equipping yourself in the proper way.

The purpose of this lesson is to learn how to equip yourself in a way so you can defeat your giants by learning how David equipped himself for battle, how to select the proper equipment for battle, and what armor God has given to defeat your giants.

David Equipped Himself For Battle

He would not win by default. David did not walk up to the giant with no armor or weapon and expect to emerge victorious (even though he had faith in God). Rather, Goliath was a large, skilled, and well-equipped warrior (1 Samuel 17:3-7) and mere confidence and determination was not enough to defeat him (as God just does not work that way). Although God would often deliver His people from fierce enemies and cause them to experience improbable victories, He would require them to do some things (i.e. Jericho).

Saul's armor was not sufficient. King Saul tried to give David his armor (1 Samuel 17:38-39). It's interesting that King Saul must have thought his armor was good enough for David, but not himself! This surely amounted to a lack of faith. Although the king was probably trying to ensure

Discovering God's Word Bible Study Series

Written by Eric Krieg

Watch video @ WWW.GODSAIDSO.COM/DGW405

the greatest opportunity of success for David from a physical perspective (as he likely had the best armor), David was not able to use it.

David made the necessary preparations. Failing to fit King Saul's armor did not stop David from fighting. For, David's decision was not based on this armor anyways. He immediately chose more appropriate equipment for the battle (1 Samuel 17:40). David equipped himself with three things – his staff, five smooth stones, and a sling. While most would consider David's choices laughable and view him as being under-equipped (1 Samuel 17:43), David was focused on God rather than the physical things.

David's choices were appropriate for the enemy. Consider how David's unconventional tactical choices were wise to use against Goliath. As you do, consider how skilled some were with a sling and stone (Judges 20:16). Perhaps David was trained, skilled, and/or experienced in using a sling. Regardless, he knew God could guide the stone where it needed to go! Yet, if David had so much faith, why did he take five stones instead of just one? Perhaps there are various explanations (i.e. no guarantee to hit on the first shot, the other Philistines, the shield bearer, Goliath's brother/brothers; 1 Chronicles 20:5-8). But, it was *not* a lack of faith! The choice of the sling and stone were appropriate for the challenge – as it would find a weak and unguarded place in Goliath's armor and it would keep David from hand-to-hand combat.

Selecting The Proper Equipment For Battle

Satan is the real enemy. Remember that Satan is the one using the giants to intimidate and defeat you! This is your real enemy (1 Peter 5:8-9) and he has many schemes/tactics to defeat you (2 Corinthians 2:11). It is easy to get distracted by all the physical things about the giants and forget about the spiritual enemy behind them (James 1:14-15). So, if you are going to defeat the giants, you will need to defeat Satan (James 4:7)!

Some armor will not equip you properly. Like King Saul's armor would not work for David, there are some types of armor that will not work for you against Satan! Namely, many try to defeat their giants by only addressing physical things (i.e. read self-help books/websites, talk with a worldly-minded counselor, go through a physically-focused recovery program). While these may have an appropriate place, they do not address the real problem of sin! Though the physically-focused book, program, or counselor may help you overcome a particular struggle, they will not help you find the true forgiveness, peace, joy, and salvation that only God provides! For, only God is able to provide what you need to fully defeat

your giants because He gives you everything you need to defeat Satan (Ephesians 6:11-12)!

God's armor will properly equip you for battle. As long as you only focus on physical solutions to spiritual battles, you will not achieve full recovery from sin and unlock all that is available to you through Jesus Christ! Thankfully, God has provided everything that is needed to be victorious in your battle against the giants and Satan (Ephesians 6:10-13)! Look at the assurance given in this passage concerning how God's armor will result in victory over Satan! However, you must have full confidence that God's armor really will work, like David had confidence in God (James 4:7)!

Putting On God's Armor

Truth. Ephesians 6:14. The belt was central to the soldier's armor, offered some protection, and would allow the soldier to hold the necessary weapons (i.e. sword). Similarly, truth is central to every other piece of your spiritual armor. Without truth, none of the other pieces would be effective. So, you must work diligently to learn, believe, and obey the truth God has revealed in His word so you can expose and avoid the lies of Satan (John 8:32).

Righteousness. Ephesians 6:14. The breastplate offered soldiers protection for the chest and the vital organs in that part of your body (i.e. heart, lungs). Similarly, it would be spiritually deadly to go up against the devil without a firm commitment to practicing righteousness. You must decide to become righteous by being obedient to God's plan of salvation (hearing God's word, believing in Jesus, repenting of sin, confessing Christ, and being baptized, Acts 2:38; 18:8). Then, you must maintain a firm commitment to practicing righteousness throughout your life no matter what happens (Revelation 2:10).

Readiness for the gospel of peace. Ephesians 6:15. The shoes (sandals) would aid the soldier with footing in the terrain and were often accompanied by greaves to protect the leg. Similarly, the readiness for the gospel of peace will help you stand through the battle by being firmly grounded upon the gospel of Jesus Christ that results in having peace with God (Philippians 4:6-7). As you store up knowledge and wisdom from God so you can give a right answer at the appropriate time (Psalm 119:11), you can have the peace of knowing the decisions you make please God as long as you obey what God has taught.

Faith. Ephesians 6:16. The shield would provide a first line of defense against Satan's challenges and answer many attacks without