



Fighting the Giants: Not by Might nor by Power, but by My Spirit

Study Notes Handout: Week Nine (1 Samuel 17)

I come against you in the Name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the Lord will hand you over to me... and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. (1 Sam. 17:45 - 46)

Introduction: We all have giants in our lives; things that threaten us or make us feel small and insecure. If we respond to them in fear they rob us of good judgement and shrink our lives. If we respond to them in faith they deepen our trust in God and expand our lives. The simple lesson we learn from David in this chapter is that fighting giants is all about knowing the God you serve.

Sermon Outline: David's knowledge of God enabled him to live by faith because:

1. In his past experience he had proven the faithfulness of God (17:34 - 37).
2. In his eyes of faith he saw a puny Goliath and Giant God (16:7; 17:11, 23 - 26).
3. In his zeal for the Lord he wanted the world to know the God of Israel (17:26, 36, 43 - 47).
4. In his assurance of God's victory he did not fear for his own life (17:32, 48 - 49).

Questions for Reflection / Discussion:

- i. Take some time to name some of the 'giants' in your life. How has your experience with God in the past enabled you to trust Him today with present giants? Can you share this with someone else?
- ii. Can you describe an incident in your life that you saw through the eyes of faith? Describe it.
- iii. How strong is your zeal for God? Is the fame of Jesus Christ in the world important to you? How?
- iv. When you think of courage what examples come to mind? What is the relationship between faith and courage? Discuss how we can be bolder in our zeal for the Lord?

