



MY GREATEST DAY OF FAITH

FAITH IN THE BATTLE

1 Samuel 17

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MESSAGE NOTES

Now the Philistines gathered their armies for battle. And they were gathered at Socoh, which belongs to Judah, and encamped between Socoh and Azekah, in Ephes-dammim. And Saul and the men of Israel were gathered, and encamped in the Valley of Elah, and drew up in line of battle against the Philistines. And the Philistines stood on the mountain on the one side, and Israel stood on the mountain on the other side, with a valley between them. — 1 Samuel 17:1 – 3 (ESV)

And there came out from the camp of the Philistines a champion named Goliath of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span. He had a helmet of bronze on his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail, and the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of bronze. And he had bronze armor on his legs, and a javelin of bronze slung between his shoulders. The shaft of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and his spear's head weighed six hundred shekels of iron. And his shield-bearer went before him. — 1 Samuel 17:4 – 7 (ESV)

He stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, "Why have you come out to draw up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not servants of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me. If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will be your servants. But if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall be our servants and serve us." And the Philistine said, "I defy the ranks of Israel this day. Give me a man, that we may fight together." When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid. — 1 Samuel 17:8 – 11 (ESV)

When We Take Faith Steps:

- **We refuse to listen to the negative voices**

Now Eliab his eldest brother heard when he spoke to the men. And Eliab's anger was kindled against David, and he said, "Why have you come down? And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your presumption and the evil of your heart, for you have come down to see the battle." — 1 Samuel 17:28 (ESV)

*"When you go out to war against your enemies, and see horses and chariots and an army larger than your own, you shall not be afraid of them, for the Lord your God is with you, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt ... for the Lord your God is He who goes with you to fight for you against your enemies, to give you the victory."
— Deuteronomy 20:1, 4 (ESV)*

*And David said to the men who stood by him, "What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?"
— 1 Samuel 17:26 (ESV)*

- **We continue building on the new story that God is writing**

But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep sheep for his father. And when there came a lion, or a bear, and took a lamb from the flock, I went after him and struck him and delivered it out of his mouth ... Your servant has struck down both lions and bears, and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, for he has defied the armies of the living God." — 1 Samuel 17:34 – 36 (ESV)



MY GREATEST DAY OF FAITH

Faith: Taking God at His Word and leaving the results up to Him

- **We always move closer to the Lord**

And David said, "The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." And Saul said to David, "Go, and the Lord be with you!" — 1 Samuel 17:37 (ESV)

And when the Philistine looked and saw David, he disdained him, for he was but a youth, ruddy and handsome in appearance. And the Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. The Philistine said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and to the beasts of the field." — 1 Samuel 17:42 – 44 (ESV)

Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied." — 1 Samuel 17:45 (ESV)

- **We impact our family, friends and community for Christ**

And the men of Israel and Judah rose with a shout and pursued the Philistines as far as Gath and the gates of Ekron, so that the wounded Philistines fell on the way... — 1 Samuel 17:52 (ESV)

"It only takes one stone to take down a giant."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Discussion Starter: Share what your favorite Old Testament Bible story is and why.
- What does it feel like when we are in a spiritual valley? Why is it so difficult to feel like we can find a way out at those times?
- The battle between Israel and the Philistines took place in the Valley of Elah. If you were to describe your own "Battle of Elah" where you feel some giant-like attack, what would it be?
- How does listening to God's Word help us when there are a lot of negative voices around us? Does anyone have an example to share from your personal life?
- Pastor Jon defined faith as "taking God at His Word and leaving the results up to Him." When facing a spiritual valley or battle, why is exercising faith so critical?
- What key truth did you take away from the teaching this Sunday?
- What would help you to have more of a "God-focus" than a "giant-focus" in the face of some of your battles?