

Facing Our Giants
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A teacher was giving an exam to identify notable figures in the Bible. One of the questions was, “Who said, “Give me a man?” One student wrote down “Rahab, the harlot.” Smiling at the answer, the teacher gave the student credit for the question, even though the answer he was looking for was, “Goliath”.

The ancient Israelites were in the field preparing for battle against their Philistine enemies. In those days it was customary for two individuals to duel first in a fight to the death, with that battle setting the tone for the entire war. Goliath, a giant of a man who was head and shoulders above those around him, stepped out from the gathered Philistine army and gave a challenge: “Give me a man, that we may fight together.”

No one wanted to take Goliath up on his challenge. Visualize, if you can, a man who is three feet taller than Shaquille O'Neil and a lot uglier. Now cover him from head to foot in sheet metal. Any wonder why no-one wanted to take that challenge?

Then a little guy by the name of David volunteered to go forward for the Israelites to face Goliath. The Israelites said, “No way!”, but David was determined. They tried putting the king’s armor on him, but it was too big and too much. So David went to the stream and chose five smooth stones, and went out to face Goliath wearing only his shepherd' clothing and carrying a sling shot. He didn't even take a sword or spear.

Despite all appearances, David was ready for his confrontation with the giant Goliath because he believed that God was on his side. Faith is not just believing God can. Faith is knowing God will.

Too many of us today have difficulty making the connection between our personal faith and our everyday lives. Our faith can make a difference in how we face difficulty, if we embrace it and step out on it. We need to see that our faith in God can give us confidence to battle whatever giants come our way.

The story of David and Goliath is not just a lesson on the power of positive thinking. It’s the story of a God who whispers to us that we can do it; that He will be with us; and that with His help we shall prevail. You know the outcome of this story. David felled Goliath with a single stone and the battle was won.

May the same God who went into battle with David be with you in your battles, whether those battles are physical or financial, social or emotional or even mental. Trust in God. He will give us the victory!