

DAVID AND GOLIATH

How Seeing Jesus Builds Faith

FATHER,

We give You praise and thanks that You are more than enough, that You and only You satisfy. We thank you, Father, for the proclamation of Your Word over our lives this day and every day throughout this year, that we will behold Your face in righteousness, that when we awake we will be satisfied beholding Your likeness.

And Lord, we thank You that it is in seeing You, seeing what You have done, seeing Who You are, seeing You in Your glory, seeing Your countenance shining upon us, and seeing and beholding Your smile that we are changed. And so Lord, we ask that today You would let us see Jesus. Lord, open up the eyes of our hearts and show us wondrous things from Your Word, that real faith, dynamic faith, would be forged in us by seeing Jesus.

In the precious name of Jesus we pray, Amen. Amen.

Turn with me to 1 Samuel chapter seventeen for the good news of the Gospel in the story of David and Goliath.

I have been Goliath a thousand times, and my boy, Bennett, has been David a thousand times. Bennett loved that story, and so when he was a little boy there was no story that we play acted more than the story of David and Goliath – even as many as twenty times in one session! And the story always wound up the same: The little boy David would find a smooth stone – usually a wadded up Kleenex – put it into his blankie, swing it around and hurl it at the big mean Goliath, who would come tumbling down.

Little David would run over and put his foot on the chest of the defeated foe and stand there proudly with his plastic sword in hand. We even had a birthday party when he was two or three, and we made a plywood Goliath which I painted with an image of the ugly fiend so that all the little two- and three-year old boys could come and hurl things at Goliath.

I have been Goliath a thousand times, and Bennett has been David a thousand times; but it seems that nobody has been the cowardly soldiers in the army, who, in a way, are left out of the story.

I want to read the story differently today because in the end, I can't identify with Goliath. I'm not that bad. And I can't really identify with David. I never killed a nine-foot nine giant on the behalf of a nation; nor was I made king of Israel; and I can't play the harp! But these soldiers, who for forty days studied the armor of their enemy and worried about it, that I can identify with.

How Seeing Jesus
Satisfies the Soul and
Changes Everything

SATISFIED

PASTOR ALAN WRIGHT

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*Lord, open up the eyes of our hearts
and show us wondrous things from Your Word,
that real faith, dynamic faith, would be forged in us
by seeing Jesus.*

I usually didn't read the ending of the story to our children because it didn't appear in most of the children's Bibles. That is understandable, for David taking the sword of Goliath, cutting off the giant's head and returning to Jerusalem with the bloody head is not an appropriate ending for toddlers.

But today I will show you how the ending is the best part of the story; how true is Psalm 17:15: *When I awake I'll be satisfied, beholding Your likeness;* and how in seeing Jesus, faith is born.

THE SCENE

Arch Enemies on the Hillsides

The scene was a familiar one to ancient times. Two armies were opposing each other on adjacent hills with a valley in between. These armies positioned themselves there, ready to fight one another.

A Call for Champions

Yet a call for a battle of champions had been made, where one champion, the most valiant and best warrior from each army, would go into the valley to fight. Then whoever won would win on behalf of the army, indeed, on behalf of the whole nation.

A Formidable Opponent

But the scene here has the Israeli Army paralyzed with fear.

1 SAMUEL CHAPTER 17 (NIV 1984)

⁴ *A champion named Goliath, who was from Gath, came out of the Philistine camp.*

It is of interest to note that archeologists have found in a dig at Gath a pottery shard that is etched with the name *Goliath* and is dated to about the tenth

century before Christ.

He was over nine feet tall.

⁵ *He had a bronze helmet on his head and wore a coat of scale armor of bronze weighing five thousand shekels [one hundred and twenty five pounds]; ⁶ on his legs he wore bronze greaves, and a bronze javelin was slung on his back. ⁷ His spear shaft was like a weaver's rod, and its iron point weighed six hundred shekels [15 pounds, just in the point of his spear]. His shield bearer went ahead of him.*

If you are wondering how it is that we have so much information about Goliath's armor, it will soon be evident. There was plenty of time for the soldiers to study it because this giant came out and taunted Israel for forty days while they had nothing else to do except to study up on how heavy and big his armor was.

⁸ *Goliath stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, 'Why do you come out and line up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not the servants of Saul? Choose a man and have him come down to me. ⁹ If he is able to fight and kill me, we will become your subjects; but if I overcome him and kill him, you will become our subjects and serve us.'* ¹⁰ *Then the Philistine said, 'This day I defy the ranks of Israel! Give me a man and let us fight each other.'* ¹¹ *On hearing the Philistine's words, Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified.*

THE PREDICAMENT

Dressed for Battle

Here's the picture: The army of Israel was all dressed for battle, but never fighting. The people of God had a destiny and a land to take and occupy, but they did not because of fear.

No Representative

The people had asked God to give them a king like the other nations had,¹ someone who had the appearance of being a noble leader, and they had such a man in Saul, except that inwardly he was morally bankrupt, mentally ill and afraid. The one the people looked to as their representative could not and would not be what they needed.

There was no one who was willing to fight the giant, no one to represent them on the battlefield. No one in that entire army was righteous enough – no one living with righteous faith in the God of the covenant. No one had enough courage, or enough faith to represent them. Their king was anointed to be their representative, but he was no king at all.

That was their predicament.

Our predicament was that there has been a great taunt against all of humanity from the enemy of God, and not one person amongst all of humanity was righteous enough to represent humanity in the battle.

To understand the Gospel we must begin by understanding that when sin entered the world, it touched everybody. So while it may seem that there is a scale from the unrighteous to the righteous, there really is not, because if the righteousness of all things was to be rightly measured, it would be measured against the glory and the righteousness of God. That is why the Bible says that none is righteous, no, not one,² that ALL have sinned and fallen short of the Glory of God.³

We needed a representative.

Nothing to Instill Courage

Nothing was instilling courage in these soldiers.

Not the shame or the embarrassment

You might think that the sheer shame of it all, the embarrassment, would have motivated somebody to go fight Goliath. You might think that if somebody had pointed out to the soldiers what cowards they really were, that at least one of them would have felt so ashamed that he would have gone to fight the giant.

¹ 1 Samuel 8:1-22

² Romans 3:10 (ESV)

³ Romans 3:23

*Have you ever felt like that,
all dressed for battle,
but when Goliath rears his ugly head,
there is no deep courage
residing within;
try as you might to have more faith,
there is no faith forthcoming?*

But it doesn't work that way, does it? Shame might move you for a while, but if you are confronted with a real Goliath, shame will never motivate you. Instead, every day that those soldiers were taunted and yet remained cowardly, they only became more ashamed and more anxious.

Not the allure of applause, honor or approval

You might think that the quality so opposite of shame, the sheer adoration and applause of the people, the honor, or even the mere approval of the other soldiers, might have tempted somebody to go out to fight the giant.

Yet as much as we might thirst for approval from others, when you have a real Goliath in front of you, your faith will melt because the allure of the approval of man, is really, in the end, only a snare. (See Proverbs 29:25).

Not the promise of reward

And you might think that the generous reward which had been offered would have motivated the soldiers, but that reward was offered to the victor, only to the man who would kill Goliath. It wasn't offered to the man who would just fight him.

It's not the possibility of a reward that moves us, it is the confidence that we will attain it that instills courage.

No Faith

No one would fight, because no one believed that he would win. Only the man who believed he could kill Goliath, would fight Goliath. No other incentive could cause faith. Faith had to come from somewhere else.

Have you ever felt like that, all dressed for battle, but when Goliath rears his ugly head, there is no deep courage residing within; try as you might to

have more faith, there is no faith forthcoming?

You will never have faith by somebody telling you that you ought to have more faith. And you will never have faith by somebody simply telling you that you'll have approval, that they will like you more if you have more faith. You'll never have faith by the reward that is promised. Rather, faith only comes as a gift.

But how is faith born? What is the real root of courage?

DAVID

Enter young David.

¹⁶ *For forty days the Philistine came forward every morning and evening and took his stand.*

¹⁷ *Now Jesse said to his son David, 'Take this ephah of roasted grain and these ten loaves of bread for your brothers and hurry to their camp. ¹⁸ Take along these ten cheeses to the commander of their unit. See how your brothers are and bring back some assurance from them. ¹⁹ They are with Saul and all the men of Israel in the Valley of Elah.*

A Type of Christ

We see David as a type of Christ even before the battle against Goliath began.

A shepherd from Bethlehem

David was one of the people of Israel, and yet he was not with them. He was back in Bethlehem, where he was a shepherd. A shepherd from Bethlehem, sound familiar?

Spirit-empowered and favored

David had been anointed with oil from the prophet Samuel's horn of oil, and the Bible says that when that anointing oil came upon him, the Spirit of the Lord came in power upon David from that day forward.⁴ He is a picture of a man upon whom God's Spirit rests, and from whom God will never remove His favor.

⁴ 1 Samuel 16:13



How is faith born?

What is the real root of courage?

An unlikely king

He was raised in obscurity. No one was thinking about David. In fact, when Samuel went to find and anoint a new king, they paraded Jesse's sons before him, and the Lord told Samuel:

It is none of them. The LORD has not chosen these. So Samuel asked Jesse, Are these all the sons you have? And Jesse said: There is the boy, David, out in the field with the sheep.⁵

He was the one. No one would have figured him to be the new king.

An unlikely champion

No one thought he would ever be the likely champion for Israel. He wasn't even in the army. And yet, he was one of them.

Sent by his father with bread for his brothers

He was sent by his father to carry to his brothers their daily bread. He carried bread from Bethlehem, Beth-Lechem, *house of bread*.

Early life of obscurity

Later in the text we will see where David talked about fighting off lions and bears. Nobody saw that. Nobody applauded that.

Recognize the story? A shepherd boy from Bethlehem, carrying out his job as a shepherd in obscurity, carrying daily bread to the people, who are afraid of the enemy?

A worshiper and a warrior

When David was suddenly promoted after his defeat of Goliath, you might say, *Look at such a sudden success!* No it wasn't. It was something God had been cultivating in him, because there is something about a man who risks his life for his sheep. How much more would he be willing to risk his life for people. He learned the gentleness and sensitivity a shepherd must have with anxious sheep to calm them and lead them. He also learned that he had to fight for the sheep, or the enemy would destroy them.

⁵ 1 Samuel 16:1-11

He was a worshiper and he was a warrior long before he appeared at the Valley of Elah amongst his brothers.

We know almost nothing about the first thirty years of Jesus' life. He was working as a carpenter and He was the King, yet no one knew it.

Ministry

We see the ministry of David prefiguring Christ's work.

Sent by his father, not called

²⁰ *Early in the morning David ... loaded up and set out, as Jesse had directed.*

He reached the camp ..., ²² ran to the battle lines and asked his brothers how they were. ²³ As he was talking with them, Goliath, the Philistine champion from Gath, stepped out from his lines and shouted his usual defiance, and David heard it. ²⁴ Whenever the Israelites saw the man, they all fled from him in great fear.

²⁵ *Now the Israelites had been saying, 'Do you see how this man keeps coming out? He comes out to defy Israel. The king will give great wealth to the man who kills him. He will also give him his daughter in marriage and will exempt his father's family from taxes in Israel.'*

Now that right there ought to have gotten some soldier moving! Tax-free living for the family of the man who kills the giant.

Indignant that anyone would defy God's people

²⁶ *David asked the men standing near him, 'What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and removes this disgrace from Israel? And this is one of my favorite lines in the Bible: Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?'*

Saw the enemy in light of God's magnitude

I love that David identified the whole issue. He called Goliath an *uncircumcised Philistine* because circumcision was the sign of the covenant. The people that were in the covenant with God were those who were circumcised people. Goliath was in no covenant with God.

Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he would defy the armies of the living God? David was saying, Who is this guy? He's not even in a

*You are the army
of the living God!*

relationship with God, and we're in a covenant with God.

Did not condemn the fearful army

I also love that David came to this cowardly, motley army of men who would mock him in return, but instead of saying to them, *You bunch of cowards! You yellow-bellied, sorry, no good for nothing wimps, you rag-tag army of duds*, he said, *This is the army of the living God!*

You know what we do, Church, that is so counter-cultural? Every time we get together as a church, no matter how bad a week we've had, no matter what we are facing, no matter how bad we look that day, no matter how afraid we are, no matter how weak we feel, we can come in and remind each other: *You're the army of the living God!*

Jesus came not to condemn the world, but to save it.⁶ He doesn't see you for how you are now acting. He sees you for who you are in covenant with the living God.

Motivated by the reward

²⁷ *They repeated to him what they had been saying and told him, 'this is what will be done for the man who kills him.'*

Unlike the soldiers, David was motivated by the reward set before him.

Jesus, who for the joy that was set before Him, endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.⁷

Mocked and belittled by the ones he came to save

²⁸ *When Eliab, David's oldest brother, heard him speaking with the men, he burned with anger at him and asked, 'Why have you come down here? And*

⁶ John 12:47

⁷ Hebrews 12:2

*David was filled with faith,
filled with confidence,
absolutely convinced
of the majesty and power of God.
He had seen
God's faithfulness in his life
and he was ready
to run towards the battle line.*

with whom did you leave those few sheep in the desert? I know how conceited you are and how wicked your heart is; you came down only to watch the battle.'

He came unto that which was His own and His own received Him not.⁸

He came to his own brothers. The one who would save them, they mocked and they belittled.

Then David went to Saul, and said,

³² *Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him.* But the King of Israel replied by simply announcing the ultimate curse:

³³ *Saul replied, 'You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a boy,*

David was mocked and he was told he couldn't do it.

It is worthy of meditation that Jesus came unto His own and His own not only did not receive Him, but they mocked Him and they ridiculed Him,⁹ even to the point where when Jesus was dying, nailed to a cross, bleeding in order to save, they said, *You saved others, why can't you save yourself?*¹⁰

You can't do anything.

Filled with confidence and faith

But David was not deterred. He was not deterred by the mockery; he was not deterred by the curse of Saul. Instead he made an announcement of incredible faith:

⁸ John 1:11

⁹ Matt 27:39-44; Mark 15:29-32; Luke 23:35-37, 39

¹⁰ Matthew 27:42; Mark 15:31; Luke 23:35

³⁴ *But David said to Saul, 'Your servant has been keeping his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, ³⁵ I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. ³⁶ Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. ³⁷ The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.'*

Saul said to David, 'Go, and the LORD be with you.'

³⁸ *Then Saul dressed David in his own tunic. He put a coat of armor on him and a bronze helmet on his head. ³⁹ David fastened on his sword over the tunic and tried walking around, because he was not used to them.*

'I cannot go in these,' he said to Saul, 'because I am not used to them.' So he took them off.⁴⁰ *Then he took his staff in his hand, chose five smooth stones from the stream, put them in the pouch of his shepherd's bag and, with his sling in his hand, approached the Philistine.*

Wow. He was filled with faith, filled with confidence, absolutely convinced of the majesty and power of God. He had seen God's faithfulness in his life and he was ready to run towards the battle line.

Convinced God would win the battle for His honor and glory

⁴⁵ *David said to the Philistine, 'You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.*

⁴⁶ *This day the LORD will hand you over to me, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head. Today I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel.*

⁴⁷ *... those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD's, and he will give all of you into our hands.'*

Ran towards the battle

⁴⁸ *As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him.*

He RAN towards the battle. The very thing that no one could do, that no one would do, that no one had faith to do, David did. He ran towards Goliath. Every day for forty days the people had run away from Goliath, and that day an overlooked young man in Israel ran towards the giant.

One of the great contrasts you will see between Jesus and all the religious leaders of His day is that He didn't run away or hide. He waited until the God appointed time and ran toward the enemy.

He didn't run away from the sick for fear of becoming sick.

Instead, He made the sick well.

He didn't run away from the ceremonially unclean for fear of becoming unclean.

Instead, He made the unclean pure.

He didn't run from people in pain.

Instead, He wept with them at the grave.

He didn't run away from the dead.

Instead, He made the dead to live.

He ran to the battle line.

Crushed the enemy's head

Can't you just envision what was happening? David was running towards Goliath, and then,

⁴⁹ *Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it.*

They say that an expert with a sling can send a stone at a hundred m.p.h. David sent a stone at a hundred miles an hour from close range,

and struck the Philistine on the forehead.

In the skull! The same imagery that is used in Genesis 3:15 in the promise that the seed of the woman would crush the serpent's head.

... The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell face down on the ground.

⁵⁰ *So David triumphed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone; without a sword in his hand he struck down the Philistine and killed him.*

⁵¹ *David ran and stood over him. He took hold of the Philistine's sword and drew it from the*

*It is not by sword or spear
that the LORD saves;
for the battle
is the LORD's.*

scabbard. After he killed him, he cut off his head with the sword.

BE MORE LIKE DAVID?

What a story! Wow, what a story! No wonder it is a preacher's favorite story.

The Typical Application

Normally we preachers turn at this point to make the interpretation and the application, saying: *You ought to be more like David.* In fact, it often comes across with the tone of: *Why can't you be more like David? What's wrong with you? You coward.*

We may not express it exactly like that, although we might, saying in essence: *Why can't you do more? Why can't you face your fears more? Why can't you give more? Why can't you worship more? Why can't you be more of a warrior? Don't you know that you could do better than you are doing...? or whatever ... Be more like David.*

There are in this text some good principles, like *face your fears; focus on the goals and the rewards that are before you – that's a good thing. It's not wrong; write down your goals; keep your eyes on the prize; don't listen to naysayers; remember God's faithfulness to you and how He delivered you from your own lions and bears; don't try to wear someone else's armor; be yourself; use the gifts that the Lord has given you – the stones, the smooth stones, whatever is at hand; don't be intimidated by the taunts of your Goliath; trust God – remember that the battle belongs to the Lord; when the time is right, run to your battle.*

*Cowards
turned into men of blazing faith;
despondent soldiers
turned into relentless attackers,
paralyzed by fear one moment,
liberated into glorious courage the next.*

What changed?

No Power in 'Ought To'

Those are good principles. I could give at least three sermons from those principles. Yet none of those principles would actually help any of us to be more like David. Any of them would only remind you that you are not like David and that you ought to be.

There is no power in any of it. In fact, when you read the story, you realize that these cowardly soldiers knew they ought to have been more heroic. There is no telling what it was like for those forty days with the soldiers turning to each other and saying:

Why don't you go out there and fight him?

Well, I would fight him, but my back hurts today.

Why don't you go out there and fight him?

It's not that they didn't know that somebody ought to have enough courage to go out and fight the giant. It's that nobody did have enough courage. Nobody had faith.

You will never have faith because somebody tells you that you ought to have faith.

You will never be like David because somebody tells you that you ought to be like David.

And you will never be like Jesus just because somebody tells you that you ought to be more like Jesus. *You ought to sin less; you ought to do more good; you ought to give more; you ought to have more mighty miracles flowing through you.*

It won't happen like that.

THE BEST PART OF THE STORY

So how was faith born? This is where the story gets really good. David cut off Goliath's head with the giant's own sword, and then:

When the Philistines saw that their hero was dead, they turned and ran.⁵² Then the men of Israel and Judah surged forward with a shout and pursued the Philistines to the entrance of Gath and to the gates of Ekron. Their dead were strewn along the Shaaraim road to Gath and Ekron.⁵³ When the Israelites returned from chasing the Philistines, they plundered their camp.⁵⁴ David took the Philistine's head and brought it to Jerusalem, and he put the Philistine's weapons in his own tent.

That day the soldiers who were in the higher elevations up on the hill saw that David had gone out and they could watch what was happening. Some of the ones saw it plainly. Others were blocked, they couldn't see because there were too many soldiers in their way. But word began to spread.

David has killed Goliath! The soldiers up here saw it and they are saying he killed him!

He's down! Goliath is down! He's dead!

Now David is running; he's ... he's pulled out his sword! He's going to ...

HE'S CUT OFF GOLIATH'S HEAD!!!

No way. Are you sure it's David, Jesse's son? Could anything good come from David?

What?

Do you know it really has happened? Are you sure? ARE YOU SURE?

Yes, it's happened!

Word rapidly spread through the camp of soldiers.

Then the men saw that the Philistines were running, and at that moment nobody told them, *You ought to do this*. Nobody said, *Now's the time for a war cry*. Nobody said, *Now you ought to feel courageous*. Nobody said, *Now you ought to have confidence*. Nothing like that was being said, but the men of Israel and Judah saw David; they saw what had happened; and all of a sudden they let out a tremendous war cry, WHOOOHOOO!

A Picture of Faith

That shout of praise at the sight of the dead giant and the fleeing Philistines – that is the picture of gospel faith.

And the soldiers of the army of Israel started chasing their enemy.

They were in a dead sprint after them with their armor and swords clanging. All those cowardly dudes had become the most courageous army on the face of the earth and they were running down the Philistines. According to my map calculations, they ran about ten to twelve miles, clad in all their armor! They chased those jokers down and they were killing them.

And on their way back, they reclaimed everything that had been stolen from them. They plundered the enemy and took back their land and all their possessions.

And you can guess that all the while the soldiers were routing and defeating the Philistines, they were boasting: *Yeah, I knew we could take him. I was getting ready to take him myself just the other day, but...*

Cowards turned into men of blazing faith; despondent soldiers turned into relentless attackers, paralyzed by fear one moment, liberated into glorious courage the next.

What changed?

Seeing the Victorious Champion

The Champion authored the faith of the soldiers

They saw what their champion had done. It's a picture of how faith is born. You could say in a very real sense that David was the author of their faith, that is, he gave birth to it.

The soldiers were in their Champion through his victory

You could go further and say that because David represented them, they were in David. All of that army was represented in David. He did what none of them could do, but he did it for all of Israel. So it really was Israel that was defeating the enemy.

The soldiers shared the faith of their Champion

And in a very real sense, as soon as they saw David and what he had done, they shared the same

*The victory was assured
because their champion
had made a decisive win
by removing the headship
of the evil one.*

faith that David had. Moments earlier they had no faith, but now they had David's faith.

The Champion was in the soldiers

In a very real sense you could say David was in them. They were in David and David was in them.

The miracle of it all is not that David represented the army of Israel and they admired his faith; it is that they themselves became a people of faith, bold, victorious and triumphant.

Assurance of the Victory

You cannot make someone become a person of faith – a person who is bold, victorious and triumphant – by telling him he ought to be that way. People need a champion to go before them and represent them so that they know that the victory is nigh.

For the soldiers of Israel, there was still a battle to be fought, a land to be taken and occupied, and goods to be plundered, but the victory was assured because their champion had made a decisive win by removing the headship of the evil one. As soon as they saw that the headship of the leader of the enemy of all of the darkness had been defeated by their champion, then the rest of the battle could be fought without giving it a thought because they KNEW they were going to win.

People fight when they know they are going to win. When they believe they are going to lose, they run in fear.

*The headship of enemy forces has been crushed
by the redeeming work of Jesus.
HALLELUJAH!*

LOOKING TO JESUS

To Disarm the Enemy

When we announce the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, we are announcing the pure and simple, plain and obvious, but powerful truth of Jesus crucified, dead, buried, and raised by God from the dead. In doing this, God has disarmed the enemy, Paul said, and made a public spectacle of the principalities of evil in the heavenly places.¹¹

There is still a battle to fight. You still have work to do. But the headship of enemy forces has been crushed by the redeeming work of Jesus. We do not need to listen to the taunts of the enemy. Look to Jesus, the author and the finisher of your faith. See His triumph and behold, the enemy is on the run!

To Become Like Him

When you see Jesus like that, when the vision, the focus of your life, is Jesus Christ and Him crucified, then the power of the cross is made available to you, and you become like Him. It is NOT because you are trying to be like Jesus that you become like Him. It is because Jesus has already won this victory as your Campion.

HALLELUJAH!

As the Source of Faith and Courage

That is why I want to join with Paul in his resolve to know nothing but Jesus and Him crucified.¹² The power of God is in the Gospel. This is how faith comes.

If you see Jesus

on a cross,
loving you,
dying for you,
forgiving your sin,
establishing you **in righteousness,**
raised from the grave,
defeating death,
seated at the **right hand of the Father**
and **interceding** for you as your **advocate,**

You will

fight your best fight,
run your best race
and **work** your hardest task.

You will not do it because you are afraid that you will lose, or that you will be judged or ashamed if you don't do it right. You fight, run the race, and work because you see the triumphant Jesus, and a shout of praise will arise within you.

I am not talking about a problem-free life where there are no Goliaths. But as soon as you see a big Goliath on your horizon, the task is to allow the eyes of your heart to be captivated by the victorious Jesus, Who defeated sin, sickness, death and curse.

¹¹ Colossians 2:9-15

¹² 1 Corinthians 2:2

He then becomes the source of your faith and courage to face every Goliath.

Church, if we look at people, chicken hearted and uninvolved as all of us can be, and we talk to one another about our limitations and about Goliath's size; if we quote the six steps to being a better Christian in order to convince people and one another that we simply ought to do better; we'll get nowhere. But if we spend our time and build our life together with the essential goal of helping everyone to see that the Son of David has triumphed, then the army of God will arise.

You might have spent a lot of time, too much time, in your life, all dressed for battle, but paralyzed by fears and uncertainty. But today, lift up your eyes and behold your Champion. Forget yesterday with all its fears and failures. Awake and be satisfied beholding His likeness. Awake and be filled with courage, seeing His triumph. Arise, shine, for your light has come, your Redeemer lives, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you!¹³

**And that
is the Gospel of Jesus Christ!**

*As soon as you see a big Goliath
on your horizon,
the task is to allow the eyes of your heart
to be captivated by the victorious Jesus,
Who defeated sin, sickness, death and curse.
He then becomes the source
of your faith and courage
to face every Goliath.*

May the Lord God bless you and keep you
And be kind and gracious to you
And make His face to shine upon you
And give you His peace
Today and every day, forevermore.
Amen!

¹³ Isaiah 60:1



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