

THE PAST AND THE BATTLE

KEY THOUGHTS IN THIS SERIES:

1. We all have giants in our lives “shouting to us”.
“Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified.” – 1 Samuel 17:11
2. There are no miracles in this story. Instead of waiting for miracles, we need to exercise our faith and courageously step out for God.
3. It’s only when we slay our giants that God can fully use us in our families, our church and His Kingdom.

HOW HAVE OTHERS DEALT WITH THEIR PAST??

Judas —	Simon Peter —
Moses —	Paul —
Matthew —	Yourself —

WHAT HELPED DAVID TO BE VICTORIOUS?

1. He kept an accurate perspective of who he was.
 - He was a servant of the King. (stated 2 x)
 - His past victories were the Lord’s victories.
2. He called on the victories of the past as his witness!
 - He mentions lion and bear three times.
 - These victories gave him confidence.
 - These victories helped him keep perspective.

Note: No one else was rushing out to meet this giant, even with the King’s rewards at stake.

 - Either their past did not include victories like this;
Or else, their past was crippling them (sin, failure).
3. He didn’t allow others to place him in their “mold for success.”

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

Then Saul dressed David in his own tunic. He put a coat of armor on him and a bronze helmet on his head. 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.”
 - 1 Samuel 17:37-39

4. He trusted what had worked for him in the past.

“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.”
 - 1 Samuel 17:40

HOW CAN WE APPLY THESE LESSONS IN OUR LIVES?

1. We all have a unique past with unique good and bad experiences.
Don’t use your past as a crutch.
2. Remember and learn from your past victories and defeats.
3. Don’t allow a difficult past (or giant) to cripple you. Confront your past and move on.
*Many people are “carrying their past” and it is a weight
That will keep them from future victories.*
4. Learn to use your past successes as springboards to even greater things
(Don’t get complacent or lazy.)
5. Remember that giants (or defeats) often get bigger as time passes while victories seem to get smaller in our memories.
6. Others may suggest that you do things “their way,” but don’t be too quick to change, particularly if you’ve found success.
7. Just because you’ve defeated a giant or two doesn’t mean your fighting days are over.

For David: Lion, Bear, Goliath, Philistines, The King, Jebusites, etc.

LASTLY,

- What have been some of your spiritual victories?
- What defeats still haunt you?
- What spiritual defeats (sin) are standing in the way of your success today?

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