

SUCCESS 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.

LET’S REVIEW

1. Giant of Fear (1 Sam. 17:1-11) we learn...
2. Giant of Insignificance (1 Sam. 17:12-33) we learn...
3. Giant of the Past (1 Sam. 17:34-40) we learn...
4. Giant of Faith (1 Sam. 17:41-47) we learn...

THE GOOD THING ABOUT SUCCESS...

1. It gives you and others courage.
“Then the men of Israel and Judah surged forward with a shout.” – 1 Sam. 17:52
2. It increases our faith.
“In another battle with the Philistines, Elhanan son of Jair killed Lahmi the brother of Goliath of Gath the Gittite, who had a spear and a shaft like a weaver’s rod.”
 - 1 Chronicles 20:5
3. It causes people to love the victor and support him/her.
“But all Israel and Judah loved David, because he led them in their campaigns.”
 - 1 Samuel 18:16
4. It brings us blessings.
“When the Israelites returned from chasing the Philistines, they plundered their camp.”
 - 1 Samuel 17:53
5. It brings honour and respect.
“The priest replied, “The sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom you killed in the Valley of Elah, is here; it is wrapped in a cloth behind the ephod. If you want it, take it; there is no sword here but that one.”
David said, “There is none like it; give it to me.” – 1 Samuel 21:9

THE TWO-HEADED GIANT OF SUCCESS

For those who are not successful...

1. It can cause fear.
“David ran and stood over him. He took hold of the Philistine’s sword and drew it from the scabbard. After he killed him, he cut off his head with the sword. When the Philistines saw that their hero was dead, they turned and ran.”
 - 1 Samuel 17:51
2. It can create jealousy.
“Saul was very angry; this refrain galled him. “They have credited David with tens of thousands,” he thought, “but me with only thousands. What more can he get but the kingdom?” And from that time on Saul kept a jealous eye on David.” – 1 Samuel 18:8,9

For those who are successful...

1. It can cause a person to trust in himself.
“Saul said, “Bring me the burnt offering and the fellowship offerings.” And Saul offered up the burnt offering.” – 1 Samuel 13:9
2. It can lead to complacency.
“In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war, David sent Joab out with the king’s men and the whole Israelite army. They destroyed the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained in Jerusalem.” – 2 Samuel 11:1
3. It can lead to pride/ego.
“David burned with anger against the man and said to Nathan, “As surely as the LORD lives, the man who did this deserves to die! He must pay for that lamb four times over, because he did such a thing and had no pity.”
 - 2 Samuel 12:5,6

HOW DO WE APPLY THIS?

1. If you see others being successful, encourage and honour them.
“Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.” – Romans 12:15
2. If you are successful, keep it in perspective and be thankful.
*“Whose son are you, young man?” Saul asked him.
 David said, “I am the son of your servant Jesse of Bethlehem.”* – 1 Samuel 17:58

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