

Welcome Visitors,

First, THANK YOU! We are excited to know that you are interested in worshipping God. We want you to feel very welcomed here among our group. Our goal is doing God's will. You will find that our teaching and preaching are strictly from the Bible so we encourage you to open a Bible and follow along as the lessons are presented today.

God's word is the complete guide for our life of service and worship. The all-sufficient word of God—the Bible is what we need (John 8:31-32; 2 Timothy 3:16-17). We desire to help one another in doing God's will. If you are interested in learning more please ask one of our members today.

Main Street Church of Christ Newbern, Tennessee

Schedule Of Services:

Lord's Day:	9:45 a.m.	Bible Study (All ages)
	10:20 a.m.	Morning Worship
	6:00 p.m.	Evening Worship
Wednesday:	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study

Our Elders:

**Johnie Dodds
Harry Elliott
Austin Willis**

Our Deacons:

**Danny Carpenter
Wayne Hulme
Tommy Sawyers**

Our Preacher: **T. Sean Sullivan**

The Gospel Plan

HEAR THE GOSPEL MESSAGE Romans 10:11-16

BELIEVE IT !!! Romans 10:17; Hebrews 11:6

REPENT—CHANGE Luke 13:3; 2 Peter 3:9

**OPENLY CONFESS—JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD
Romans 10:8-10; Acts 8:37**

**BE BAPTIZED—FOR REMISSION OF YOUR SINS
Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38-39; 1 Peter 3:21**

LIVE ON FAITHFULLY Hebrews 10:35-39 I Peter 1:6-9

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The Main Street Church of Christ

Messenger

1 Thessalonians 1:6-8

Inspirational Heroes David and Goliath Revisited

Introduction:

A hero by definition in the Encarta Dictionary is, "Somebody who commits an act of remarkable bravery or who has shown an admirable quality such as great courage or strength of character" or "Somebody who is admired for outstanding qualities or achievements".

The heroes recorded in the Bible, inspire our desire for greater success. Let's do some admiring, in our lesson today—so that we can be inspired today. Let's travel back across the pages of time and consider a hero who shows us good things in great ways. To take in the full essence of this article you will need to get your Bible and read the passages we will discuss. Turn to 1 Samuel 17 and let's consider these thoughts together.

Trouble Can Seem "Larger Than Life"

Let's read 1 Samuel 17:1-11. The children of Israel were faced with an ominous enemy. Not only the Philistines as a whole—but specifically their giant champion, Goliath. Goliath, if we understand how to convert the Biblical measurements to modern day measurements, was 9 feet 9 inches tall. For comparison sake we turn to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, who tell us that the average U.S. woman is 5' 3.7" and the average U.S. male stands 5' 9.1" tall. Goliath was, therefore, a

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least four feet taller than the average man in our country. He was also incredibly strong according to what is revealed in the scriptures. Adam Clarke, in his commentary, places the total weight of Goliath armor at 273 lbs. Can you imagine being able to move, let alone fight, with an extra three hundred pounds on your body—amazing strength.

Goliath in many ways appeared to be a larger than life enemy; standing almost ten feet tall and able to fight while wearing almost three hundred pounds of armor; it seems that we might look to sympathize with the Israelites when, in verse 11, it says, *“they were dismayed and greatly afraid”*

We, too, face difficult times that seem too large to defeat. When we face these challenges we are also faced with the decision to flee or fight; to stand up and be counted or run away and hide. David inspires us to stand up and strive for victory.

The Right Perspective Changes Our View:

Let’s read from 1 Samuel 17 again starting at verse 12 down to verse 37. The challenging giant continued to taunt the Israelite army for forty days. They did not reply or send out anyone to fight—since they were dreadfully afraid.

A young man named David came to the encampment with some supplies. During his visit he heard the taunts of the great challenger and David questioned why this enemy had not been defeated (vs.26).

David brought a different perspective toward the whole situation. David did not see a massive and undefeatable enemy, he saw a man who was challenging the “armies of the living God”. David did not see the Israelite army as mere men fighting for some geography—in his perspective; he rightly saw them as the army of God.

David willingly volunteers to defeat the giant. Even with all the other valiant men quaking in fear David took up the challenge. It was his faith in God that encouraged him to the point of willingness to go into battle. He remembered that God had delivered him with skill from the bear and the lion—he trusted in God to deliver him from the hand of the Philistine. The right perspective is what he had and what we need.

How often do we face great challenges to our faith and

our living? It can be very difficult to see our way to victory, until we back up and know that God will be with us. When we stand with God we will be victorious over all of life’s challenges. Keeping our mind on things eternal and looking beyond the momentary hardships of this temporary life is the right perspective to bring.

Taking the Right Weapon

Let’s return again to the context of 1 Samuel 17 and read further on from verse 38 to 49. David was given the opportunity of high-quality armor. He was not willing to take on those unfamiliar tools. David returned to the basics: his staff, five smooth stones from the brook, and his sling. These certainly seem like meager means compared to what we read about Goliath’s wares in verses 5-7.

David had one additional element that Goliath did not possess and the Israelite army had forgotten—confidence in God. It was not the staff, or stones, or sling, that David gathered that was his confidence—yes, he would use them, but he went into battle with God.

When we are gathered into battles—hardships or challenges—in this life, we must not forget God. David shows us that with God, courage is abundant. Hope is constant. This temporary life, even in hard times, is comparatively small. With God, David was able to do more than was expected of him. He was able to defeat his greatest challenger. He was able to bring hope to the people of God.

Conclusion:

David is an inspiring hero. He inspires courage—even as a young man, he found his strength in God. He inspires hope—he knew that no battle was too big for his God. He also inspires faith—he ran toward the Philistine—trusting that God would not let him fail.

David proves to each of us that we can overcome whatever stands in our way. With God, we can gain the victory. Today, the same God is offering you an opportunity to stand up in the battle against sin. Will you stand with God today? ~tss
