

Standing Against Goliath

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All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.

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INTRODUCTION

You have probably heard of Goliath—the Philistine giant who mocked Saul’s army and threatened the nation of Israel. David the shepherd boy dealt with him soundly, as he had done with the lion and the bear that dared to attack his flock. What many people do not realize is that Goliath was not the only giant Israel had to confront. The people of Israel had to deal with giants many times in their journeys (see Numbers 13:33, Deuteronomy 2:11 and 20, and Joshua 13:12).

For us, a “giant” is anything that looms large over our lives. They are often unseen, but they are extremely intimidating and difficult to ignore. The giants in our lives seek to paralyze us with fear. Many people have not gone forward in God’s plan because they are afraid to fail.

The negative vibrations of the atmosphere are subtle giants that come against us in our relationships. The kingdom of darkness wants us

to pay attention to the giants so that we will lose the victory, lose the treasure of our friendships, and lose the unity and the support we can enjoy in the grace of God.

This booklet will reveal how believers can defeat the Goliaths that taunt us with mocking accusations by standing firmly in the name of the Lord. With each victory, we can go forward, loving each other and blessing the Lord.

Chapter One

WRESTLING AGAINST THE AIR

“If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies,

“Fulfill ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.

“Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

“Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 2:1-5).

The word “if” indicates one of three classifications in the Greek text. The first class says: “if, and it *will* happen.” The second class is: “if, and it *will not* happen.” And, the third class is: “if, and it *may or may not* happen.” In Philippians 2:1, we are looking at the third-class condition;

the “if” indicates that something will happen only if we make the choice for it to happen.

In each of our lives, the real controversy in our relationships stems from the fact that we do not know how to bring joy to God. Too often we do not operate with the same purpose. At other times, we will have the same purpose but without having the same Spirit. And if we are not thinking with God, then we cannot attain the unity He desires. To bring joy to God, we need to have the same purpose, the same spirit, and the same mind, recognizing the value of our relationships in Christ.

Bringing Joy to God

In Philippians 2:1-5, the apostle Paul is teaching us something about relationships. The great thing to understand is how to bring in Christ’s joy, and how to recognize what God desires for our lives. Even with all of our weaknesses, God wants us to be “likeminded”—that is, thinking the same thoughts with the Lord. We are to have the same love, the same motivation, and to be of one accord, having the same spirit.

The quality of my love will reveal and define my attitude in every relationship. Far too often, we lack perfect love for each other—and those

are the times when poor attitudes seep in, bringing controversy and division.

Applying God's love toward myself and others produces a quality of faith that measures the depth of my relationship with God and His Word. Therefore, I need to recognize that trials and controversy reveal whether or not I am in fellowship with God, and they show me just how much I can trust Him.

When we place conditions and expectations on others, we manifest a poor relationship to God's mercy, God's grace, and God's love. Friendships can deteriorate because of the conditions that are put on them. Negativity creeps in, as we grow more and more familiar with each other. Instead of extending unconditional love, we expect more of people, when we should simply appreciate them.

Battlegrounds of Self-Orientation

"If he be able to fight with me, and to kill me, then will we be your servants: but if I prevail against him, and kill him, then shall ye be our servants, and serve us" (1 Samuel 17:9).

Warfare comes into our relationships because Satan works to weaken the Body of Christ. Every born-again believer has been called as a

member of His Body, with Christ as our Head, so His teaching can go forth throughout the world. Therefore, we should not enter into any relationship unless it strengthens the Body of Christ.

Self-oriented relationships scream out the same things that Goliath screamed. These relationships become battlegrounds designed to destroy a person's identity. Confrontations are initiated, and whoever wins the fight makes the "loser" his servant.

Far too many people refuse to apply the Finished Work message because they enjoy living under a system where those who are proven wrong and those who are proven guilty have to bow and serve.

Vibrations of Warfare

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Ephesians 6:12).

The word "wrestle" (*pale* in the Greek) means, "to sway." It comes from the root *pallo*, which means, "to vibrate." This makes sense when you consider that we as Christians are not wrestling

against flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers in a dark world. "Vibrations" are given off in our communication, especially in negative communication. As a result, thoughts and feelings can be swayed by negative vibrations and can actually change the atmosphere in a room.

We waste more time putting each other on trial because we think we are wrestling with a person, when we are really just responding to vibrations from the atmosphere. Vibrations that lead to warfare do not come from people but from Satan's kingdom. Until we recognize this, we will always be fighting senseless battles that Christ has already won.

Real confrontations arise when people submit to the purpose of satanic vibrations. But honestly, is there anything on earth worth fighting about? Each of us is guilty. All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. But everyone who is in Christ is no longer under condemnation. Satan stirs up issues about who is to blame, who is right, and who is wrong. Then, we fall for the devil's strategy and wind up operating as puppets, swayed by the vibrations of the air.

As Christians, we need to recognize that

seeds of division are what motivate our private agendas for self-preference and self-preservation. God uses relationships to reveal these agendas so that we will take them to the Cross. There we will find victory.

Chapter Two

DELIVERED TO THE RIGHT VALUE SYSTEM

David did not pray for deliverance from Goliath in the midst of the battle. He *walked* in deliverance. He didn't pray for it. He picked up grace, evidenced by the stones he took from the brook (1 Samuel 17:40). The five stones he picked up pointed to grace. In every instance of warfare, David immediately picked up grace. The first thing we must do in warfare is to realize that grace is the only provision in which we can stand (Romans 5:2). And to stand in any warfare, we have to pick up grace on purpose.

Why did David pick up five *smooth* stones? "Smooth" speaks of having no resistance to God's provision. It represents our humility and submission to God's provision of grace for us, as we are lively stones (1 Peter 2:5). In his situation, David had fellowship with God in grace, having five smooth stones as his weapons. They are

symbolic of us drawing near to the Body of Christ as lively stones, submitting to the provisions of God in grace with no resistance.

Many times in the battles I have encountered, it wasn't the victory that I really needed. What I needed was the humility to submit to God's grace and His provision. Regardless of what I thought needed to be done, I had to learn to simply do it *God's way*.

Sometimes we fight the plan of God. There are situations where if we were to humble ourselves and become the victim, we could win the other person back. But we don't like becoming the victim, always coming out as the one who is wrong. The grace to do it God's way isn't there yet, so that means we are not smooth stones yet. That's okay. God allows us room to grow, and He will make sure we are worn smooth by the application of the Word of God in our daily lives.

Worn Smooth by Applying the Word

The stones David used had been worn smooth by the running water of the brook. In the same way, our lives are smoothed out by the water of the Word of God (Ephesians 5:26). We learn to use weapons that are not carnal but

weapons that are sanctified by the Word of God (John 17:17), separated unto God and away from evil things and evil ways.

Have you ever noticed how warfare draws us into evil thinking and evil ways of dealing with it? Yet, as the water of the Word conforms us, as it shapes our souls in meekness before Him, it is the water of the Word that causes us to understand in faith how to go forth with no resistance to God's plan. This is why in every ounce of warfare we must draw near to the Word of God, because it is the water of the Word that shapes our souls in warfare so that we won't waste time resisting the giants.

In every instance of warfare—no matter which of our relationships it involves—we need to be sanctified unto God and say, "All right, Lord, I don't like what's going on. I don't believe I'm really guilty. I didn't cause this to happen, but it's here, and I can't deny it's here. I know that there must be a purpose. But with every single thing that goes on, there is also a provision. So shape my soul according to the Word so that I won't resist the provision according to Your plan—that I may stand in the battle, by grace, as a lively stone."

Sanctified by Faith

“For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified” (1 Corinthians 2:2).

Sanctification speaks of having a relationship with God, which we enter into by faith in Christ (Acts 26:18, 1 Corinthians 6:11). The title deed for that relationship was bought with the Blood of Christ and His death on the Cross (Ephesians 5:25-26, Colossians 1:22, Hebrews 10:10, 29). The only right we have to any relationship is through the Cross. I can glory in nothing but the Cross.

The sole title deed to every marriage and to every friendship comes through the Cross of Christ. It brings us to the death of ourselves and the abundant life of Christ. It is quite an amazing thing.

I dare say that each of us has made numerous complaints regarding a relationship. It usually goes something like this: “I’ve been his friend for years. I deserve better than that.” “I’ve gone through hard times with her. I deserve better than that.” “I’ve gone through so much with them. I have stood with them through hell, and now they’re treating me this way. I deserve bet-

ter than that.”

The Bible makes it very clear that we don’t deserve anything. I have never deserved a friendship to begin with, so I should have no expectations (Psalm 62:5) but those that are from God. Think of the freedom that can be produced in our relationships if we are willing to be shaped by the Word of God in warfare, standing together as lively stones, submitting to the purpose of God without resistance.

The Value System That Matters

A shepherd’s bag was like a wallet, a place for him to keep his valuables. David placed the smooth stones in his shepherd’s bag. What this means is that David submitted his weapons to Christ’s value system. This came as a brand-new revelation to me: Every single thing that God gives me I must submit to God’s value system. I will never prosper under my own value system.

My own estimation of a situation will never be greater than the eternal value of the situation. I must not react to someone as if he were the scum of the earth by getting angry and making sure he knows it. How can I take all that God has given me and manipulate His Word to condemn a person, according to my value system,

just because I am hurting right now?

I must take all that I have been taught and place it in God's value system, which declares that one soul is worth more than the entire world. The only way that we will be successful friends is to place each relationship in the Shepherd's bag and give it the value of God, thus submitting to God's value system.

Vessels of Honor

Okay, so some of you are thinking about a person and saying to yourself, "Yeah, but this guy keeps failing. How can I ever trust him again?"

That isn't up to us.

Each one of us was brought into this life according to God's value system. I must count it an honor to be a part of it. Maybe God wants to use me to prepare someone else for the Bema Seat, to the glory of God. Or perhaps that person can be used to humble me—so that I will run to the Cross out of my frustration and disappointment. If that is the case, then to God be the glory. I have to run to the Cross—to be mature and to realize that I should expect nothing from anyone.

This was such a tremendous revelation for

my life. No matter what the confrontation, I am to pick up grace immediately. I am to pick up the five smooth stones that represent my having no resistance to the plan of God. I serve Him as a lively stone, in humility and submission to His provision.

We are shaped and smoothed by the Word of God, and we are set apart for His purpose and placed in Christ's value system. We are equipped for the warfare that will happen in our marriage and in every relationship. What do we value in marriage? Some of us value peace and comfort. We may value our own lives more than we value the other person's life, so we seek to escape for a season. That is not the answer. The only way we make marriage honorable (Hebrews 13:4) is by submitting to God's value system instead of making the marriage submit to our value system.

The first mature question to ask in warfare is "How will this be used for the Kingdom of God?" But, it is a huge temptation that when things happen, our first thought is, "What am I going to do?" We are very guilty of taking the situations God has ordained for us and transferring them to our limited value system. As a result, we make our lives the first issue in warfare

instead of recognizing God's value system and how the situation will be used for the Kingdom of God.

Chapter Three

PROVEN ARMOR AND SPIRITUAL WEAPONS

“And Saul armed David with his armour, and he put an helmet of brass upon his head; also he armed him with a coat of mail.

“And David girded his sword upon his armour, and he assayed to go; for he had not proved it. And David said unto Saul, I cannot go with these; for I have not proved them. And David put them off him.

“And he took his staff in his hand, and chose him five smooth stones out of the brook, and put them in a shepherd’s bag which he had, even in a scrip; and his sling was in his hand: and he drew near to the Philistine” (1 Samuel 17:38-40).

This passage shows how some believers will go to others for support in times of warfare and take on armor that hasn’t been proven. They don’t have a clue about their resources and they have never tried the armor at hand to see if any

of it is any good. It is so easy for us to go to someone in the flesh, tell him all of our problems, and try to get some support by asking, "What would you do?"

Here is Saul telling David what he would do. "David, if you've really got the guts to go out there against Goliath, at least put on this armor. I'm not going with you, but I'll give you what I would use."

Isn't this true about how our friends in the flesh respond? They tell you what you should do, but in no way are they going to stand with you. They sit back and say, "Thank God I'm not in that situation. But if I were you, here's what I would do."

This kind of friend tells you what makes sense, but nothing they say is proven. *Nothing* that this world has ever told us to do in the midst of trials is proven.

When someone is attacking you, the world's answer is to defend yourself. But what did Christ do? He didn't answer any accusation. He never said a word in His own defense. He let them crucify Him.

Well, that doesn't seem like a very good option—that is, it doesn't for the temporal value system. But for the eternal value system, it has

worked out well. And guess what? It has been proven—and Jesus won.

Limited Protection

What is your option? To try to succeed for a short time here on the earth and then to die alone, without taking any value into eternity?

The armor that Saul offered David was the armor the entire nation used, and it was proven—but it would only protect for a season. If David had gone into battle bearing another man's armor, it would have been too heavy and awkward for him anyway.

Yes, it might have protected him for a short time, but he would have died and Goliath would have won. So it wasn't proven to be really worthwhile. In the same way, people's comments and suggestions for our problems might work for a season, but they won't last very long, and it will be too much of a burden to bear.

Saul's armor was never tested. It was never tried and proven to make one victorious. Here was this king saying, "I'm going to honor you, little shepherd boy David; I'm going to give you *my* armor. You will bear royal armor, and as you go out to battle, the enemy will see that you are wearing the king's armor. And seeing that you

are so small and this man is such a giant, he will look at you and at least see the king's armor on you."

The best that the world has to offer is to help protect us for only a season. Saul was most likely thinking, "David's going to die anyway. At least, with the armor it will be a slower death."

Lay Down Your Own Armor and Pick up Grace

You can tell that the armor wasn't proven, because the rest of the army was not going out to battle. The other soldiers had similar armor. How come they did not go out to fight the battle? It is because they knew that they were out-matched, and they knew that the armor and the weapons they had could not handle the force of the enemy that was coming against them.

In all humility, we must honestly admit that there is not an ounce of strength we could muster in our flesh that could be victorious, even to deal with the warfare we face in our friendships. When we have done something wrong, we cannot prove ourselves to that person ever again. We will never be able to shine forth the glory of heaven before our friends, in our own strength, just to prove ourselves when

they have seen us fail. There is nothing we can do.

I have been delivered to situations where people are going to believe whatever they want to believe. People are going to say whatever they want to say. And there is nothing my flesh can offer to correct it. But God has a plan to cover you and me with His robe of righteousness. Therefore, when we enter into a situation, we need to pick up grace and go forward, because there is nothing *we* can do.

Natural Covering vs. Spiritual Covering

Saul gave David a “coat of mail.” *Shiryown* is the Hebrew word here, and it speaks of a man-made metal covering to protect the neck and chest. How many times have we gone out with only a natural covering?

According to 2 Corinthians 6:7, we are to wear the armor of righteousness. We have a breastplate of righteousness (Ephesians 6:14), that covers the neck and the chest. “Breastplate” in the New Testament Greek is *thorax*, referring to a piece of armor that consists of two parts, from the neck to the middle, used metaphorically of faith and love (1 Thessalonians 5:8).

When we get involved with warfare, we

must remember our position in Christ—that we have Christ’s righteousness imputed to our account. We have nothing to prove, nothing even to fight about. There is nothing of this world that is worthy of our attention.

If somebody puts us on trial and accuses us of something, there is nothing we can do about it. And there is no reason to go out to battle without picking up the grace of God for our lives and becoming smooth by the washing of the water of the Word as it shapes our souls according to His work. Oh, the value of running to the Word of God and letting it shape our souls!

I have found that when I face a trial and I actually let the Word of God shape my soul, I am victorious. When things are going well, I may tentatively do things in my own way. But when I am in a trial, I go into my prayer room, and I open up the Word, and each passage suddenly becomes the very breath of my life.

“Oh, God, that’s it! I’ve got to cling to that promise. I’ve got to hold onto it. I’ve got to put on *Your* armor.”

No Longer Servants but Friends

My flesh still wants to go against the way that God desires to deal with my situation. Frus-

tration and confusion enter the scene when I look at things through human reasoning. In the flesh, I look at what could be done, and nothing in me is satisfied unless I can prove that the other person is wrong—or that I am really sorry.

This is how the flesh operates in relationships. When we have done something wrong, we will go alone to the person we offended and say, “I am sorry.” But so often, the other person just won’t let it end.

“I can never trust you again!” is the response we might get. “I’m thankful that you’re sorry. You humbled yourself. You admitted that you were wrong. God bless you, that’s great! But I will never trust you again.” And you are put in a position where you have to serve that person for the rest of your life.

At that point, we just need to stand still and say to the devil, “Okay, Goliath. It’s not going to happen. You can’t force me to bow to you, because my life has been bought with a price, and it could never belong to you.”

Right at that moment, we need to pick up five stones right out of the brook—the five smooth stones of grace. Not just out of the ground somewhere. We have to pick them up out of the brook, from the water of the Word. We

need to get around people who will defend us, who will love us, who will cover us—people who will bring us to God’s provision.

Built Together as Lively Stones

When the voices and vibrations of the air come in to sway us and try to confuse us, we need to be able to get around people that are grace oriented. We need to be built up by people who will not resist the plan of God for our lives. We have to get around people who are not going to support us with their own natural weaponry and their natural opinions of what they would do in our situation. We need friends who will actually cover us and love us and defend us with God’s heart.

When the enemy comes with his accusations, we need to have dear friends around us, lively stones established in grace, taken from the brook where the water of the Word is shaping their souls (1 Peter 2:5). These friends stand around us, covering us and declaring to the atmosphere, “You can’t attack him. He is covered by the Blood of the Lamb. He loves the Lord. He is going forward. His value has not been destroyed, and you can’t attack him.”

These friends rebuke the voices that come

up against you when there is nothing you can do about it yourself.

We need to be surrounded and built together with the Body of Christ, to be established in grace. We so need to be hid in the Body at all times so that when these voices come, the Body can point it out and say, “No! I rebuke that. It’s not even going to touch him.”

Aim for the Enemy’s Head

“Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied....

“And David put his hand in his bag, and took thence a stone, and slang it, and smote the Philistine in his forehead, that the stone sunk into his forehead; and he fell upon his face to the earth.

“So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and smote the Philistine, and slew him; but there was no sword in the hand of David” (1 Samuel 17:45, 49-50).

If David did not have those five smooth stones to use against Goliath, it would all be over—he would have lost for sure. And I love

the fact that the very first stone David used smacked Goliath right between the eyes!

The smooth stones of grace go right to the head of the enemy to declare victory for our lives. They go straight to the enemy's thought life, and the enemy gets confused, because the Finished Work cannot be reasoned out or understood by the flesh.

The world sees the demonstration of grace that comes toward us and out of us, and the devil says to God, "How could you possibly say that they are innocent, that they are righteous, that they are pure? How could you possibly say they are not guilty? How could you even want them as friends after what they have done?"

The Goliaths cannot figure out the grace of God, and it confuses their minds. Ultimately, the enemy is destroyed because we stand in that grace.

Kept in the Shepherd's Bag

Every situation must be evaluated with God's value system. Every single thing that God gives us must be placed in the Shepherd's bag. That is where truth is kept and truth is upheld, and it must be kept in there. The enemy may mock us, as Goliath did with David. But our

weapons are not natural; neither are they supported by reason.

David declared to Goliath, "I come in the name of the Lord."

What power! That is where his victory was found. He went forward in the name of the Lord.

No matter what confrontation, what trial, what fault I have entered into, what division is coming up against me—no matter what people have to say about me, I go against my enemies in the name of the Lord with the five smooth stones of grace.

This is how I stand in my calling. It is simply by the grace of God. I go in the name of the Lord. When I go in my own name, I expose myself abruptly and I look like a fool. But when I go in the name of the Lord, there is victory.

How am I still going on with God? I simply go on in the name of the Lord. I'm not wearing human reasoning as armor, and I'm not trying to figure out what God's plan is. I humbly submit to the grace of God as I apply God's eternal value system to my life, and that allows me to go forward in complete victory.

CONCLUSION

For the sake of our friendships, of our marriages—in all things, we must go forward in the name of the Lord.

Someone says, “You have failed. How could you possibly go forward in your calling after *that?*”

We go in the name of the Lord.

It is not a natural thing, but it has been tested and tried and proven to be true. In warfare, we simply need God’s breastplate of righteousness, the righteousness that the Lord imputed to us. That alone will protect our hearts.

Proverbs 4:23 says we are to keep, or guard, our heart “with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.” We will never be able to guard our hearts with the armor of human reasoning. The heart must be guarded by the righteousness of God. He has made us righteous to serve only Him, so that we can go forward in the name of the Lord.

What great honor has been bestowed upon us! If we can restore each other, without strings attached and without condemnation, by applying everything that God has taught us and by operating in His value system, we can win people back for eternity's sake.

Dear Father, we desire to be likeminded—to have Your thoughts for each moment and in every situation. We desire to abide in the same love and have the same motivation for everything we do, to glorify You. We desire to be of one accord, having the same Spirit, the same mind, and the same purpose.

As we set our affections in heaven through the Holy Spirit, we will bring You joy. And really, that is all we want to do here on the earth. After all You have done for us, we only want to give You joy.

Thank You that Your Word is shaping our souls as we surround ourselves with other believers that are established in grace and hidden in the Body of Christ. To have this kind of true friendship is to have armor and weapons otherwise unknown to man. And regardless of our innocence or guilt, we stand firm in Your eternal Word that holds our lives together. Thank You! In Jesus' name, Amen.