

fools AND MAD MEN

The Philistines now mustered their army for battle...Saul countered by gathering his troops...So the Philistines and Israelites faced each other on opposite hills, with the valley between them. Then Goliath, a Philistine champion...came out of the Philistine ranks to face the forces of Israel. He was a giant of a man, measuring over nine feet tall! He wore a bronze helmet and a coat of mail that weighed 125 pounds. He also wore bronze leggings, and he slung a bronze javelin over his back... his spear was as heavy and thick as a weaver's beam, tipped with an iron spearhead that weighed fifteen pounds. An armor bearer walked ahead of him carrying a huge shield. Goliath stood and shouted across to the Israelites, "Do you need a whole army to settle this? Choose someone to fight for you, and I will represent the Philistines. We will settle this dispute in single combat! If your man is able to kill me, then we will be your slaves. But if I kill him, you will be our slaves! I defy the armies of Israel! Send me a man who will fight with me!" When Saul and the Israelites heard this, they were terrified and deeply shaken. As soon as the Israelite army saw him, they began to run away in fright. "Have you seen the giant?" the men were asking. "He comes out each day to challenge Israel. And have you heard about the huge reward the king has offered to anyone who kills him?" "Don't worry about a thing," David told Saul. "I'll go fight this Philistine!" "Don't be ridiculous!" Saul replied. "There is no way you can go against this Philistine. You are only a boy, and he has been in the army since he was a boy!" 1 Samuel 17:1-11, 24-25, 32-33

PREPARING FOR THE FIGHT OF YOUR LIFE

1. Believe God can use _____

Saul said, "Send me your son David, the shepherd." 1 Samuel 16:19

2. Keep your eyes on the _____

"Who is this pagan Philistine anyway, that he is allowed to defy the armies of the living God?" David shouted in reply, "You come to me with sword, spear, and javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD Almighty-- the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. Today the LORD will conquer you, and I will kill you and cut off your head. And then I will give the dead bodies of your men to the birds and wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel! And everyone will know that the LORD does not need weapons to rescue his people. It is his battle, not ours. The LORD will give you to us!" 1 Samuel 17:26;45-47

3. Look to what God already _____

"Don't be ridiculous!" Saul replied. "There is no way you can go against this Philistine. You are only a boy, and he has been in the army since he was a boy!" But David persisted. "I have been taking care of my father's sheep," he said. "When a lion or a bear comes to steal a lamb from the flock, I go after it with a club and take the lamb from its mouth. If the animal turns on me, I catch it by the jaw and club it to death. I have done this to both lions and bears, and I'll do it to this pagan Philistine, too, for he has defied the armies of the living God! The LORD who saved me from the claws of the lion and the bear will save me from this Philistine!" 1 Samuel 17:33-37

4. Be real...find your _____ in _____

Saul finally consented. "All right, go ahead," he said. "And may the LORD be with you!" Then Saul gave David his own armor-- a bronze helmet and a coat of mail. David put it on, strapped the sword over it, and took a step or two to see what it was like, for he had never worn such things before. "I can't go in these," he protested. "I'm not used to them." So he took them off again. 1 Samuel 17:37-39

5. Find your _____ in GOD

He picked up five smooth stones from a stream and put them in his shepherd's bag. Then, armed only with his shepherd's staff and sling, he started across to fight Goliath. 1 Samuel 17:40

6. Thank God for the _____ in your life

Then the Israelites gave a great shout of triumph...1 Samuel 17:52

David

The Philistines now mustered their army for battle...Saul countered by gathering his troops...So the Philistines and Israelites faced each other on opposite hills, with the valley between them. Then Goliath, a Philistine champion...came out of the Philistine ranks to face the forces of Israel. He was a giant of a man, measuring over nine feet tall! He wore a bronze helmet and a coat of mail that weighed 125 pounds. He also wore bronze leggings, and he slung a bronze javelin over his back... his spear was as heavy and thick as a weaver's beam, tipped with an iron spearhead that weighed fifteen pounds. An armor bearer walked ahead of him carrying a huge shield. Goliath stood and shouted across to the Israelites, "Do you need a whole army to settle this? Choose someone to fight for you, and I will represent the Philistines. We will settle this dispute in single combat! If your man is able to kill me, then we will be your slaves. But if I kill him, you will be our slaves! I defy the armies of Israel! Send me a man who will fight with me!" When Saul and the Israelites heard this, they were terrified and deeply shaken. As soon as the Israelite army saw him, they began to run away in fright. "Have you seen the giant?" the men were asking. "He comes out each day to challenge Israel. And have you heard about the huge reward the king has offered to anyone who kills him? "Don't worry about a thing," David told Saul. "I'll go fight this Philistine!" "Don't be ridiculous!" Saul replied. "There is no way you can go against this Philistine. You are only a boy, and he has been in the army since he was a boy!" 1 Samuel 17:1-11, 24-25, 32-33

PREPARING FOR THE FIGHT OF YOUR LIFE

1. Believe God can use EVEN YOU

Saul said, "Send me your son David, the shepherd." 1 Samuel 16:19

2. Keep your eyes on the PRIZEGOD WINS

"Who is this pagan Philistine anyway, that he is allowed to defy the armies of the living God?" David shouted in reply, "You come to me with sword, spear, and javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD Almighty-- the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. Today the LORD will conquer you, and I will kill you and cut off your head. And then I will give the dead bodies of your men to the birds and wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel! And everyone will know that the LORD does not need weapons to rescue his people. It is his battle, not ours. The LORD will give you to us!" 1 Samuel 17:26;45-47

3. Look to what God already HAS DONE

"Don't be ridiculous!" Saul replied. "There is no way you can go against this Philistine. You are only a boy, and he has been in the army since he was a boy!" But David persisted. "I have been taking care of my father's sheep," he said. "When a lion or a bear comes to steal a lamb from the flock, I go after it with a club and take the lamb from its mouth. If the animal turns on me, I catch it by the jaw and club it to death. I have done this to both lions and bears, and I'll do it to this pagan Philistine, too, for he has defied the armies of the living God! The LORD who saved me from the claws of the lion and the bear will save me from this Philistine!" 1 Samuel 17:33-37

4. Be real...find your STRENGTH in GOD

Saul finally consented. "All right, go ahead," he said. "And may the LORD be with you!" Then Saul gave David his own armor-- a bronze helmet and a coat of mail. David put it on, strapped the sword over it, and took a step or two to see what it was like, for he had never worn such things before. "I can't go in these," he protested. "I'm not used to them." So he took them off again. 1 Samuel 17:37-39

5. Find your CONFIDENCE in GOD

He picked up five smooth stones from a stream and put them in his shepherd's bag. Then, armed only with his shepherd's staff and sling, he started across to fight Goliath. 1 Samuel 17:40

6. Thank God for the VICTORY in your life

Then the Israelites gave a great shout of triumph...1 Samuel 17:52