

Giants We Face Today

Introduction.

1. Last week we made a detailed study of the lad David defeating the giant Goliath.
2. He was victorious over this giant because of his skill with a sling and his unwavering faith in the Almighty God of heaven.
3. We remember when he stood before this giant Goliath who had terrified the whole army of Israel that David spoke these words to the giant. (1 Sam. 17:46).

1 Sam 17:46 "This day the LORD will deliver you up into my hands, and I will strike you down and remove your head from you. And I will give the dead bodies of the army of the Philistines this day to the birds of the sky and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel,

4. It is not likely that any of us will ever face a literal giant and especially one the size of Goliath.
5. In this lesson we will study some of the “**Giants We Face Today**”
 - a. We do face giants, but not always the same giant.
 - b. It is important we identify these giants, and discuss some ways to defeat them.

The Unbelieving World

1. Some believe they cannot live the Christian life because the unbelieving world is a giant they cannot defeat.
 - a. They believe one cannot overcome the world and its wickedness.
 - b. They recognize that Christians are surrounded by wickedness and they give in to the enemy.
 - c. They may have witnessed many Christians being defeated by the world.
 - d. They may have even tried living the Christian life and given up because it seemed too hard.
 - e. Some used Matthew 7:13-14 as a reason to view the unbelieving world as a giant they cannot defeat.

Matt 7:13 "Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and **there are many who enter through it.**

Matt 7:14 "For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and **there are few who find it.**

- 1) They interpret these words to mean only a handful of people will go to heaven.
- 2) This interpretation leads them to conclude they cannot be saved --so why try.
- 3) This interpretation is certainly false.

- 4) Jesus was teaching the majority of people will not be saved because the majority refuse to come to Him and live for him.
- 5) The church grew very fast in the 1st century but it was never the majority of the population
- 6) The majority rejected Christianity, but this did not keep the church from experiencing exceptional growth.
- 7) In the book of Revelation we learn that many, not the majority, will be in heaven. (Rev. 7:9).

Rev 7:9 After these things I looked, and **behold, a great multitude which no one could count**, from every nation and {all} tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches {were} in their hands;

- 8) **Jesus taught many**, not the majority, would obey Him and come into His kingdom. (Matt. 8:11).

Matt 8:11 "I say to you that **many** will come from east and west, and recline {at the table} with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven;

2. Here are some things those who refuse to come to Christ or give up following Him fail to realize.

- a. No one, even the most faithful of Christians, can live sinlessly. (1 Jn. 1:8-2:1).

1 John 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.

1 John 2:1 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous;

- 1) It is clear no Christian can live sinlessly.
- 2) It is clear Christians can be cleansed "from all unrighteousness." (1 Jn. 1:9).
- 3) It is clear Christians are still admonished to "walk in the light." (1 Jn. 1:7).
- 4) It is clear those who keep walking in the light are given the assurance of eternal life. (1 Jn. 2:25).

1 John 2:25 This is the promise which He Himself made to us: eternal life.

- b. Many who view the world as a giant that cannot be defeated fail to realize that God strengthens and empowers those who seek to live the Christian life. (Jas. 4:7-8).

James 4:7 Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

James 4:8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

- 1) The devil is not all-powerful and he can be resisted.
- 2) We must seek to "resist" him, but not fight him alone.
- 3) We must draw near to God who will help us overcome temptation. (1 Cor. 10:13).

1 Cor 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation provide a way of escape.

c. The psalmist made this comforting statement about God. (Psa. 46:1).

Ps 46:1 God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble.

d. John wrote these inspiring words to Christians. (1 Jn. 5:4-5).

1 John 5:4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world--our faith.

1 John 5:5 Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

1) John writing Christians at large taught it is possible, not impossible, to “overcome the world.”

2) Faith in Jesus leads to victory over the world.

3) This is not pie in the sky, but God’s promise to us.

e. Paul penned these words to encourage, comfort and inspire Christians. (Rom. 8:35-39).

Rom 8:35 Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

Rom 8:36 Just as it is written, "FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG; WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED."

Rom 8:37 **But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.**

Rom 8:38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,

Rom 8:39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

1) These words were written to all the Christians at Rome and for all who love Christ and make Him Lord.

2) Absolutely nothing, except for our own lack of faith, can separate us from the love of God and His Son.

Unbelieving Family Members

1. Unbelieving family members are a hostile giant in the lives of many who want to serve the Lord.

a. Some celebrate family members coming to Christ and encourage them in their walk with Christ.

b. Some are indifferent to a family member coming to Christ.

1) They do not deliberately seek to destroy the faith of those in Christ.

2) Their indifference to Christ and failure to encourage their loved ones in their faith leads those coming to the Lord to be overcome by the world.

c. Some are very hostile when a family member becomes a Christian and may seek to destroy the faith of the one coming to Christ.

- d. Some will even denounce and persecute a family member who has become a Christian.
- 2. These unbelieving family members often seem hard to overcome and lead some not to come to Christ and many who come to Christ to give up.
- 3. Jesus taught some family members would hate us if we come to Christ and live for Him. (Matt. 10:35, 36).
 Matt 10:35 "For I came to SET A MAN AGAINST HIS FATHER, AND A DAUGHTER AGAINST HER MOTHER, AND A DAUGHTER-IN-LAW AGAINST HER MOTHER-IN-LAW;
 Matt 10:36 and A MAN'S ENEMIES WILL BE THE MEMBERS OF HIS HOUSEHOLD.
- 4. Jesus taught some family members would hold us in disdain and even hate us.
- 5. Jesus taught some family members would even persecute us if we come to Christ.
- 6. Sometimes unbelieving family members or weak family members do not persecute those seeking to serve Christ, but they do some of the following things to weaken and discourage those who have come to Christ.

Beg or pressure them to stay home.	Do not want them to be around other believers.	Seek to get the believer to do sinful things.
Want them do things with them at service times.	Do not want Christians in their home.	Practice sinful things in the home.
Discourage the children from following Christ by words or example or both.	Make the children hostile to the Christian parent.	Ridicule and make light of their faith and discourage or forbid involvement in the church.

Addiction To Sin

- 1. Some believe they cannot overcome their addiction to sin that seems like a giant in their battle against it.
 - a. The Bible records people who won the battle against being enslaved to sin.
 - 1) There have been people who were drug addicts, alcoholics, thieves, idolaters, etc. who have come to Christ.
 - 2) **This would seem impossible to many, but submission to Christ makes the impossible possible.**
 - b. The city of Corinth was a very wicked city and its population was enslaved to all kinds of sin. (1 Cor. 6:9-11).

1 Cor 6:9 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals,
 1 Cor 6:10 nor thieves, nor {the} covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God.
 1 Cor 6:11 Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

- c. Most preachers would have avoided preaching to the Corinthians whom they believe were beyond redemption.

d. Paul preached to them because he trusted in the power of the gospel. (Rom. 1:16).

Rom 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

e. Jesus came to seek and save the lost. (Lk. 19:10).

Luke 19:10 "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

f. Many of those who became faithful followers of Christ were people who were enslaved to sin and would not be on prospect list of most Christians.

Discouragement

1. A giant many Christians must continuously fight is discouragement.
2. Some Christians have a lot of discouragement.
3. The Christian life is much harder for some than others.
4. This discouragement can come in many ways.

Illness	Death of loved ones or friends	Financial problems
Persecution	The church being lukewarm or unfriendly.	Not feeling like an important part of the church.
Hostile family members	Children leaving the faith.	Their talents are not used.

5. Discouragement is indeed, at times, a hostile giant in the lives of all Christians.

- a. The devil does not avoid any believer.
- b. He constantly seeks to devour all believers. (1 Pet. 5:8).

1 Pet 5:8 Be of sober {spirit,} be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

6. Some Christians face constant discouragement.
7. This giant may seem impossible to overcome, but it can be overcome.

Draw near to God.	Get involved in helping others	Read and mediate on the word of God.
Develop friendships	Be an encourager of others	Dwell on positive things rather than the negative.
Pray for God's help	Allow others to encourage us.	Realize heaven is our real home.

Conclusion

1. David defeated the giant Goliath because of his unwavering faith in the Almighty God of heaven.
 - a. He was confident that God would give him victory over Goliath.
 - b. He was willing to face this fierce giant with the faith God would give him victory.
2. We, too, can defeat the giants we face by putting our unwavering trust in God and His Son.
3. All who trust in Christ can say along with Paul. (Phil. 1:21; 4:13).

Phil 1:21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

Phil 4:13 I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

Rom 8:37 But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.

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