

# TRANSFORMED



## VOCATIONAL HEALTH

### “Facing Giants in Life And in Work ”

1 Samuel 17:1-52

October 19, 2014

#### I. LESSONS FROM DAVID FACING GOLIATH

#### II. THE OTHER ‘GIANTS’ DAVID HAD TO FACE

##### 1. DELAY: \_\_\_\_\_

“Now David was the youngest of Jesse’s eight sons... His three older brothers enlisted in Saul’s army... but David was held back to care for the sheep in Bethlehem.” (vs. 12-15)

##### 2. DISCOURAGEMENT \_\_\_\_\_

“Each day Goliath would stand and shout at the ranks of Israel’s army, ‘Why do you come out here and line up for battle?... Choose one man to fight me. If he’s able to kill me, we will become your subjects; but if I kill him, you’ll become our subjects and serve us.’ Day after day Goliath taunted them saying ‘This day I defy the ranks of Israel!’ When Saul and the Israelites heard this, everyone was deeply shaken and paralyzed with fear.” (vs. 8-11)

“For forty days, twice a day, morning and evening, the Philistine giant loudly berated the Israelite army.” (vs. 16)

“As David talked with his brothers on the front line, he saw Goliath start shouting his usual threats to Israel’s army. When the army heard Goliath, they all ran away in terror.” (vs. 23-24)

##### 3. DISAPPROVAL: \_\_\_\_\_

“David asked, ‘What’s the reward for killing this Philistine and ending this disgraceful abuse?’... When David’s older brother heard this he burned with anger at David and said ‘Why are YOU even here anyway? Why aren’t

you taking care of your scrawny little flock of sheep? You cocky little brat. I know how conceited you are!’ ‘Now what have I done?’ said David. ‘Can’t I even ask a question?’” (vs. 28-29)

##### 4. DOUBT: \_\_\_\_\_

“‘Don’t worry about a thing,’ David told the King, ‘I’ll fight this Philistine!’ ‘Don’t be ridiculous!’ Saul replied.

‘There’s no way YOU can go against this Philistine! You’re only a boy, and he’s been a professional warrior all his life!’” (vs. 32-33)

#### HOW TO DEFEAT GIANTS

##### 1. \_\_\_\_\_

“In protecting my sheep, I’ve killed both a lion and a bear... The Lord who delivered me from the teeth of that lion, and the claws of that bear, will surely now deliver me from this Philistine too!” (vs. 36-37)

##### 2. \_\_\_\_\_

“Then Saul dressed David in his own armor... But David said, ‘I cannot go out in these, because I’m not used to them.’ So he took them off... Instead he chose 5 smooth stones for his sling.” (vs. 38-40)

##### 3. \_\_\_\_\_

“... When others were speaking against him, David encouraged himself in the Lord.” 1 Samuel 30:6

##### 4. \_\_\_\_\_

“David shouted to Goliath ‘You come at me with sword, spear, and javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord Almighty!... Today the Lord will conquer you... and the whole world will know that there is a God! And everyone will know that the Lord doesn’t need weapons to rescue his people. It is his battle, not ours. The Lord will give you to us!” (vs. 45-47)

**TRANSFORMED**  
**Vocational Health**  
**“Facing Giants in Life and in Work”**

*1 Samuel 17:1-52*

October 19, 2014 AM Worship

**The Bulk of this Message is from Rick Warren however I edited and added other elements and my own personal illustrations as well as other extras.**

This weekend we're concluding 50 Days of Transformation. I want us to look at how do you face the giants in your life at work.

We've looked at the seven key areas of your life. We started with physical health and then we looked at spiritual health. Then we looked at emotional health. Then we looked at relational health and we looked at financial health. We've looked at all of these different areas, seven areas, and today we end with vocational health. How do you make it at work?

**Your ability to dream is a God given gift.** It's what makes you different from animals. Animals cannot imagine the future. God gave you as a human being, made in his image, the ability to see the past. That's called memory. And to visualize or imagine the future. That's called dreaming.

**You've got to have a dream.** If you don't have a dream for your life you're literally just drifting. You're just drifting along. You're letting life happen to you. And by the way when you're coasting you're always going downhill. So you need a dream for your life. It is the greatest gift God has given you – the ability to dream. We are most like our Creator when we are creative.

**Nothing happens without a dream.** Everything you see – every piece of art, every business, every architecture, every product, everything happens because somebody thought it up first. Everything begins as a dream.

**Napoleon said, “Imagination rules the world.” Einstein said, “Imagination is more important than knowledge.”** It's that ability to dream that makes us creators in the image of God.

**You need to discover God's dream, God's purpose, for your life.** And I want to help you fulfill that dream. What is true is for every person who figures out their life dream, their life work which is far more important than your job, because your jobs are going to change. But your life work

is the dream that God gives you for your life. For every person who figures that out and heads after their dream there are nine people who are afraid to get started.

**What causes us to be afraid to go after our dream are what I call the giants in the pathway.** These are *giant problems*. These are *dream busters* that stand there in your path saying, You will not pass by. You will not go any further than this. And if you believe it you get stuck in mediocrity.

These problems can be **financial** problems. They can be **emotional** problems. They can be **relational** problems. They can be problems with your **health**. What do you do when you face these giants in life? How do you face the giants in your life and work?

Fortunately we have a wonderful story in the Bible that shows us how to deal with the giants in our life. It's called the story of David and Goliath. [Malcolm Gladwell who's written four New York Times best selling books has a new book out called David and Goliath. It's called Underdogs, Misfits and the Art of Battling Giants.](#)

Let's read the initial text. 1 Samuel 17... *“Now the Philistines had gathered their forces for war... They occupied one hill and the Israelites another, with the valley between them. A champion named Goliath, from Gath, came out of the Philistine camp. He was a giant of a man, [nine feet tall] wearing a huge bronze helmet, and a coat of bronze armor that weighed over 125 pounds. [So this guy's a big man] He also wore bronze leggings, and slung a huge bronze javelin over his back. The iron spearhead alone [on his javelin] weighed 15 pounds, and a soldier with a large shield always walked in front of Goliath.”*

So many of you know the basic outline of the story which is there's a duel three thousand years ago in Palestine. That's probably the best place to start because it's important to understand a little bit about the geography of ancient Palestine to put that story in context.

Palestine, in fact Israel even today has a mountain range that runs down its eastern border. In the mountains are all the traditional most famous cities of Israel – Jerusalem, Bethlehem, and Hebron. The western half of the country is a flat coastal plain that borders on the Mediterranean. That's where Tel Aviv is today. In between the plain and the mountain there's an

area called the Shefela. The Shefela is a series of valleys and ridges that run east to west that connect the plain with the mountains

It is also though the most strategically crucial part of the country. Because the valleys are the means by which people living in the plains can advance into the mountains. So time and time again over the course of history, battles have been fought for control of Israel in the Shefela.

That's exactly what happened three thousand years ago with the Philistines and the Israelites. The Philistines are the historic enemies of the kingdom of Israel. They are a people who occupied the plains. They came from Crete. They're a sea faring people and they were living in and around what is now Tel Aviv.

They decide they want to go and conquer the kingdom of Israel which is clustered in the mountains. So they start to climb up through one of those valleys.

King Saul who was the king of Israel at that moment catches wind of what the Philistines are **doing and brings his army down from the mountains to meet the Philistines**. The two sides meet in an area of the Shefela called the Valley of Elah. The Israelites dig in along the northern ridge. The Philistines dig in along the southern ridge. The two armies just start staring. They just look at each other. It's a standoff. Neither can attack the other because to attack you have to come down the ridge onto the valley floor, then up the other side. And as you're doing that you expose yourself to your enemy.

**So it's a deadlock.** And they sit there for weeks just looking at each other. Finally the Philistines have had enough. They send a mighty warrior, a giant, down on to the valley floor and he challenges the Israelites to send a mighty warrior of their own and they will duke it out. They will settle the conflict in a one on one combat.

This was something that was a tradition in ancient times. It was done all the time; **it was called single combat**. Two warriors, one from each side would fight on behalf of their armies. Each side would accept the outcome.

So this giant standing there in the valley floor basically saying, Come on! Who's going to take me on?

And no one on the Israelites side has the guts to take him on. He's too big.

He's ferocious. He's outfitted top to bottom in all kinds... you heard the account of the incredible armor. He's nine foot tall. He's really a terrifying figure. Nobody will take him on.

**Except for this kid**, who comes up to King Saul and says I'll do it. Saul looks at him and says you're insane. You're a child. You can't take on a nine foot warrior. The kid says actually I'm not a kid. I'm a shepherd. I've done some time out there in the fields. I've killed some lions in my day. I'm not pathetic. But Saul's like you're not going. And the kid says, I really want to do it. Saul realizes he doesn't have a choice because no one else is volunteering. This is all he has.

He tries to give the kid his armor. Take this so at least you've got some preparation for going up against the giant. The kid says, No, I'm not doing it. Instead what he does is he reaches down and he picks up a couple of stones from the ground. He puts them in his pouch and he marches down the side of the hill with his shepherd's staff and this little bag of rocks.

Goliath, the giant, looking at him and he says: *"Come to me so I might feed your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field."* Like, come! I'm going to chew you up!

The boy gets closer and the giant sees that he does not have a sword and a shield. All he has is a shepherd's staff and this little bag.

**The giant is insulted.** He's the biggest warrior in all of ancient Palestine and here they send this kid up against him. He says, *"Am I a dog that you should come to me with sticks?"* The kid gets even closer and he says *"No, I come to you in the name of the Lord God Almighty."* He reaches into his bag and takes out one of those rocks. He puts it into his sling and he whirls it around and the rock goes forward and hits that giant between the eyes. And the giant falls over. The boy runs up to him and grabs his sword and chops off his head. And Israel wins the day and the Philistines turn around and they go running all the way back to the coastal plain.

That is the story of David and Goliath. The kid is David and the giant is Goliath. And we've all heard that story a thousand times. Many of us have fundamentally misinterpreted what it meant.

### **LESSONS FROM DAVID FACING GOLIATH.**

We use that story as a kind of a metaphor for stories about improbable

victories. The overwhelming favorite goes up against the one in a million long shot. And the one in a million long shot wins the day.

**Why do we call David a one in a million long shot? One reason** is that he's a kid. He's a shepherd. He's up against this experienced warrior. **Second reason** he's normal size. Probably my size. Skinny and tiny and very unassuming. He's up against a guy who is seven foot at least, right? But the biggest reason we think of David as being this improbable long shot is that Goliath is decked out in head to toe armor and has got every weapon known to ancient warriors in his hands. **All David has is a sling.** That's a good place to start. I think that's where we go wrong. Let's start with that phrase "all David has is a sling."

Ancient armies had **three kinds of warriors**. They had people who rode in chariots – cavalry. People on horseback and in chariots. They had heavy infantry which is foot soldiers wearing armor, full body armor, and carrying swords and shields. And they had artillery. Artillery was made up of people with bows and arrows and slingers. Slingers were trained artillery who used a sling. A sling was a leather pouch which had two long ropes attached to it. You put a rock in the middle of the pouch and you would whirl it around like this and let one of the ropes go and so the rock would be propelled forward.

Very often when we talk and people tell the story of David and Goliath, they make it sound like David had a slingshot. Like it's some kind of child's toy. Slingshots are not deadly weapons. If they were most parents would be dead by now. David did not have a slingshot. He had a sling. A sling is very, very different and far more lethal weapon.

We have people who've studied slings and there are, as is the case of most interesting things in the world, a group of sling nerds out there who have done all the calculations. We know that an experienced slinger would rotate that sling six or seven times a second. **Which means if you do the math that the rock would be traveling at 35 meters per second.** So if Goliath is a hundred feet from David the rock will reach Goliath in less than a second.

Goliath barely knows what's happening and boom, it's hitting him in the middle of the head.



The second interesting thing is the rock that David used was probably what's called **barium sulfate** which is common in the Valley of Elah. It's a very heavy rock. If we do the math on the ballistics of that, that rock had a **stopping power equal to a bullet from a 45 caliber hand gun**. This is a serious weapon.

**What about accuracy?** We know from other discussions of slingers in the Bible and also from discussions of medieval warfare that experienced slingers – and David was an experienced slinger – were incredibly accurate. They could hit birds in flight with their sling. So there is no question that what David has is a weapon that is entirely capable of taking out Goliath. In fact in ancient warfare, slingers were routinely used to match up against heavy infantry. That's what you ruled out when you were faced with a bunch of people who were dressed head to toe in armor with swords and shields.

**So there's Goliath. He's heavy infantry.** What he expected was a battle with another heavy infantry man. That's when he says, *“Come to me that I might feed your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field.”* The key phrase is *“come to me,”* meaning *come right here*. Because we're going to have hand to hand combat.

**But David's not an idiot.** He's not going to go into hand to hand combat with a guy who is twice his size. He's going to use the weapon that he's spent his career as a shepherd training with which is a sling.

So here we have a guy who has changed the rules of combat without telling his opponent. Has superior technology and is filled with the Spirit of the Lord. Yet we insist on calling him an underdog. Why? Isn't he the favorite? He's got superior technology and you've changed the rules without telling your opponent and you have God in your heart... that doesn't make you the favorite?

**Second interesting thing about that story. It's not just the case that we seem to have radically underestimated David's power. It's also that we've misunderstood Goliath.** Goliath was supposed to be this mighty warrior, right? But the truth is if you read that passage in [1 Samuel](#) about the battle between David and Goliath there are all kinds of things, details that are completely inconsistent with that idea of Goliath as this indomitable warrior.

**The first is that he's led onto the valley floor by an attendant** Someone brings him down to the point where the fight is supposed to take place. That doesn't make any sense. If he's the greatest warrior in all of Palestine why is he being led by the hand like a preschooler crossing the street? The **second thing** is that the story, the Biblical account **stresses how slowly Goliath moves**. Why is that great, fearsome, ferocious warrior moving so slowly?

Then there's the fact that **it takes Goliath an awful long time to figure out what's going on**. David comes down from the hill. He's got a staff and a little bag of rocks and he wearing a shepherd's outfit. It's clear from the outset this kid has no intention of fighting a sword fight. What does Goliath do? He just stands there and says "*Come to me that I may feed your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field.*" He's not getting it. Why is he not getting it?

Then there's the strange thing he says when David draws close and he sees that he's carrying a staff. He says, "*Am I a dog that you would come to me with sticks?*"

David doesn't have *sticks*. David has *a stick*. Why does Goliath seeing two sticks when there's only one?

The answer to **these puzzles has been provided by a whole group of, believe it or not, endocrinologists**. Who have gotten really interested, medical experts have gotten really interested in Goliath. They've pointed out that there is a plausible explanation for a lot of those anomalies.

It begins with Goliath's size. Goliath is huge. Head and shoulders above anyone else of his day. Whenever we are confronted with people who are that big, that unusually tall, we usually look for some kind of physiological explanation. The most common cause **of giantism – it was called – is a condition called acromegaly**. And acromegaly is caused by a tumor on your pituitary gland that causes the over production of human growth hormone. Most of the great giants in human history had acromegaly. So my fellow Canadian Andre the Giant, the professional wrestler a famous Canadian wrestler – I realize the words "famous" and "wrestler" and "Canadian" are rarely used in combination. Famous to Canadians wrestler, he had acromegaly. **The tallest man of all times, Robert Wadlow eight foot eleven, he had acromegaly.**



There's a good chance that Goliath has acromegaly. What's interesting about that is there's a very common side effect of acromegaly. That is that the tumor can sometimes **grow so large that it starts to compress the optic nerves, the nerves that feed your eyes from your brain.** With the result that many people who have acromegaly have severely restricted vision. They have real problems with eyesight.

Think of that in the context of all those anomalies in the story of David and Goliath.

Here's a man who moves really slowly. **Why?** Because he's scared of tripping on a rock that he can't see. Here's a guy who has to be led on to the valley floor by an attendant. **Why?** Because he can't make his way on his own. Here's a guy who it takes forever to figure out that David is not in fact intending to fight him in a sword fight. **Why?** Because he can't see David. When he says "*Come to me that I might feed your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field,*" the key phrase is "come to me." Because he needs David to be *right here* because otherwise he can't see him.

Then when he says "*Am I a dog that you should come to me with sticks.*" Why is he seeing two sticks? **Because he has double vision.**

What the Israelites saw from high up on the hills was someone who appeared to be this mighty warrior but in fact the very thing that gave the giant his size was the cause of his greatest weakness. That is the first lesson of the story of David and Goliath. **Giants are not what they seem.**

The kinds of obstacles we face in our life are not nearly as insurmountable and depressing and overwhelming as they appear to be at first blush. Look closely and you'll see a different truth. Giants can be slain. Particularly by those who have the Spirit of the Lord in their hearts.

It's unlikely that you're ever going to have to face a physical giant like David did. **But it is highly likely that you're going to have to face a whole lot of other common giants. Giants of financial problems, relational problems, marriage problems, work problems. Problems that keep you from going after your dream.**

In this story, **1 Samuel 17, David actually had to fight four other giants before he gets to Goliath.** They weren't physical giants but they were giants in his mind.

You are far more likely to have to face those giants than a Goliath. But they can be just as big and just as intimidating and can keep you from becoming who God wants you to be and fulfilling the dream that God has put in your heart.

Let me **give you a little background**. [The chapter before this chapter in the Bible, chapter 16, here's an interesting story](#). A **man named Samuel** – this book is called 1 Samuel because it's named after the chief religious leader of that day. Samuel was the prophet of Israel in that day. In 1 Samuel 16, God says to Samuel, I want you go to the town of Bethlehem and I want you to find a guy named Jesse. You're going to anoint Jesse's son as the next king of Israel. The existing king was still alive. Very much alive. Saul. But God had already decided Saul's days were over. So this was a secret plan. God's telling Samuel, you're going to go anoint the next king of Israel.

So Samuel goes to Jerusalem and he finds this guy named Jesse and he says do you have a son? Jesse says not only do I have a son; I've got eight. So Samuel goes, I have to look at them all. So Jesse brings his seven oldest sons to parade them before the prophet to see which one is going to become the king of Israel. He shows him the oldest son and Samuel goes, Not the guy. Next! He shows him the second oldest. That's not the guy. Next! He shows him his third oldest son. Not the guy. Next! No, no, no, five, six, seven. None of the guys are him. Samuel goes, do you have any other kids? Jesse goes, oh yeah, there's one more. The youngest, the runt, little David. He's a pipsqueak. I don't want to bring him in. He's out tending the sheep. Samuel said, Bring him in. He brings in the youngest son. Samuel takes one look at him: That's the guy. And he anoints him as the king of Israel.

You know **what happen after this**. **Nothing. Nothing happens**. Jesse says to his youngest: now get back out there and start tending the sheep. Nothing at all changes in David's life. He has been given the dream. He's been told you're the next king of Israel...but get back out there and tend the sheep.

### **THE OTHER GIANTS DAVID HAD TO FACE**

There is actually quite a long delay between when David is anointed as king and when he actually sees the fulfillment of his dream *years* later.

There's a big delay. And I would say that this is the exactly what happens in your life.

## 1. DELAY

The first giant in facing your dream is delay. **No dream is fulfilled instantly.** God gives you the dream on one day but he doesn't fulfill it the next day. No, it's years later that you see the fulfillment of your life dream. There is always a time delay. There is always a time lapse. There is always a waiting period.

In David's case **his dad holds him back from the dream.** He said, David you need to get back out there & start tending sheep. He didn't think David was old enough or experienced enough to be the king of Israel.

In verse 12-15 it says this *“Now David was the youngest of Jesse's eight sons... His three older brothers enlisted in Saul's army... but David was held back [circle that] to care for the sheep in Bethlehem.”*

**The first barrier of your dream is this: There are going to be people who hold you back.** There are going to be people in your life who hold you back from the dream that God has given you.

Some of you know what I'm talking about. You have been held back from what you want to do with your life **because of your age.** Some of you have been held back from what you want to do with your life and the dream God's given you **because of your race.** Some of you have been held back **because of your gender.** Some of you have been held back because you weren't **pretty enough or handsome enough or smart** enough or whatever enough.

Discrimination in any form is a barrier that you have to break through.

There will be people who want to hold you back.

Here's the sad part. **Sometimes the people who hold you back the most are those who love you the most.**

**In this case it's David's dad.** His dad isn't going go for it! My son is going to be the king of Israel? No. He says, Get back out there and tend the sheep. Because Jesse would just as soon not have his son be the king of Israel. He'd lose a worker.

**God has a plan for your life. But so does everybody else.** When God's plan contradicts somebody else's plan, there's going to be a delay and

people are going to try to hold you back. They have plans for your life too. David's dad just wanted him to be a shepherd. There's this delay. And you're going to see this delay in your life. Sometimes even people who love you will hold you back from the dream God has given you.

At one point Jesse goes, my three favorite sons they're out on the front line with Saul fighting the battle. **He tells David, I want you to take a care package of food to your older brothers at the battlefield.** So he gives David all this food and he sends him off. This way David gets to see the battle. When he's there delivering the food to his older brothers he hears Goliath coming down every day and shouting these taunts and saying we're going to whip your rear and we're going to win the battle and you're going to get defeated.

David notices nobody's doing anything about this guy. And he notices that everybody around here is scared to death. They're all embarrassed, they're all afraid, they're all terrorized, they're all traumatized. Nobody wants to do anything. They're all scared to death. This is the second barrier you will face in finding and fulfilling your dream. It is this: discouragement.

## 2. DISCOURAGEMENT

You will face discouragement **because everybody around you is scared to death. Nobody thinks you can do it.** Nobody has hope. Nobody believes that you can take down this giant. And they're all scared to death and they're all convincing each other that it's impossible to make any difference.

**Goliath had created a climate of fear in Israel.** And everybody had concluded we're going to lose this battle and nobody can beat Goliath. Verse 8-10 it says this *"Each day Goliath would stand and shout at the ranks of Israel's army, 'Why do you come out here and line up for battle? ... Choose one man to fight me. If he's able to kill me, we will become your subjects; but if I kill him, you'll become our subjects and serve us.'* Day after day [circle that] *Goliath taunted them saying 'This day I defy the ranks of Israel!'* When Saul [that's the king] and the Israelites heard this, *everyone was deeply shaken and paralyzed with fear."*

Notice the situation. They're all demoralized. They're gripped with anxiety. They're terrified. They're traumatized. They feel hopeless. One

translation says “They were so frightened they couldn’t do anything.”

**Have you ever been in a situation where everybody around you thought this is hopeless?** Maybe you’ve been at work and in your office they say, “In this economy nobody can grow anything. We can’t solve this problem. It’s going down the tubes.” And everybody around you is saying it can’t be done. It can’t be done. It’s never going to happen. It’s never going to happen. They’re all discouraged and they’re all convincing each other because they’re all filled with fear. And they say there’s nothing we can do about this problem.

Let me tell you something. **Conventional wisdom is often wrong. Everybody there was wrong.** It says twice in that passage, Goliath challenged the ranks of the Israeli army. Sometimes the solution has to come outside the rank and file. What you need is a little kid from the village coming up. “We can do this!” What you need is a fresh set of eyes. Because the professionals were wrong. The crowd was wrong. Just because everybody says it’s so doesn’t make it so. The crowd is often wrong. Just because the crowd says it’s true doesn’t mean it’s true.

**So somebody had to challenge the status quo.** Why had everybody given up? Why had they gotten so discouraged from this one giant? **The answer is they were listening to the wrong voice.** They were listening to this guy every single day. *Verse 16 “For forty days, twice a day, morning and evening, the Philistine giant loudly berated the Israelite army.”* It’s no wonder they got discouraged. They’re listening to this guy day after day after day.

**Question: Who are you listening to?** Who are you listening to who says it can’t be done? Who is poo pooing your dream, putting down your dreams, saying it won’t ever happen. Forget it. Who’s telling you that you’re not the person to do it?

**If you listen to negative people long enough you know what happens? You get negative.** It’s highly contagious. And so is *fear and so is discouragement*. If you listen to somebody saying America is going to hell in a handbag day after day after day pretty soon you start acting like it. And you’re believing it. Sometimes you just need a fresh voice. You need a kid from the village with fresh eyes. This guy’s nothing. We can take him down. It’s a slam dunk.



Verse 23-24 *“As David talked with his brothers on the front line, he saw Goliath start shouting his usual threats to Israel’s army. When the army heard Goliath, they all ran away in terror.”* They all ran away.

Let me give you some advice. **Don’t hang out with fearful people.** Because if you do you will become fearful. If you hang out with cowards you become a coward. If you hang out with bitter people you become bitter. If you hang out with angry people you become angry. If you hang out with negative people you become negative. It’s highly contagious.

The **first barrier to your dream is delay.** The **second barrier to your dream, the second dream buster is discouragement.** Because everybody around you is telling you that life stinks and it can’t be done. And they’re wrong. They’re wrong.

### **3. DISAPPROVAL**

There’s a third dream buster and I call it the **giant of disapproval.** David had to handle this one. He had to be willing to face the disapproval of people around him in order to go after his dream. And you will too.

Here’s the problem. **The reason why most people don’t ever go after their dream is they’re afraid of disapproval.** They are **afraid of rejection.** In this case David’s own brother questions his motives. David’s own brother questions his motives and disapproved of David going after the giant.

**We want everybody to like us.** We really do. We want everybody to approve of everything we do. But if you go after God’s dream for your life, I’m guaranteeing you this: There will be nay-sayers. There will be critics. There will be misunderstanding. There will be attacks. There will be people who are judging you for what you do because they don’t get it. And that is the disapproval giant.

In this case **David’s own brother questions David’s motivation.** He treats his younger brother with disdain and disgust and he demeans him and he disregards him and he belittles him. In *verse 28-29* notice his conversation between the older brother and the younger brother. Listen to this conversation and see if you can identify with it. *“Why are you even here anyway? Why aren’t you taking care of your scrawny little flock of sheep? You cocky little brat. I know how conceited you are!”* [And David, the younger brother goes...] *‘Now what have I done?’ said David. ‘Can’t I*



*even ask a question? ”*

Do any of you vaguely relate to this conversation? Yes. **It's called sibling rivalry.** And it's happened in every single family because the older brother and the younger brother, people closest to you can't see what you see. They can't imagine you accomplishing something that they've never imagined themselves. They think they know who you are but they don't know you like God knows you.

So they come out with this demeaning, demoralizing, disapproval. You hear the family dynamics going on here.

**The sad truth is this: Sometimes it's your own family that doesn't want you to accomplish God's dream.** It may be envy. It may be jealousy. It may be they think they know you better than you do and they know your weaknesses. But they don't know God's strength. It may be that they would be embarrassed. It may be that they would resent you being successful and it would make them look bad. I don't know what it is. But sibling rivalry often leads to resentment.

**Did you know that even Jesus had to deal with this?** Jesus was born of a virgin. Mary and Joseph hadn't had sex. Because God was the Father of Jesus. But the Bible tells us very clearly that after Jesus was born Joseph and Mary had many kids. We're given their names in the Bible. In fact Mary and the kids followed Jesus around during his ministry.

**What's interesting is none of Jesus' half brothers or sisters accepted him as Lord and Savior until after the resurrection.** Then they all became believers. Because when your brother has died on the cross and then three days later he's walking around talking to you that would make me a believer. But I have to show a little grace to these guys because I wouldn't want to believe in my brother either. If my brother said, "And by the way, I'm God." Yeah, you and who else? How would you like to have Jesus as your own brother – Mr. Perfect! There's noise going on and Mary walks in "What's going on in here." Jesus did... "No. He didn't do it." Mom he lied! "Jesus never lies." But mom!

**How would you like to have a brother who was always right?** That would be hard growing up in that family. So I can see every reason why they would not accept him as the Messiah until after his death and resurrection.

But even Jesus had to deal with the sibling rivalry. Because a brother or sister will always say, Who do you think you are? When you have a dream.

The question is not who do we think we are? The question is who do we think God is?

**You let the size of your God determine the size of your goal.** If you have a big God you better have some big goals. Because God doesn't give you piddily dreams. If the dream is from God... **How do you know if your dream is from God?** It's so big you're bound to fail unless God bails you out. The dream will be so big you are guaranteed failure unless you totally depend on God to see it happen. It's outrageously enormous. It's a big dream from a big God.

**Let the size of your God determine the size of your goal.**

When God gives you a dream and it's a dream that other people are afraid to attempt or afraid to accomplish or afraid to even step out and try. If you take that dream and you go for it, you will be misjudged. You will be maligned. You will be misinterpreted. And you will be misunderstood. That is the giant of disapproval. You have to decide what matters more to you – the approval of other people or the approval of God.

**I decided a long time ago that the approval of God is more important to me than the approval of other people.** It's not my job, it's none of my business what you think of me. **It is my business what God thinks of me.** That's the issue of disappointment.

By the way, **David did find out what the reward would be.** Did you know what the reward would be for killing Goliath? Three things: the king would give you great wealth. Two, you got to marry the king's daughter. And three, this was the best of all, you were exempt from taxes the rest of your life. Hello! Shoot! I would have gone after Goliath for that one. No taxes for the rest of my life. That was the reward.

**But then there is the fourth dream buster David had to face even before he faced Goliath. It is the giant of doubt.**

#### **4. DOUBT**

**First, there is delay. Then there's discouragement. Then there's disapproval. Then there is doubt.** Am I capable of this? Am I up to the task for this? Can I actually do what God is asking me to do?

Then there are people all around you who tell you, you can't. **In David's case the expert doubted his ability.** There was nobody who was a greater expert on war than King Saul because Saul had been in battle his entire life. When King Saul hears that this little kid is willing to take on the giant who's paralyzed the nation he invites David to come see him at the palace.

So David goes to see King Saul. Here's the conversation, [verse 32-33](#) *"Don't worry about a thing," David told the King, "I'll fight this Philistine!"*... [Let me just stop right here. Confidence in God is often misinterpreted as cockiness by other people. A lot of people might think a person is cocky when they're just a person of faith. It's not that they think that they can do it; it's that they *know* that God can do it. That's confidence in God, not cockiness. [David says, Don't worry about a thing, king. I'll fight this Philistine.](#)] *"Don't be ridiculous!" Saul replied. "There's no way you can go against this Philistine! You're only a boy, and he's been a professional warrior all his life!"*

That expert is saying you can't do it. That's enough to make you start doubting yourself. I say about experts what I said about conventional wisdom. The experts are often wrong.

There's the doubt that comes. **How do you defeat the giants that are keeping you from being the man God wants you to be?** How do you defeat these fears that are keeping you from being the woman God wants you to be? To be a person of great faith with a great dream and a great life work. How do you overcome those giants?

[You do the very things that David did. The four things that David did to defeat these giants before he gets to Goliath.](#)

### **1. I remember how God has helped me in the past.**

That's the first thing you do to face the giants and to fulfill your dream. Remember how God has helped me in the past. This is a confidence builder when I recall, when I recollect, when I remember ways that God has helped me in the past it gives me confidence for the future.

**Remember the time I thought I wouldn't make it? But I did. Remember the time I thought it was the end, but it wasn't. Remember I thought I was at the bottom and I'd never be able to climb out? But I did. Remember when I thought I was all alone? But I wasn't.**

**You remember how God has helped you in little times and realize he's going to help me in big times in the future.** *Because God never changes.* God doesn't love you one day and not another day. If he's helped you in the past in little ways he will willingly help you in the future in big ways. You remember how God has helped you in the past.

This is what David did, verse 36. David says when everyone tells him it can't be done *"In protecting my sheep, [as a shepherd] I've killed both a lion and a bear... The Lord who delivered me from the teeth of that lion, and the claws of that bear, will surely now deliver me from this Philistine too!"* That's confidence. I remember how God's helped me in the past.

## **2. I use the tools that God has given me now!**

**I don't wait for something I don't have.** I don't have *enough money*. I don't have *enough education*. I don't have *enough connections*. I don't have *enough opportunities*. I don't have this or I don't have that. No. You use the tools you've got right now.

*Some people are just waiting for something to happen.* You don't wait for your ship to come in. You swim out to it. If you wait for it to come into the harbor you're going to wait a long, long time. You use the tools God has given you now.

David goes to see Saul and Saul says if you're going to fight this guy you may as well use my armor. How ridiculous is that? David is a short, small boy. Saul is a tall, big, grown man. To take his armor and put it on David... his hands probably didn't even show through it. It would be comical. *David says this, verse 38-40, "Then Saul dressed David in his own armor... But David said, 'I cannot go out in these, because I'm not used to them.' So he took them off... Instead he chose 5 smooth stones for his sling."*

He says this is what I'm used to. I'm going to use a sling shot. I don't need your armor. I'm just going to do this.

**When you start going after your dream that God has given you some people are going to oppose you on it.** There's going to be opposition. But other people will say, Yeah go after your dream but do it my way. They're going to try to convince you to do it their way but you're not them and it's going to fail.

I see this **Saul's armor syndrome in businesses** everywhere. They're doing

it that way so we should do it that way. Not necessarily. **God doesn't create clones. God made you to be you.** And God's going to use you to fulfill the dream that he has for you your way not the way somebody else did it. If you try to do it the way somebody else did it you are bound to fail. It's like trying to wear Saul's armor. You can't wear it because you're not Saul. You just need to use the tools you've got. He had a slingshot so he picks up some stones. And he's going to go after it.

**Often people will try to load some things on you that are just too heavy for you and you're not going to fulfill your dream that way.** I love this verse in [Ecclesiastes 11:4](#) *"If you wait for perfect conditions you will never get anything done."* How many would agree with that verse? Yeah. If you wait for perfect conditions you're never going to get started on your dream. Some day I'll... One of these days.... No! Today's the day.

**We're ending 50 Days of Transformation. This is the day to start the new dream. This is the day to go after it.** When everybody else is saying you can't do it – discouragement. When you're full of doubt – Are you going to trust God? And when there's been a delay – people have held you back. And when people disapprove, you just say sorry I've got to do what God's asking them to do.

### **3. The third thing he did was – ignore the dreambusters!**

You must ignore the dreambusters in your life. It's interesting to me that as David's going to take on the giant that everybody else is scared to death to take on, **he didn't get any encouragement from anybody.** Not a single word of encouragement as he went out. His dad didn't encourage him. His mom didn't encourage him. His brothers didn't encourage him. The army, the soldiers who were scared to death didn't encourage him. The king whose reputation was on the line didn't encourage him. Nobody gave David any encouragement.

What did he do? **He had to encourage himself in the Lord.** [1 Samuel 30:6](#) *"... When others were speaking against him, David encouraged himself in the Lord."* Circle "in the Lord."

Do you do that? Do you encourage yourself in the Lord? This is so important. If you're going to go after your dream you're going to have to



learn how to encourage yourself because sometimes nobody else is going to encourage you. **You're going to have to encourage yourself in the Lord.**

**This is very different than simply having a positive mental attitude.**

**No, this is far more deep.** When you encourage yourself in the Lord there is a bedrock trust in God's faith, God's grace, God's provision, God's security, God's kindness, God's power. You're trusting in God. It's not just a positive mental attitude.

I'm not against positive thinking. Considering the alternative I think you ought to be a positive thinker. Because the alternative is negative thinking. That's worse. So between negative and positive thinking you ought to be a positive thinker.

**But friends there are some problems in your life that are so significant and some giants so big all the positive thinking in the world isn't going to make a difference at all.** The sun will come out tomorrow....Have a nice day... is pretty shallow when you are facing the deepest darkest problems of life.

In the deepest darkest days of life you need a bedrock trust in God's grace, in God's love, in God's power, in God's sovereignty, in God's plan. You have to encourage yourself in the Lord. Because nobody else can give you that encouragement.

#### **4. The fourth thing David did – I expect God to help me for his glory!**

This is what David did. This is what you must do in going after your dream. It is the faith factor.

**I love what David says to Goliath as he runs on to the battle field:**

David runs onto the battlefield shouting and he says this. *“David shouted to Goliath ‘You come at me with sword, spear, and javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord Almighty!... Today the Lord will conquer you [Not me, the Lord will conquer you]... and the whole world will know that there is a God! And everyone will know that the Lord doesn't need weapons to rescue his people. It is his battle, not ours. [Are you fighting God's battle and that's why you're tired?] It is his battle not ours. And the Lord will give you to us!’”*

**What are you expecting God to do in your life?** Without even knowing you I can tell you this: God is doing exactly what you expect him to do.



No more and no less. Because every time God moves out of heaven and moves on earth and does a miracle it's because somebody believed. The Bible says "*According to your faith it will be done unto you.*" The Bible says "*The just shall live by faith.*" The Bible says "*Without faith it is impossible to please God.*" The Bible says "*Whatever is not of faith is sin.*" According to your faith it will be done unto you. You get to choose how much God does in your life. It's based on how much you choose to trust him.

I don't have to be the smartest person in life. I don't have to be the best looking person in life. I don't have to be the wealthiest person in life. **I have the choice to trust God and you do too.** Whatever is not of faith is sin. He says I expect God to help me for his glory.

**God says I will use anybody who will trust me and say I expect God to use me not because of who I am but for his glory.** God knows and the world knows that there is a God.

You have no idea how much your unbelief could be limiting somebody you love. Is your unbelief limiting your wife? Is your unbelief limiting your husband? Is your unbelief limiting your child? Don't be Jesse. Don't hold them back when God has a great dream for their life. It's not your dream for them; it's God's dream for them. You need to say I'm not going to let anybody else's unbelief hold me back and I'm not going to let my unbelief hold anybody else back.

Prayer:

There are a lot of things in your life you don't have control over. You didn't choose your natural talent. You didn't choose when you'd be born, where you would be born. You didn't choose your race. You didn't choose your gender. You didn't choose your talent. But you do get to choose how much you're going to trust God. And it is that faith factor that will defeat the giants of delay and discouragement and disapproval and doubt. And if you will say yes to God he will take you on the adventure of your life. It doesn't really matter what's happened in your life. Say I want the rest of my life no matter how many years I've got, to be God's one hundred percent.

I want you to pray this prayer. Dear God you have helped me many times in the past. You've helped me through things I thought I'd never get out of. But you did help me. And if you've helped me in the past I know you're going to help me in the future. Help me to remember that and draw my confidence from that. Even when people discourage me or disapprove of me or even when people misunderstand me. Help me to use the tools that you've given me now. To not wait for a perfect time and a perfect place and a perfect tool. But to use the slingshot and the stones that I have right now. Help me not to wear somebody else's armor but just go in your strength. And Lord, help me to ignore the dreambusters and help me to start every day with a time alone with you so that I will encourage myself in the Lord. I don't need the encouragement of other people because I'm encouraging myself in the Lord, and spending time with you. Help me to expect you to help me. Not for my glory but for yours. That the whole world will know that there is a God. And that everyone will know that the Lord doesn't need weapons to rescue his people. Lord, I've been tired because I've been trying to fight battles as if they're mine. It's your battle. I want to relax and trust you to give me the victory. Jesus Christ, I invite you into every room in my life. The living room, the bedroom, the bathroom, the kitchen. I want you to run every area of my life. I want you to be the manager and the Lord from this day forward. I thank you in advance that the giants will fall and the dream will come true. And I pray this in your name. Amen.