Facing Our Challenges, Conquering Our Fears

I Samuel 17

Introduction

Today we are going to talk about facing our challenges and conquering our fears.

Pastors on Point

I. We are in a spiritual battle and we face a formidable foe.
   I Samuel 17:1-11

   For the armies of Israel, that enemy was the Philistines and their champion, Goliath.

   Look at how Goliath is described.
   • He’s huge – over 9 feet tall.
   • His armor is impenetrable.
   • His weapons are deadly.
   • His threats are menacing.
“The Lord does not look at the things a man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.” I Samuel 16:7

We face a real enemy – Satan.
We need to remember that “the one who is in us is greater than the one who is in the world.” I John 4:4
Satan is a mighty foe, but we have an All-Powerful God.

II. Fear immobilizes.
I Samuel 17:12-24

The armies of Israel were paralyzed with fear. Verses 11 & 24

Fear is a major reason why people don’t do what God asks.
• Fear of failure.
• Fear of what others will think.
• Fear of what God may ask me to do.
• Fear of change.

If we live in fear, we will never reach our potential.
If we give in to fear, we will miss out on joy.
If God is calling you to take a step of faith, don’t let fear immobilize you.

III. Faith energizes.
I Samuel 17:25-54

What gave David the courage to face Goliath?
David’s courage came from his faith in God.
Faith believes that with God, we are never helpless victims.

- Daniel would honor God with his diet in a foreign land.
- Paul and Silas would sing hymns to God in prison.
- Peter and John would choose to fear God rather than man.

When life doesn’t turn out the way we planned, the option of quitting always seems like sweet relief. Faith believes that God can work in any situation.

“You come to me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.” 1 Samuel 17:45

Conclusion

Fear immobilizes. Faith energizes.

Is there a giant in your life today?
Is there a fear keeping you from following God with all your heart?
Ask God to fill you with his power. Acts 1:8
Step out of the boat in faith.