

# Greater Things

A SERMON SERIES BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 11

## SPEAK IN FAITH (Week 3)

**WELCOME:** Who was/is your biggest influence in life, why?

**WORSHIP:** This new sermon series, *Envision Greater Things* is designed to help us grow in four areas of faith: **seeing in faith**, to **sowing in faith**, **speaking in faith** and **stepping in faith**. God is doing greater things around us and we want to pursue with greater passion, the greater things that God is doing. As we begin, let's welcome the presence of God in our midst by reading aloud together Psalm 100, and commit our time in prayer. [Be ready to sing, *Open Up Our Eyes* by Elevation Worship at the end of this study.]

**WORD:** What is speaking in faith? Speaking in Faith is having a voice, not just an echo in your situations, people and places. It is to speak forth, declare and apply the Word of God into situations. Speaking in faith is recognizing that God has the final word in all things—people, situations and places.

### **Why is it an important area in the Christian life?**

Speaking in faith is an important area that we need to develop as believers, because at the very heart of speaking in faith is audacity that can only come from a deep-seated confidence in God Himself. Speaking in faith is exercising audacity—it is declaring and pursuing the promises of God fearlessly. Read 2 Timothy 2:17 NLT and Romans 8:31.

### **Can someone recall or retell the story of David and Goliath? (1 Samuel 17)**

#### **Lessons from the Story.**

**1. See situations in faith.** While everyone was afraid of Goliath, he seemed invincible; even King Saul, himself, the tallest man in Israel, did not step out to fight. Read verse 24. David saw in faith what is yet to be (read verse 26); his faith in God caused him to look at the giant from a different perspective. Read verses 45-47.

- How do you see your current situation? What might the Lord be teaching you in your situation?
- Why do you think it is difficult for us to look at situations and other people from God's perspective? What did David have that made him see victory while others saw defeat?
- What might be missing in the way we look at the giants in our life? Who do we trust to overcome our giants?
- Read Psalm 20.

**2. Refuse to wear someone else's armor.** David chose not to wear the King's armor, despite the honor it meant, because he felt it was cumbersome and unfamiliar. David was comfortable and happy with his simple sling, a weapon he was skilled at using. He was confident in what God had given him. He knew that God will use the unique skills he's already placed in your hands. When you pursue the greater things God has in store, use the gifts and talents God has already given you. He will work miracles through what you already have. Don't try to be someone you are not. Your calling, purpose and potential are unique and specific to you!

- Do you sometimes feel inadequate to do what God is telling you to do? Read 2 Peter 1:3.
- David refused Saul's armor because it wasn't made for him. He didn't want to pursue his calling using someone else's armor. Whose "armor" are you wearing?
- Is there such thing as a *valid excuse* from obeying God?

**3. Speak God's victory.** No mortal man can defy an all-powerful God. David knew that an insult to God's people is an insult to God. David looked at the battle from God's point of view and spoke God's glory and victory in faith over his situation. If we look at giant problems and impossible situations from God's perspective, we realize that God will fight for us and with us. When we put things in proper perspective—seeing in faith, we see more clearly, we speak more directly and we can fight more effectively.

- Read the declarations David made in the following: Psalm 91:1, 23:4, 73:26, 27:1, 130:5.
- Psalm 1:1-3 tells us to *meditate* God's Word (law). What do you think does the word *meditate* mean?
- Look up the Biblical meaning of the word *meditate*. Check this online resource to see its original meaning under definition: <http://www.biblestudytools.com/lexicons/hebrew/kjv/hagah.html>
- Why do we need to speak the Word of God over our lives? Hebrews 4:12 and Psalm 119:11.

**4. Only God's opinion matters.** When the giant hurled criticisms, insults, and threats, David didn't stop or even waver. Even David's brother saw his audacity as conceit! While everyone else cowered in fear, David ran into the battle. He wasn't going to wait for the perfect timing. David knew the right thing to do at the time of greatest struggle in faith—in spite of discouraging insults and fearful threats. David did not allow the insults to keep him from fighting. To David, only God's opinion mattered. God has the last word.

- Who do you allow to have the loudest voice in your life? Read Deuteronomy 30:19-20.
- "The voice you believe will determine the future you experience."
- Read Psalm 119:105.

Speaking in faith is not about maintaining a positive mental attitude (it's not positive thinking), it's about fully obeying and declaring the Word of God and His promises over our life. Speaking in faith is using God's Word to nourish the purpose and potential of what you see in faith; it is watering the seed you have planted, believing that it will bear fruit as God intends it.

#### **APPLICATION POINTS:**

##### ***We want to be audacious individuals who want to be part of what God is doing.***

There will always be opposition to what God is doing, but we should not shrink back at the sound of every opposition, otherwise we won't accomplish anything. We want to be like David who spoke victory at the height of the loudest insults, and stepped right in the middle of what God is accomplishing. Always looking for opportunities to join God is what He is doing! As a church, we want to be a community in which members are not afraid to share our story with the people we across.

- We refuse to be ruled by timidity and fear—because timidity and fear don't come from God. We will speak with boldness and grab every opportunity to tell people how you received Christ!
- We choose to be vehicles through which people can have a personal revelation of Jesus!

##### ***We want to be an audacious generation that raises a generation better than ours.***

We choose to see purpose and potential in every child and teenager! We will speak God's prophetic Word over every individual and prepare them for what God has in store for them! Remember—when you look at a boy, you are raising someone's father! When you look at a girl, you are speaking into the life of a future mother! We want to raise fathers, mothers, disciples and leaders after God's own heart. We refuse to be the generation that drops the baton!

- We want to inspire people to become whom God designed them to be and not lose sight of it. How do we do that? By inspiring and encouraging people to be whom God called them to be. To help them know that God has placed more within them than they realize.
- Inspire and Encourage one another.
  - *Make it spiritual.* A spiritual encouragement is elevating a positive comment into a blessing. The person receiving it realizes the grace of God in their life.
  - *Build into people.* 1 Thessalonians 5:11.
  - *Make it a habit.* "If you think of something good, say it!" Don't withhold that blessing. It can change someone's life, and it can change yours too!

##### ***We want to be an audacious people who attempt great things for God.***

We choose to a generation that will not shrink back from attempting great things for God. We want to be a people whose lives are characterized by obedience and audacity! We want to be people known for having enthusiastic faith, and not dead religion. We want to be a people that will not be afraid to explore possibilities and pursue great endeavors! We will build, we will send, we will give! We will build more, we will send more and we will give more. We will do whatever Holy Spirit tells us to do!

As a way to close, sing, *Open Up Our Eyes* by Elevation Worship.

#### **Prayer Time:**

Use the THREE APPLICATION POINTS above as a prayer guide for your group. Assign three individuals who can each pray for one application point to become a part of all the group members' individual lives. After the three have prayed, the leader will close in prayer.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENT:**

**FALL BAPTISM BASH – OCTOBER 23** (Right after Sunday worship at the Microtel Inn swimming pool)

If you have received Jesus as Lord and Savior and you want to take your next step of faith, **SIGN UP FOR BAPTISM!**