

BRING IT ON

A NEW YEAR SERMON SERIES

WINNING ATTENTION(Week 3)

WELCOME: Do you have a phobia of some sort? What is it?

WORSHIP: Sing "YOU MAKE ME BRAVE" by BETHEL MUSIC (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_UglO7SGUWk)

WORD:

Read **1 Samuel 17:1-26**

While David served King Saul as musician, the Philistine army challenged Israel with their best soldier, a nine-foot tall warrior! For the first time in Israel's history, the army cowered at the sight of this enormous fighter. Israel faces its biggest challenge at the forefront, and they did not know what to do.

We all have gigantic challenges. For some it may be the giant of lust or pornography. Perhaps some have been enslaved by the giant of fear and worry. Others face the giants of alcohol and drug abuse. While some fight the giant named greed that keeps them enslaved to their work in pursuit of the things they want to have. The giant self-centeredness keeps many others in tow, dressing in the different outfits of self-pity, jealousy, anger, and pride. The giant of rebellion, laziness, depression, discouragement, low self-esteem and doubt. Many believers are enslaved by the giant of embarrassment to share their faith and invite others to know Jesus.

Whatever the giant's name, these giants hinder the progress of God's people in the purpose for which He called them. They rob them of joy in the Lord. Every negative spirit that tries to enslave us in fear is a giant we need to face and fight because it keeps us from becoming the person God created us to be.

As we are still at the start of 2017, let us diligently prepare ourselves to pursue God's plan for us by allowing the Word to equip us to face these giants?

To make these giants in life fall, we need three things: (1) a better spiritual outlook, (2) a concrete faith, and (3) a deliberate attention on God's glory. We can develop these through the following:

1. ALWAYS CARRY OUT SMALL ASSIGNMENTS WITH A WILLING SPIRIT.

David had no idea of the greatness of the assignment he would soon undertake. He was simply running an errand for his father.

- What small assignments was David tasked with? How did he embrace them with passion? How did this set him up to be used by God in a greater way than he imagined?
- What small assignments must you be passionate about in order to pursue the larger passions you have?
- What small assignments are you currently tasked with that you believe God would want you to increase your passion for?
- What can you do to create a willing spirit to complete your small assignments?

Before David fought Goliath, he had no idea of the scale of the task he would soon undertake. David was simply running an errand for his father. Obeying his father, he set out early in the morning to deliver bread and cheese to his brothers, and to bring news from the battlefield for his father. When he got there, he ran to the battle lines to see how his brothers were doing.

Lesson: It was by obeying his smallest assignments with such a willing heart, David found himself in front of Goliath, in position to be used by God in a greater way than he could have imagined. David's *spiritual outlook* was obvious in his willingness.

2. ALWAYS TAKE INTIMIDATION AND PRESSURE AS AN INVITATION TO TRUST GOD MORE.

Like the rest of Israel's army and King Saul, David should have been intimidated by Goliath, but he didn't run, he could not allow the giant to insult his God and his nation (verse 26). But in verse 28, David's own brother tried to discourage him, thinking that David was speaking out of pride.

People who do great things for God hear intimidation, they simply trust a God who is greater than the fear and pressure. They push through it. They recognize that if something is intimidating, it must be valuable and worth fighting. Other people have grown accustomed to live with their giants. The intimidation the giants give is something that they have learned to submit to it and pretend it's normal to have them around.

- Why should David have been intimidated in 1 Samuel 17? Why wasn't he?
- What are you intimidated by? Personally, how do you push through these intimidations?
- What if you don't know how to distinguish between an invitation to push through and a situation you need to let go? How do you move forward in faith when uncertainty is your greatest intimidator?
- What intimidations and pressures are you currently up against? What invitations are at the bottom of this intimidation?

Lesson: When we see intimidation as an invitation to develop the gifts God has given us, we can have the confidence to fight the battles we never thought we'd win. David's *concrete faith* was evident in his audacity. He was able to say, in a way: BRING IT ON.

3. THE BATTLES THAT MATTER THE MOST ARE MEANT TO BE FINISHED.

The stakes were high (verse 9). It was a very important battle that will determine the future of Israel. The people of Israel did not want to be enslaved again by a foreign power, but they could not find a man to fight the giant until David showed up. David had to fight battle that no one thought he would win, but he did. If you think about it, the fight with Goliath was not David's fight. He was merely there to bring food and gather news. But his love for God's honor is so strong he made it his battle. That means, there are times in our life when God calls us to fight a battle that is not originally ours to prepare and propel us for the greater assignment He might have for us. In our life as believers, there are battles that matter more than others. We must learn which of these battles determine destiny. One you have determined the importance of your battles, you must decide to fight to the finish. Don't let the giants keep taunting you.

- What are the most important battles in your life? What are you not willing to give up on?
- What is your motivation to fight to the finish in these battles?
- Fight for what's yours.

King Saul ordered to make David wear his armor but David respectfully refused. He knew that it will encumbered him with a burden that would make the battle more difficult. Sometimes, we try to use "armor" that don't fit and slows us down.

- What un-fit "armors" are we trying to use to fight our battles?
- How do you think these armors could help you?
- What does the Word say about the armor we need for the battles we fight? Read Ephesians 6:10-18 and enumerate the armor God has given us and what they are for.

If your battles are spiritual/emotional and attitudinal, always believe that God can change anyone. He can have an impact on you, whether you are ready for it or not. It will happen at His appointed time, but you have to be ready to embrace it, and fight it to the finish, for the glory of God.

WORKS:

- As you conclude your DGroup, break your group into pairs to pray over the battles that each of you are currently fighting. Use this as a time to encourage one another to keep fighting to the finish.

