



A Sweet Summer

4 - How to Battle the Giants in Your Life

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It's always good to be back on Woodland Hills, to be back in Branson. We got to see my second oldest boy, who is working at Family Kamp this summer, all day yesterday, and the day before. It just always feels like I'm coming home when I come to this church, even though I have no idea where I am, ever, in Branson. I'm a directional moron. The way you guys pave the roads is unbelievable. You can go all four directions on one street and never turn around. It does feel like coming home. I used the GPS from The Landing to the church here this morning, even though I've been coming here for about 15 years, but it feels like coming home.

We did a series at our church that we ended the spring with. I don't preach a lot at my church in June and July, but in May, we ended this series we called *Giants*. God used this series to set down in our faith family and to set people free from all kinds of stuff. If there is a lesson over the last year to year and a half that we should have learned as the body of Christ, it's that we should have learned that we can expect a spiritual battle. We can expect it. We are in it, it will be in our faces, and until we go home to heaven, it will be in our faces. If we're going to expect a spiritual battle, if that's the lesson we've really learned over the last season of our lives then here's an idea for the church – let's fight. Let's fight, right? If we are going to go into a battle, then let's gear up for the fight.

I want us to turn in our bibles to 1 Samuel 17. I preached this for about an hour at my church and so we have a limit here because there are three services. You can watch it online later and get the rest of the hour, but I'm going to try to cram it in. Let me just jump from all the pleasantries and all the jokes and all of that to the scripture.

Turn in your Bible to 1 Samuel 17 and we're going to dust off this old story, the story of David and Goliath. Maybe the greatest story or most well-known story in the Old Testament. Maybe the greatest well-known story in the whole Bible is the story of David and Goliath. People who don't know God or love God or even know the Word of God, use the phrase "David and Goliath" on a regular basis in business or sports or culture. The world is familiar with this Bible story.

Here's the note you and I should make with the world's familiarity with it – these Old Testament stories are not just stories. There are types and shadows in the Old Testament that point to the New Testament, point to the new church era and point to our lives today. We should pay attention to these types of shadows and learn the spiritual lessons.

Here's a fact that is true about you today. You are not a physical being who temporarily experiences the spiritual. You are a spiritual being who will temporarily encounter the physical world. That's what's true about you. I need you to know that. We are spiritual beings. Who you really are is who you are in your spirit man. That's the part of you that is going to live for ever and ever and ever. This is a temporary earth suit that you are trapped in today. One day you will no longer be trapped in it. That's good news by the way. As we get fatter and older, it's good news, right? It's good news that we're moving on to something else. If that's true, then this book is a spiritual book. It's not just a story of what happened physically in the church and in the Bride of Christ. It's a story that is supposed to teach us something for the spiritual battle that you and are in.

So let's jump in 1 Samuel 17, Verse 1: **Now the Philistines...** The enemies of the people of God, right? If you're not familiar with the story. **The Philistines now mustered their army for battle and camped between Socoh in Judah (their capitol) and Azekah at Ephes-dammim. 2 Saul (the king of the Israelites) countered by gathering his Israelite troops near the valley of Elah. 3 So the Philistines and Israelites faced each other on opposite hills, with the valley between them.** I want you to envision this in your mind. With a valley in between them, and so the Philistines are camping near Socoh, which is eight miles to the east of Gath, which is their capitol city.

We have a map and let me show it to you. Here's where they are – the Philistine camp. They come into this Israelite camp. Gath is the place mentioned over there, with this valley in between them. This is what's happening. The enemies of God get their troops together and march to this hill on the edge of a valley to come into Israel's land. Now, Israel is going to counter, so they would bring their soldiers and their army to the hill on the other side of the valley, with this big valley in between them.

I think that Saul figured out he would whip the Philistines again; he had whipped them many times before and he thought *t\This is not going to be a problem, I'll handle them just like I did before.* But they come up with something different in this encounter.

4 Then Goliath, a Philistine champion... Circle that word champion in your Bible and write out beside it "man in the middle." That's literally what the Hebrew is there. It's not champion like you and I think of champion; the phrase in the Hebrew is "man in the middle." **...from Gath...** Circle that word. That comes up later in scripture; it's an important place. **...came out of the Philistine ranks to face the forces of Israel. He was over nine feet tall!** That's an English translation of that. In the Hebrew, it actually says... and write this in your Bible if yours says 9 feet tall. Write 6 cubits. It's important and I'll come back to that in a moment as well.

5 He wore a bronze... Brass is a better translation there. **...helmet, and his bronze (brass) coat of mail weighed 125 pounds.** So, you've got this giant who is over 9 feet tall weighed down with his armor, which scholars estimate weighed about 60 lbs. So, he's wearing a middle schooler of armor on him and he's big and he's bad and he is imposing and he's disrespectful and he's defiant. Again, the English translation is he's a champion. That's not what it says. It says a man in the middle. This was a new form of warfare where they would send a man in the middle in that valley, in between. He would call out a champion, if you will, or a man in the middle from the other army to come out, and the two of them

would face off. Whoever was living at the end of this one-on-one battle, the whole army would take victory on his back.

I don't know if you've been around the Bible a lot, that's a type and shadow of something that happens for you and me. Here's what I want you to grasp. Same enemy that they had battled over and over and over again, but it looks new, and it looks different. There's an application for our world today. It feels like we're facing new things; we're not. It's the same old enemy in a new way. And your enemy will come after you in a new way, in a new way, in a new way, but he will not let up. That's the application for you today. Listen, you cannot rely on past victories for your victory today. You have to determine day by day by day that you are going to be victorious today because your enemy is determined to take you down today.

Saul is relying on past victories. *I've defeated them before; they're no big deal.* And then he shows up and sees this giant and he doesn't know what to do. Yesterday's victory does not mean it's over... clearly. Yesterday's victory does not mean it's done... clearly. Spoiler alert! In case you don't know the story. It's several thousand years old. David beats Goliath. I'm sorry if I ruined the story for you today. You should have read it before today. He kills him. But here's the truth of the matter. David, for the rest of his life, is chasing down giants. It's one Philistine after another for the rest of his life. This was not a one and done, the battle is over. For the rest of his life, he is taking ground that belongs to him, that is given to him by God. And the same thing is true for you and me.

6 He also wore bronze leg armor, and he carried a bronze javelin on his shoulder. 7 The shaft of his spear... in fact, write out in your Bible (there are six items listed here) That's important. I will come back to it in a minute. There are six items listed. **...was as heavy and thick as a weaver's beam, tipped with an iron spearhead that weighed 15 pounds.** Write out beside that (600 Shekels) We will come back to that in a moment as well.

Now listen, the Philistines didn't wear helmets like this. This is an unusual thing. This has not occurred before. He's showing up with this helmet on and all this armor on, and it's pompous is what it is. It's almost as if he's over armed and over protected. And it's like he's on the defense. Here's the application. It's as if he knows he supposed to play defense.

And your enemy is in the same boat. He knows he's playing defense with you. He knows who you are. He knows who lives in you and he knows the power that comes with you. He knows that his only options is to play defense against you when you take the power that resides within you, because of the Holy Spirit, and do battle. He knows that greater is He that is in you than he who exists in this world. He knows that to be true. But he has to make a big spectacle of how strong he is in a big pompous display of who he is and how strong he is, making himself to appear stronger than he really is.

Another thing that's really interesting if you're into history. He's only called Goliath two times in this whole story. Twenty-seven other times, he's just referred to as the Philistine. Do you know what the application is of that? Who he is and what his name is, it's not nearly as important as who he's from and what he represents? The same thing is true with the enemy in your life. Whatever label he wears or whatever he mask he puts on is not nearly as important as the source of that giant. And who he is from.

We went into the Valley of Elah several times in Israel. I don't know if you've been there, but it's a spectacle to see. The first time I went there, we were on our way to the airport to leave Israel for the whole trip. We had a couple of busses of people. I saw the sign. I had just read this story in the Bible, so I knew the name Valley of Elah. Otherwise, it wouldn't have caught my attention; it's just another Hebrew sign in Israel. But I had read the Bible, knew that it was called the Valley of Elah, where David slew Goliath. I saw a sign that said, "Turn Left – Valley of Elah."

I said to the guide, "Is that the Valley of Elah where David slew Goliath?"

He said, "It is."

I said, "I've never been there; let's go."

He said, "No, we're on our way to the airport; we're going to miss the flight."

I said, "We're not going to miss it; we'll catch it; let's go." I'm a lot like Ted in that regard. Why would you be early, right? You may miss something if you're early.

So, we pulled two busses over on the shoulder and we're walking through some Hebrew gardens. People were picking tomatoes and peppers and stuff and eating them on the way. They are better than they are here. It's the Holy Land; it's growing in holy dirt. You could see the whole geographic display that was there in that day. You could see the hill over here, you see the hill over there, and we're standing in the valley, and we walked through a dry creek bed. There's no water in it, but you could see how, in the springtime, water would run right through this and the whole creek bed is gravel.

People on their trips were reaching down and picking up rocks and sticking them in their pockets like "This could be the one." The guide goes through the whole speech in Hebrew. By the way, if you know a little bit about the Hebrew, you're like, *Is that really what it says?* It's far more crass in Hebrew than it is in English, far more.

The guide goes through this whole story, and he demonstrates the whole sling thing for us too. He takes the sling and ties it around his wrist. There's a leather strip with a pouch at the end and another strip. He puts a rock in it, he swings it around, and he throws it. We were so fascinated by what he was able to do with the sling that years later, we brought one of those pitching guns. We clocked it coming out of the sling at 240 mph. It's fascinating what could happen in that place, and we're standing in that valley. By the way, while we were in that valley, I looked at the guide, just kind of one on one, and I said, "Hey, tell me about all these dimensions that are mentioned in this text. What is that all about?"

He said, "You're so American," and I said, "Thank you." I happen to believe that's a good thing... still.

He said, "You Americans want to know all the details. Like you learn for knowledge's sake."

I said, "What do you mean?"

He said, "The first thing you ask when you read this is what's a cubit? Because you want to try to convert it to feet. You want to understand all of the knowledge of it. We Hebrews are different than that. We want to know the point. And we want to see the picture. And we want to know what God is trying to paint for us." He said, "The first thing a Hebrew does when they read this scripture is they realize almost immediately there are three sixes mentioned in this text."

The point is that it's not who Goliath is and not that he's from Gath. The point is who he's from. He's from the devil. And every Hebrew mind would immediately go back to the beginning of this book, into Genesis where the devil was fighting the children of God and coming against the children of God, and they would go, *Oh, Goliath represents the devil. He's from the devil.* The giants are from the devil. They are from your enemy.

By the way, it says his armor is scaled. The only other place I know that Hebrew word is found in the Bible is in the story describing the serpent with scales. And in this story, he is slayed; he falls face down on his belly like a serpent who would slither on the ground. And then his head is crushed by the one who represents Jesus, our man in the middle, just like God said would happen from the descendant of the woman over this serpent. And every Hebrew would go, *Oh, that's what this story is about.* This is application for our lives because we are spiritual beings. It's not just a physical story. It's who he's from and what he represents. And your enemy is real. He is coming to steal from you. He is coming to destroy you. He is coming to kill you. But Jesus Christ is the one who stands in the middle for you. Let's keep reading.

8 Goliath stood and shouted a taunt... Write out beside that in your Bible (war of words). That's what spiritual warfare is. It's a war of words. That's why the Word of God is so important because this war is a war of words. **...across to the Israelites. 10 "I defy the armies of Israel today!"** That word means to discourage. There's a psalm of David where it says, "David encouraged himself." It's as if the child of God knew it was his responsibility to put courage back in himself. It is your responsibility, as a child of God, on a daily basis. This is why I keep writing devotionals every year, partnering with these pastors. Why? Because I want the children of God in the Word of God on a daily basis. You've got to encourage yourself. Put courage back in you that comes from the source of all courage, and the one who gives us all courage. He's discouraging the armies of Israel today. **"Send me a man who will fight me!"**

11 When Saul and the Israelites heard this, they were terrified and deeply shaken. He's trash talking the child of God, and they are shaking in their boots; it's working. They are terrified. They're scared. They saw the giant and they ran the other way. It's okay when he's over there in that camp, but now that we're standing in front of him, we have to deal with him. They ran.

16 For forty days... Forty days! This is going on over a month. **...every morning and evening, the Philistine champion** (the man in the middle) **strutted in front of the Israelite army.** Forty days this is going on! Morning and evening, morning and evening. The application for you today is what are you wasting? What are you forfeiting because you refuse to defy the enemy and you refuse to take down your giant? What are you wasting and what are you forfeiting?

By the way, this was the springtime for them, which means it's farming time, which means they were needed. They were needed in their home. They were needed in their family. They were needed in their economy. They were needed in their culture. But they were content to sit back in a tent, in a dust valley, with nothing to show for it for forty days.

Let me just say to you today, you're needed. You are needed in your home. You are needed with your spouse. You are needed with your children. You are needed in this culture. You are needed in your church. And if you're still watching online, get your butt back to church. You are needed. This is not just for you. You are needed for the church, for the body of Christ. You are needed in this culture. And your enemy is trying to convince you that you are not needed, but you are needed. He only made one of you and he made you in this day for such a time as this for you to impact this culture. You are needed.

They were needed and they were forfeiting it over and over and over. I love David here, by the way. I love his response. **28 But when David's oldest brother, Eliab, heard David talking to the men, he was angry. "What are you doing around here anyway?" he demanded.** "Weren't you just supposed to bring the biscuits and the cheese? Dad sent you to feed us, the real soldiers. Who do you think you are bothering with this? Who do you think you are facing this giant?" In fact, it's as if he's saying this giant is really no big deal. He tried to tell him the giant is no big deal, we can handle it, we can deal with it. But they weren't.

We tell ourselves that all the time, don't we? This giant is not a big deal. We tell other that. We allow others to tell us that. "This lust thing? Not a big deal; I can handle it." "This pornography thing? Eventually, I can get rid of this forever. That was the last time." "I don't have a drinking problem. I can stop any time I want to. This giant is not a big deal."

Yet, they were wasting their lives in a dusty valley with nothing to show for it. And David knew this moment, just like every moment in our lives, is a big deal. And we must stand and face the giant today. And we must deal with it today.

And now in the story we turn, and we get to the heart of the story, this climactic part, which we all look forward to in the movies, right? I'm so driven to the climactic part. I tell our worship song leaders all the time, "Just do the bridge. Just one bridge after another; that's all I want."

Their like, "It doesn't work that way."

I'm like, "Just bridge to bridge to bridge. Because you're going nowhere with all those other verses. Just give me the emotional part."

This is the part in the story we are all looking forward to, this battle where it is going to play out. Every great movie has it, right? If there's no battle, it's not even called a movie in my mind; it's just a chick flick. Rocky and Braveheart... all of them have this great battle that happens.

David had his giants, and we have our giants, and you should be asking by now, “What’s a giant. What’s he referring to when he says giant?” Listen, what I’m referring to when I say giant are the demons in our lives that we must defy and we must take down as the children of God. We must kick them out. We must, on a regular basis, slay them, and, as David did, cut off their head. If we don’t, they will control us. We can follow David’s example – that’s the point of the story – and have victory over the giants in our life, but we’ve got to be ready, willing, and able. That’s the three points today. Let’s deal with them one at a time.

1. Ready. Go back to verse 32 if you will. **32 “Don’t worry about this Philistine,” David told Saul. “I’ll go fight him!”** He wasn’t worried. He didn’t care what everybody else was saying or doing around him. He just knew he was going to be victorious because he was ready.

Now, look at Saul, the king’s response to David **33 “Don’t be ridiculous!” Saul replied. “There’s no way you can fight this Philistine and possibly win! You’re only a boy, and he’s been a man of war since his youth.”** I think David is thinking, *So am I. You don’t know who’s in me and what’s on me.*

34 But David persisted. “I have been taking care of my father’s sheep and goats,” he said. “When a lion or a bear... (beast of the field) Beast of the field in the scripture are always types and shadows for the demonic in the lives of the children of God. ...comes to steal a lamb... Do you see the picture? That’s exactly what your beast and your enemy does today. It comes to steal a lamb, the lamb of God, the children of God, the brethren. ... from the flock... It’s so obvious when you start paying attention to the types and shadows that are in the story.

35 I go after it with a club and rescue the lamb from its mouth. If the animal turns on me, I catch it by the jaw and club it to death. 36 I have done this to both lions and bears, and I’ll do it to this pagan Philistine, too, for he has defied the armies of the living God!

Don’t mistake this as if David were not afraid or that he could handle these beasts of the field because he was big and imposing. He was young, he was a kid. And yet he knew who was in him and who was with him. “I’ve been training for this my whole life.” Write this down – being ready means examining your past. We all have things in our past, moments where we’ve succeeded and had great victories. Moments where we’ve failed and had missteps. Here’s the thing. Both of those have shaped you into the person that you are today.

Those failures and missteps in your past have made you vulnerable to certain giants in the land. And you’ve got to be honest and truthful about them and repent. There’s a Bible word we don’t use very often anymore. We’ve got to repent. You’ve got to change your mind, you’ve got to turn your back, you’ve got to repent of old attitudes and bad mindsets and failures and the not leaning on God in that moment in your life. Repent from it and, through that repentance, gain freedom from giants that you are vulnerable to, past missteps and failures and hurts and pain.

But there are also successes and victories that we all have in our lives, times where we felt like our walk with God was so amazing and our worship was exceeding and our prayer life was abundant. But all of that, regardless, our past is just a prelude to the moment that we are in at this moment and has gotten

us ready for the very moment that we are in today. It's how we view our past that is important. Here's the question. Did you learn from it? Did you grow through it? Are you ready?

If you don't already, let me just say to you, you should journal as part of the spiritual discipline in your life. Before all the men just check out on me and on this whole thing, let me just confess to you that I hate it. I don't enjoy it at all. My wife, on a regular basis, is like, "This is what you do for a living. You communicate, could you communicate with me?"

When I go buy Hallmark cards, I buy two so I can write down what the other one says on the one I give her. Because when I try to tell her how I feel, it comes out I love you, right? I'm like Zack Brown, I've got nothing else to say. I said all the words on stage; I've got nothing left for you all week long, right? So, I hate journaling.

Here's how I do it. I do it with a five-year journal. Every page covers five years. Awesome. That means I only have to write down two or three lines. Here's the value of it. When I open it, I can see what God was doing in my life five years ago, four years ago, three years ago. I can see what I was facing, what I was dealing with, and how God gave me victory. This is incredibly important in your life, especially when you have victory.

To write it down and go back and look at it because here's what I know to be true. When you are facing a giant, your enemy wants you to forget every victory you've ever had in your life. And he wants you to remember every failure you've ever had, and he will bring it back with a war of words in your heart and in your mind with a highlight reel of every failure you've ever had in that moment. And part of what you've got to do is examine your real past where God had given you one victory after another, so that you actually have courage. That's what makes you ready. In fact, 1 Peter 4 declares it as a privilege for you to be attacked for your faith. And here's what you need to know. God has not only equipped you for the battle you're facing today; he's deemed you worthy for the battle you're facing today. God says, "I know you. I'm with you and I'm in you. You've got this. Go slay it."

By the way, not only has God deemed you worthy, your enemy has also deemed you worthy of his time and energy and effort to harass you and chase you and try to take you down. I don't think he knows the future, but he senses potential. He knows who you are. And he's deemed you worthy of that much of his energy and his attention. So, you've got to be ready.

2. Willing. You've got to be willing. What does it mean to be willing? Being willing means that you are trusting God for your future. Look at Verse 37.

37 The Lord who rescued me from the claws of the lion and the bear (beast of the field) will rescue me from this Philistine! Earlier in this story, it says every day, right. Every day, Goliath would come out, morning and evening, while they were saying their morning prayers. The Shema is what they were praying. Shema Israel. "Adonai Eloheinu, Adonai Ehad, the Lord our God is one," and you are to love him with all of your heart, soul, strength and mind. With all. And it's during those prayers... Shema means listen or hear. That's the Hebrew word for listen or hear, but it's the same word for obey. There's not a separate concept in Hebrew. If you listen, you obey in the Hebrew mind.

That's why Jesus was always saying, "Give them ears to hear." It wasn't because they were deaf; it was because they weren't obeying. So, in the Hebrew mind, you weren't obeying because you didn't hear. They were hearing, but they weren't obeying. Twice a day they are saying, "You are one, God, you're big, God, you're large and in charge, God," but they wouldn't go face the giant. They weren't willing. The difference between David and Saul was that Saul was not willing. David was willing. I think it's because David was trusting God. That's a question you should ask yourself today. "Do I really trust God?"

While David was with the sheep, being faithful, learning from God, Saul was slipping back into his old habits and sins. David was bold. When Saul sat down, David stood up. When Saul ran, David ran forward. He was walking out in faith. David learned something while he was tending sheep, when he took care of the lions and bears. Again, it wasn't because he wasn't afraid; he overcame his fear because of who was with him.

Are you willing to fight? Are you willing to trust God for victory? Do I really trust God? That's a question you ought to be asking yourself. The idea of putting faith in and on God, leaning into him when you need him. The enemy wants nothing more than for you to believe the bill of goods that he's been selling you, for you to doubt who he is, for you to doubt who you are, for you to believe this enemy and this giant is too big for you to deal with. His strategy is taunting and belittling; it's a war of words. By the way, you know it's working when the body of Christ turns on the body of Christ, when brother turns on brother. Eliab is now attacking David, brother on brother. David shows us that we need to be ready, we need to be willing, and we need to be able.

3. Be able. He was able to face his giant because he was armed. Being able means you know that you're are armed now. We have to be ready at any place, at any time, anywhere. The enemy isn't going to wait. He will come after you at your weakest moment. That's just not something he's capable of, it is his Mo. He's not kind. He is evil and he attacks the weak and he attacks those who are separated from the flock.

Saul tries to give David his armor and says, "Go fight with my armor and my sword," and David says, "I can't do that." What's the application? You walk in your gifting. What's your gifting? What has God given you? Walk in that.

So, David comes up with this strategy he had perfected over time. You don't create a strategy in the middle of a battle. You create the strategy ahead of time so that when you come into the battle, you're ready.

40 He picked up five smooth stones from a stream and put them into his shepherd's bag. I've had people ask me, "In that Valley of Elah, why did he take up five stones? Did he trust God or was he not trusting him?" I think he trusted God. You know that elsewhere in the scripture it says that Goliath had four brothers. Now he didn't know what their reaction was going to be. I think he was trusting God to slay that one giant, but he didn't know if they were going to charge him or run away. He had a strategy, and he was trusting God in the strategy. By the way, the rocks in scripture, right? The rocks cry out. The rocks are a part of praise. He is the Rock of Salvation. That's all over Samuel and all over the Old

Testament. And so, the types and shadows are unbelievable here. ***Then, armed only with his shepherd's staff and sling, he started across the valley to fight the Philistine.***

Goliath used what? He used brass armor. Do you know what brass represents in scripture is sin and judgment? Remember Daniel when he had all his visions from Heaven and those statues were made out of all those different things, right. Clay feet and brass and whatever. Brass represents sin and judgment. But it's also something forged by hand, by human hand and human ability. What was David using? He was using leather, stone, and a wooden staff. In other words, things that God made. The application is so obvious. You don't depend on your own ability, you depend on God's created strategy. He used weapons that he was familiar with. He had a sling on his hand is what the Bible literally says in the Hebrew. What that means is they tie it around the wrist, they always have it with them.

Do you remember when Jesus faced off with the devil in the wilderness for 40 days (types and shadows)? Do you remember what he used as his weapon when he faced his man in the middle and his champion? He used the scripture. He used the Word. "Upon this rock I will build my life." "It is written..." "It is written..." "It is written..." That's your strategy. In your heart, in your mind, on your lips on a regular basis so that you can say, "It is written..." God shows us that's our strategy and it's seems so simple we think that can't be it. That can't even be the strategy.

David runs to meet his giant and he knew he was going to win. He didn't walk, he didn't tip toe, he didn't moonwalk out there. He was running into the battle because he knew where he was going and what he was walking into. He reached in his pouch, pulled out the rock, and slayed the giant.

When Katherine was little and then Ely and then Ben... Lemley came to us when she was a little bit older; she was almost five when she came. But with the three oldest, when they were toddlers, I taught them David's speech. One day, the first time Meredith realized what I was doing, she came home... Katherine was about two years old and she's standing on the kitchen counter. I said, "Show mama."

She said, "You, you come to me with a spear and a sword and a javelin, but I come to you with the Word of God! And I will slay you." When this two-year-old little baby girl with these golden curls is saying, "And I will cut off your head and I will feed your carcass to the birds of the air," my wife is looking at me like, You are crazy! She finished that whole speech, runs off the counter, and dives into my arms and just says, "I did it." Meredith is like, "What are you doing?" and I said, "Hey, one day, a boy is coming. She's going to remember. "You've come to me with a spear and a sword and javelin, but I come to you in the name of our God, you're not even close."

I want you to notice that the battle of slaying the giant with the sling is one fraction of the length of his speech. Strategy is the word. It's the word of God. I want to lead you in a prayer declaring truths of the Word of God over you today. It's just words, but the words that I've written are crafted around promises from scripture for believers. By the way, this is only for believers. If you're not a believer here today, we're so glad you're here, and we hope that you will come to accept Christ and know the Lord. We'll have prayer warriors down here after the service. You could come down and just take them by the hand and say, "Would you pray with me," and they will help you cross that faith line, and help you trust Jesus as your Lord and your Saviors.

But for believers, I want you to hear the promises. And I want you to declare them. And if you're not a believer, just listen to the promises we have as the children of God.

Would you stand to your feet? And as you close your eyes, just hold your palms out. I want to lead the believers in the room, the believer online, the believers in The Gathering Place today through some promises and through this prayer.

Would you just declare after me and say, As God as my eternal witness, my Savior, and my Judge, I affirm that I am a child of God who has been purchased by the precious blood of Jesus. I confess him as my Lord and my Savior, as one completely acknowledging and accepting the finished work of Christ on the cross for my redemption.

I now renounce all ancestral and genetic ties as many generations on both sides of my family as far back as you need to go, God. I have, through the Lord Jesus Christ's own shed blood, been redeemed and delivered from the powers of darkness, and transformed into the Kingdom of God. Therefore, I now cancel out and nullify all demonic power or affect that has been passed down to me by my ancestors. I nullify all ancestral demons, their networks, and any other weapon Satan uses against me.

The Lord Jesus Christ came and became a curse for me by dying a death on a tree. I use the authority that's found in him to cancel every curse that has been placed on me, with or without my knowledge, as God's child covered by the precious blood of Jesus.

I cancel, I renounce, I sever, and I nullify every agreement I've made with the enemy or anyone else. Any powers, any gifts, any workings in me that are not from you, God, or not pleasing to you, I renounce.

I confess that I totally belong to the Lord Jesus Christ. I now sit with him in heavenly places. I give myself eternally and completely over to the Lord Jesus Christ. It's my desire that my Lord Jesus will have total control over my life. All of these things I say and I do in the precious name of my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. And by his absolute power and authority over all things, over all rulers, all authorities, all principalities, and all powers with a childlike faith, I thank you that it is done in the name of Jesus. Amen.