

CONQUERING CHALLENGES

When we conquer the challenges we encounter, our faith is released, which empowers us to fulfill God's divinely appointed destiny for our lives.

KEY POINTS

- ❖ The story of David and Goliath is the ultimate tale of the triumphant underdog.
- ❖ It is the story of someone who was ill equipped for the challenge they faced, yet somehow found a way to be victorious in spite of insurmountable odds.
- ❖ Many of us are familiar with the story of David and Goliath, as it is one of the most famous events recorded in the Bible.
- ❖ David, a young man, goes to fight Goliath, a mighty warrior—a mighty warrior who is a giant—and is able to defeat him with a sling shot.
- ❖ At the heart of this famous tale is the reassurance from God that if we put our trust in Him, He will take care of us. As David noted 1 Samuel 17:47, "for the battle is the Lord's."
- ❖ The story has implications for people of faith in the 21st century because many of us are facing or will face some type of challenge in our journey.
- ❖ "To challenge," as Meriam-Webster defines it, is "to confront or defy boldly, to call out to duel or combat, or to invite into competition."
- ❖ In 1 Samuel 17:4-7, the Bible describes the enormity of the challenge facing David as he confronted Goliath.
- ❖ "Goliath" has become a symbol of the type of challenges we face in our faith journey, such as a doubt, low self-esteem, and fear of failure.
- ❖ It is important for us to honestly identify the challenges we face, so that we can effectively deal with them and release the purpose of God in our lives.
- ❖ The challenges we face from the enemy of our soul have but one goal: to destroy God's purpose for our lives and present spiritual conflict.
- ❖ The question we have to ask ourselves is "how do we deal with the challenges we are facing?"
- ❖ We need to recognize the fact that we are engaged in spiritual combat.
- ❖ Saul tried to give David his armor to fight Goliath, but David refused to use Saul's armor because it was untested. It is ineffective to fight a spiritual battle with carnal weapons (2 Corinthians 10:3-5).
- ❖ Conquering our challenges will not be accomplished using our own power (Zechariah 4:6). We need to use our spiritual weapons that are tested. Weapons of prayer, of pleading the blood of Jesus, and of using the Word of God.
- ❖ David confronted Goliath not with a sword or a spear, but in the name of the Lord (1 Sam. 17:45).

KEY SCRIPTURE:

1 Samuel 17:41-47 (NASB)

- ❖ We have to face our challenges in the name of the Lord. We have to understand that the battle is not ours, it is the Lord's.
- ❖ When David faced a lion and a bear (1 Sam. 17:34-36), he relied on God for the victory.
- ❖ David was a worshiper and his worship elevated his faith in God, which prepared him to face the challenges ahead.
- ❖ We will be empowered by our worship to God.
- ❖ When Saul was troubled by the evil spirit, his servants sought out a skillful musician that would play the evil spirit away from Saul.
- ❖ Worship changes the atmosphere. Worship drives away demons. Worship raises our faith in God's power.
- ❖ King Jehoshaphat and the children of Israel faced an overwhelming challenge when the Moabites, Ammonites, and Meunites came to make war against them (2 Chronicles 20:5-22).
- ❖ The children of Israel prayed, worshiped and obeyed the Word of God to overcome the great challenge they faced.
- ❖ When we conquer the challenges we encounter, our faith—released—empowers us to fulfill God's divinely appointed destiny for our lives.

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Describe three challenges that could hinder the will of God from being accomplished in a person's life.
2. In your opinion, how was David able to demonstrate boldness in facing his particular challenge (Goliath)?
3. What are some of the steps believers can follow in order to experience the same level of boldness David possessed when he confronted his challenge?
4. Read 2 Chronicles 20:5-22. What lessons can be learned from how King Jehoshaphat and the children of Israel faced their enormous challenge? Was there an instance in your life where you had to apply such methods?

Prayer Time

Lord, please help me to increase my faith in You, so that I will be prepared to conquer the challenges that I face.

WEEK OF SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 2019

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.



(Reminds me/Confirms)



(New idea)



(Think about)



(Do this)



(Speaks to my heart)



(Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Start-up: What was a challenge you recently had to face? What methods did you use or do you plan to use to overcome it?

Go deeper with your Life Group family.
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD
Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline