

## **How to Become a Giant Leader for God – Part 1**

### **1 Samuel 17**

1. Here we have the well-known story of David fighting the Philistine giant, Goliath. It is one of the most well-known and well-loved stories in God's Word.
2. God's people were once again at war with their chief enemies, the Philistines (vs. 3). The pride of the Philistine's army was a giant by the name of Goliath. vs. 4-7
  - He was somewhere between 9 and 10 feet tall, he had a bronze coat of mail, bronze greaves, bronze javelin, a spear with an iron spearhead, and a huge sword.
  - What a sight he must have been. He must have appeared invincible.
3. For 40 days, this behemoth monster challenged Israel to send out their best man and fight him for all the marbles. vs. 8-10, 16
4. There wasn't a man in Israel's army that was one bit interested in doing hand-to-hand combat with Goliath. There were no takers of Goliath's offer. vs. 11
5. David, the shepherd boy, ends up showing up on the scene, overhears Goliath, takes the challenge, and drops the giant with a bull's-eye from his sling, right between the eyes.
6. David is referred to as a youth (vs. 33, 42), but before that day was over, David had proved that he was a **man**—a man of God, a giant leader for God. Of course, David would go on to become the mightiest king in Israel's history.
7. God is looking for men and women who will dare to stand up and be giant leaders for Him. Goliath said, "... *give me a man*" (vs. 10). God is saying the same thing today (Ezekiel 22:30). Spiritual wimps that blend in with Satan's world system are a dime a dozen.
8. Every believer can become a giant leader for God. 1 Corinthians 16:13; Ephesians 6:10; 2 Timothy 2:1
9. How can we become giant leaders for God? Let's look at David.

#### **First, David loved God more than he feared Goliath.**

1. After Goliath made his challenge and basically mocked Israel's God, the Bible says that Saul and all Israel were dismayed and greatly afraid. vs. 11, 24
2. This went on for 40 days. But one morning, David happened to be in camp. His dad had sent him to Israel's camp with some food supplies. vs. 17-18, 22
3. While David was in the camp, Goliath did his thing again (vs. 23). David heard him.
4. When David heard this guy, he couldn't believe it and asked the other soldiers about it (vs. 26). It angered David. He said, "How dare this heathen man defy our living God?"
  - "Defy" means "to pull off; expose (as by stripping); defame; blaspheme."
5. David's attitude was, "How dare he talk about my God that way?" David loved his God and, because of his deep love, he wasn't afraid to stand up and fight Goliath and be a leader for God. David loved God more than he feared Goliath. vs. 32

6. If you fear people more than you love God, you are not a candidate to be a leader for God. The apostle Paul preached the gospel in Lystra, and they stoned him and left him for dead. He pulled himself up off the ground, and two verses later he is going back to Lystra.
  - Why would he do this? He loved God more than he feared the people of Lystra. Acts 14:19-21
7. It is interesting that King Saul had tried to bribe a man to go and fight Goliath (vs. 25). He promised him great riches, political freedom, and even his own daughter to become the guy's wife. Yet, these fleshly enticements couldn't overcome the men's fears.
8. But, David's love for God was the power that fueled his passion, zeal, and determination.
9. Do you find yourself afraid to stand up for God, speak for God, and witness for Jesus Christ? What is the answer? The answer is to fall more in love with God. The more you fall in love with God, the more eager you will be to stand up and speak for God.
  - The answer to fear is love. 1 John 4:18
  - Illustration: If you were like me, you were scared to death when you got married, but your love pushed you down that aisle.
10. If a person talked about your wife or kids in a shameful and derogatory way, you would probably be ready to fight. Why? You love them. Yet people can curse God at school, or at work, or on the TV, and we sit idly by and it doesn't really phase us. 2 Timothy 3:4
11. As we get into God's Word and learn more about our God and our Savior, Jesus Christ, we fall more in love with Him, and the more we love Him, the more we desire and long to stand up for Him and be leaders for God. 2 Corinthians 5:13-14
  - Because of Paul's incredible passion for Christ, some people accused him of being crazy and deranged. What was it that fueled this intense zeal (vs. 14)? The love of Christ!

**Second, David did not allow criticism to discourage him.**

1. David's oldest brother overheard him talking and immediately tried to throw cold water on David's enthusiasm. vs. 28
2. King Saul also tried to discourage David (vs. 31-33), yet David was all the more determined to stand up for His God. David was unswerving in his goal and purpose to defeat Goliath. vs. 36
3. Mark it down, any time you decide to stand up and be a leader for God, Satan will have somebody there to criticize you and say, "It can't be done." I call them fire extinguisher Christians. It begins right at salvation.
  - Satan will bring thoughts into our mind like, "You're too bad. You have done too many wrong things. You've lost your chance. God won't save you." Or, Satan will have a friend or family member to discourage you from coming to Christ and trusting Him.

- The truth is, it doesn't matter what your past is or what you have done—God is willing to save you today if you will trust His Son, Jesus Christ.
4. Never allow criticism to discourage you from being a giant leader for God. Any time you stand up for God and what is right, there will be critics.
  5. Jesus was criticized every time He turned around. He didn't allow this to deter Him. Even while He was dying on the cross, the critics were yammering barbs and criticisms.
  6. Anybody can sit on the sidelines and be critical. It is quite easy for me to pick apart the quarterback from my living room sofa.
  7. When critical people come to you and say, “It can't be done,” you be a leader for God and say... Philippians 4:13; Ephesians 3:20; Matthew 19:26.

### **In Conclusion:**

1. Today, we aren't facing literal, physical giants, but we are facing a satanic world system that is decisively anti-God and in rebellion against God's Word.  
1 John 5:19
2. God is looking for some spiritual giants who will simply love Him more than they love this world system. 1 John 2:15
3. David was a man. He was a human being just like you and me. But, he became a giant leader for God. You can, too! Next week we will examine two more principles on how David became a giant leader for God.