

20. HOW GIANTS ARE SLAIN



*Remember giants appear bigger
in valleys.*

#NCSAMENTALHEALTHDEVOTIONS

HOW GIANTS ARE SLAIN

1 Corinthians 10:13: "The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. But God is faithful, He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, He will show you a way out so that you can endure."

While listening to a devotion conducted by one of my work colleagues, Angela, I realised that we do not understand the power of God that is available to us. Her devotion was on the topic, 'Jesus calms the storm'. The storm was raging when Jesus and His disciples were on the boat. The disciples' lives were threatened by the storm and they called on Jesus. He rebuked the storm and a great calm followed as a result. They stood amazed, asking: "What manner of Man is this that even the storms obey Him?"

Today, as the storms of life are raging, you should also learn to call on Jesus, let Him rebuke your trials and temptations, leaving you to stand in awe declaring: "What manner of Man is this that my trials and my temptations obey Him?"

God can work for you. God is able to subdue the trials and temptations of your life if you allow Him. There is a song we used to sing when we were young. It says: "He's able, He's able, I know my Lord is able to carry me through!"

I guess the question to ask is whether you really know that He is able, or are you like the disciples? Are you still surprised when your trials disappear and your temptations fall away, destroyed by the power of God? The verse in 1 Corinthians 10:13 says: *"The temptations in our lives are no different from what others experience. But God is faithful."*

**WHEN GOING THROUGH HARDSHIPS
GOD WILL SHOW YOU A WAY OUT
SO THAT YOU CAN ENDURE.**

He will not allow the temptation to be more than what we can stand. When you are tempted, He will show you a way out so that you can endure."

The temptations may seem huge to you, but they are actually insignificant. You can win because God has given you the cheat codes, if I can put it that way. He has already planned your escape. It is like writing an exam. It is scary and intimidating, but not if you have all the answers. Throughout the Bible God declares that there is a test to be written, there are oceans to swim, mountains to climb, dark valleys to pass through and giants to slay. But God also says: "I have already written the test; I can make you walk on water; I have flattened mountains; I am the Light of the world in the dark valley and I am the giant slayer."

I want to show you how giants are slain. What giants are you facing today? You may have different names for the giants in your life. Perhaps you call the giant COVID-19, or poverty, or relationship conflict or fear, anxiety, stress, or unforgiving people. If you are not sure what your giant is called, or what it is, ask yourself what that huge thing is, that intimidating, scary thing in your life which keeps taunting you and threatening to destroy you. That is your giant. **Step one in slaying your giants is to understand the nature of giants.** Giants seem very big and aggressive and scary and intimidating and impossible to conquer. Even Israel thought so.

THERE TESTS IN LIFE, THERE ARE OCEANS TO SWIM, MOUNTAINS TO CLIMB, DARK VALLEYS TO PASS THROUGH & GIANTS TO SLAY. BUT GOD SAYS: "I HAVE ALREADY WRITTEN THE TEST; I CAN MAKE YOU WALK ON WATER; I HAVE FLATTENED MOUNTAINS; I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD & I AM THE GIANT SLAYER."

The first generation of Israelites missed out on entering the Promised Land because of the intimidating giants who lived in the land. The Bible tells us the descendants of Anak, who were giants, were in the Promised Land. Numbers 13:32 gives us the report of the spies who went into the land to explore. They came back and reported what they saw: *"And they brought an **evil/false** report of the land which they had searched unto the children of Israel, saying: The land through which we have gone to search it, is a land that eats up the inhabitants; and all the people that we saw there are men of great stature. And there we saw giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants. And we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight also."*

What made this report **evil** was not that they lied. It was an honest report. There were giants and they were small in comparison to those giants in physical stature. But ever since their deliverance out of Egypt, God had been fighting for them. He had promised that He would go ahead of them and fight for them. Therefore, the report they gave of these intimidating giants, was not a reflection of their fear for the giants, it was a reflection of their mistrust and lack of faith in God and His strength to set them free. They were basically saying by their reports that those giants were too big for God. Sure, God could handle the Egyptians, hunger, thirst, smaller nations, even the Red Sea, the desert and the heat and the cold during the desert travels. He was able to handle those things, but the descendants of Anak? No ways. He is not able to fight them.

Oftentimes in our lives we do the same. We say there are certain things we will take to God because He can take care of them.

**GOD HAS PROMISED THAT HE
WOULD GO AHEAD OF US AND
FIGHT FOR US, JUST AS HE DID
FOR ISRAEL WHEN THEY ENTERED
THE PROMISED LAND.**

But the trials and tribulations and struggles we go through, are just too big for Him.

The story of David and Goliath in the Bible, teaches us about slaying giants and how we need to face the giants in our lives. The story starts with 1 Samuel 17:2: *“And Saul and the men of Israel were gathered together, and pitched by the valley of Elah.”* They were facing the Philistine army and when the giant, Goliath, came and taunted them, they found themselves in a valley. Your giants also like to show their faces when you are already in a ditch. It is strange how the giants seem especially intimidating when you are in a valley. They seem so much taller and bigger, because you are in a low place in your life. Remember, the giants are always going to look bigger when you are in a valley. Sometimes you forget that the God of the mountains is also the God of the valleys and that He is with you in the valley. Giants do appear bigger in the valley, but remember God is bigger than your giant and bigger than your valley.

The second lesson on how to conquer giants, is that you should not entertain them. Do not entertain the giants in your life and in your trials and tribulations. Goliath tried to intimidate David with his sword and his strength, but David didn't give him a second thought, except wanting to kill him. David did not go into a debate with Goliath, he did not even acknowledge Goliath. The reason why Saul's army could not slay the giant was because they acknowledged Goliath. Interestingly, if you read the story in The Good News Bible, 1 Samuel 17:25 states how Israel viewed Goliath: *“Look at him!” they said to each other. “Listen to his challenge!”* That was their problem.

REMEMBER, THE GIANTS ARE ALWAYS GOING TO LOOK BIGGER WHEN YOU ARE IN A VALLEY. SOMETIMES YOU FORGET THAT THE GOD OF THE MOUNTAINS IS ALSO THE GOD OF THE VALLEYS.

They were looking at the giant, they were listening to the giant and they were entertaining him.

No, don't look at your trials and temptations! Do not listen to them! Do not entertain them! Do not notice everything about them like Israel noticed everything about the giant. They noticed that Goliath:

- was 2.7 metres tall;
- wore a helmet of brass;
- wore a coat of mail (a jacket made of metal rings and plate), which weighed 57 kilograms;
- wore greaves (brass that covered his legs. Homer says the greaves covered his legs from his thighs down to his heels) which weighed about 15 kilograms;
- also had a target of brass (a neck covering to stop any javelin or anything from penetrating his neck), and that weighed another 15 kilograms;
- had a spearhead which alone weighed 6.8 kilograms.
- [This man was a monster and the Israelites saw it. He wasn't just tall and big, he was strong.]

Think of the biggest, most intimidating gym junkie you've ever seen in your life, in magazines or on television or wherever. Multiply that by three and you've got yourself a Goliath. Israel saw all this and they trembled. As a matter of fact the Bible calls Goliath a champion. Israel acknowledged this by their fear, because for 40 days he taunted them and they did nothing. They saw him as a massive giant, a champion, a strong muscular guy who could carry an armour of nearly 100 kilograms.

**DO NOT ENTERTAIN THE GIANTS
IN YOUR LIFE THAT ARE TRYING
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DON'T LOOK AT YOUR TRIALS AND
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THEM! DO NOT ENTERTAIN THEM!.**

He was strong and Israel **looked** and they **noticed** and they **trembled**, in other words, they acknowledged him.

David did not look and he did not acknowledge any of the traits of Goliath. He did not even speak about those things regarding Goliath. David treated Goliath in a specific way. Look how David treated the giant Goliath:

- He saw Goliath as no more than an uncircumcised Philistine, a heathen.
- He was someone defying the armies of the living God. (The Israelites were the representatives of God and therefore by him defying the armies of Israel, he was actually defying God.)
- He saw Goliath as someone or something to be unafraid of. David said to the king and the people: "Let not your heart fail because of that man."
- This giant was someone God has to take care of as easily as He took care of the bear and the lion which He helped David to slay in the wilderness.
- He treated Goliath not even like a lion, he treated Goliath like a dog as he approached him with a stick and a few stones ... even Goliath was disgusted in the manner which David came towards him.

1 Samuel 17:45-46 tells us how David approached Goliath: *"... but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied." David acknowledged that the defiance was not against him or against the armies, it was a direct defiance of God.*

DAVID ENCOURAGED ISRAEL NOT TO BE SCARED OF THE GIANT GOLIATH, HE SAID: "LET NOT YOUR HEART FAIL BECAUSE OF THAT MAN."

"This day", he declared to Goliath, "will the Lord deliver you into my hand; and I will smite you, and take your head from you; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines unto the fowls of the air and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel."

David realised that the challenge was not about him. It was not about Israel. It was not about the scary giant. It was about God who could do all things for them. He realised that God's name was being dragged through the mud. He focused on the Lord. He focused on the fact that God would slay Goliath and that the battle belonged to God. The battle was about God and God's name and glory.

We need to meet and treat our trials and temptations in life, our giants, in the same way. This is the only way in which they are going to be slain. We need to see our trials and temptations as something evil and ungodly that are attempting to defy God's children and therefore defying God's name. We need to see it as something we should not be afraid of. Something that God is going to take care of as easily as He took care of the lion and as easily as He took care of the bear. We should treat temptation as a dog. Tell him to sit, to stand and to roll over and in the name of God, declare it insignificant. We should leave our trials and temptations disgusted that we paid them no attention. We should declare that the battle belongs to God and He has already destroyed the giants.

Saul said to David that he would not be able to go against that Philistine and he tried to arm David with all kinds of armour in order to prepare him for the battle.

**WHEN THE GAIANTS OF LIFE
ATTACK, FOCUS ON THE LORD.
FOCUS ON THE FACT THAT HOD
WILL SLAY YOUR GIANT AND THAT
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“When we face the giants of life we need to be careful that we do not allow other people’s fears and doubts to become our own. We need to treat the trials and temptations like David treated Goliath.

However, don’t let the story of David and Goliath fool you into thinking that you can simply hulk up and bulk up and put on some armour and overcome life’s giants. The story of David is not about David arming up. It is not about David going out and fighting the giant. The story is about Jesus killing Goliath. It was not David that killed Goliath. It was God that worked through David, that slayed Goliath. Jesus is the Giant Slayer, not you.

Philippians 2:13 tells us: “*For it is God who works in you and will act in order to fulfil His good purpose.*” If we understand this, we will realise that the giants are already dead because Christ has slain Satan and sin and temptations on the cross. But remember, the giant, Satan, is still deadly. This may sound like an oxymoron. The Bible tells us that Jesus defeated death on the cross, but the Bible also tells us that the enemy is still prowling around like a lion, looking who he can devour. He is still talking, he is still flexing his muscles although he lays on the ground. If we **look** at him, if we **listen** to him, we will allow him to push us off course and do damage.

One thing we need to learn about the giant, is that the giant is not after us. We often are *self-absorbed* in life. We want to make everything in life about us. We even pray to God and we say: “I want to be free from my giant. I want to be free from my temptations and my trials. God, please bless *me*, help *me* and change *me*.”

**ONE THING WE NEED TO LEARN
ABOUT THE GIANT, IS THAT THE
GIANT IS NOT AFTER US. IT IS
ONLY ATTACKING US IN ORDER TO
DEFAME THE NAME OF GOD.**

We can learn from the story of David, because when David stepped out into the valley to fight the giant, it was not that he was afraid of the giant, it was not that he wanted to make the fear and the discomfort go away or to defend himself against the insults of Goliath, it was because the giant was defaming the name of the living God whom he feared and loved. He said: *"I'm coming to you in the name of the Lord, the Lord of the armies of Israel who you have defiled."*

Our battle is about defaming the name of God. When you face trials and temptations, when they call out and mock and taunt you, it is Satan saying God is not strong enough to rescue you. He is taunting God, not you. It becomes a matter of God. When you shake and quiver like Israel did, you actually agree with the sentiments of Satan saying that God cannot take care of your trials. You need to recognise that your trials are attempting to defame the name of God. Attempting to defame His power and His authority in your life and in this world. God will step out and He will defend His name if you believe in Him, if you acknowledge Him like David acknowledged Him, saying that He can and He will. This is a fight that He is fighting for His honour and His glory through you.

The purpose of your life is to bring glory to God by allowing Him to slay your giants and in the process you are set free. The focus is not on the fact that you are free from your addictions, your giants, free from your bitterness, your anger, your anxiety and your fear. The end of the story is that God is alive and He is the giant slayer. He has done it again and again and will continue to do so until the very last giant is destroyed.

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1 Corinthians 15:26 tells us what the last giant is that God will destroy. It says the last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. Right now, we are scared of death. With COVID-19, we are faced with illness and death all around us. But the Bible tells us that in the end, after all of this, the whole world will know that God is the God of Israel. The whole world will know that there is a God in this universe who has slain every single giant, including death.

Your fear may come from two places. Either it is because God is not in your life and you are trying to fight your giants on your own, or He is in your life, but you do not trust Him enough because you have forgotten how He had slain your giants in the past.

When David had slain Goliath, he took the sword of Goliath and put it in his tent. Why did he put the sword of Goliath in his tent? I believe it served as a reminder to him of the massive giant God had slain and conquered on his behalf. It was a reminder of the power of God to slay giants. I wonder whether there was a skin of a bear and a head of a lion on the floor in his tent also.

What do you have in your home to remind you that God is the giant slayer? I want to encourage you to put up the trophies and allow God to bring honour back to His name through your life and through your trials and temptations.

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