

**“THE RESILIENT LIFE”**  
**(Overcoming the Crisis and Anxieties of Life Through Christ)**

**“FAITH IS GREATER THAN FEAR”**

**Text: I Samuel 17:1-11**

**INTRODUCTION:** The story of “David and Goliath” is one of the most well-known and familiar stories found in the Scripture. In this lesson, we will find that there is more to this story than just the raw facts of a shepherd boy going up against a Philistine giant and winning the battle. Inside this story, we find lessons for the resilient life as we learn to overcome \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_ and develop a greater confidence in the *presence* and the *power* of God.

Fear is one of the most powerful emotions that we experience. It comes in a variety of different shapes and sizes: *worry, panic, anxiety, \_\_\_\_\_, doubt, dread, terror and more.*

None of us experience fear in the same way. Without question, fear can be overwhelming!

But the good news is that fear **can be** overcome. It is through Christ that we can develop a resilience that rises above fear. The phrase “*fear not*” occurs \_\_\_\_\_ times in the Bible – sometimes it is stated as reassurance, sometimes a command from God and other times it is relating to a personal choice.

The most remembered example given in the Bible of someone who faced a source of overcoming fear is David. David faced fear many times in his life and it is because of these encounters that the Psalms of David abound in him giving \_\_\_\_\_ to his fears and at the same time, expressing his trust in God. In this study, we will learn as David did, how to give our fears to God and how to experience \_\_\_\_\_ and peace in doing so.

**I. THE PARALYSIS OF \_\_\_\_\_**

We will remember that when David arrived in the battlefield where he would ultimately defeat Goliath – David was a teenage boy. Perhaps even stranger than that, he arrived not expecting to fight.

While the Philistines had swords, those standing with Israel had only arrows, slingshots and makeshift weapons (**I Samuel 13:19-22**).

**A. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Israel**

The armies of Israel and the Philistines were gathered on opposite sides of the Valley of Elah.

The Valley of Elah was a \_\_\_\_\_ zone between the Philistines and Israel.

**(V.2)** – The best-laid plans will fail without the Lord’s *guidance* and *blessing*. (**Proverbs 21:31**)

David arrives to the able-bodied men of Israel, and he finds a *disturbing scene*.

**B. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_**

Neither army had engaged in conflict when David arrived. Goliath had engaged in taunting Israel’s army and had suggested that the outcome of the skirmish would decide the outcome of the entire war. (**Goliath** was \_\_\_\_\_ 1/2 feet tall – He was well-armed **vs.5-7**)

**Goliath’s threats though clearly *intimidating* also were *blasphemous* against Israel’s God!**

**C. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ (Isaiah 41:10, II Timothy 1:7)**

From King Saul to the lowest ranking soldier, the entire army *shrunk in fear*. (17:11)

“**Dismayed**” = to be shattered or \_\_\_\_\_.

Much like Goliath, Satan deals in fear.

The world vehemently opposes those who stand for biblical truths. They bully, criticize, and cancel men and women of \_\_\_\_\_.

Satan is *relentless* in his attempts to seize Christian’s hearts with fear.

When we allow Satan to be successful in us cowering to his devices, it affects others as well. Saul’s fear of the Philistines and their giant left “*all of Israel.....dismayed and greatly afraid.*”

**The Paralysis of Fear.....**

**II. THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF FAITH (Psalm 56:3, Isaiah 12:2)**

Fear will cancel out faith, or faith will cancel out \_\_\_\_\_. (We choose!!)

**A. Faithful in \_\_\_\_\_ (I Samuel 17:15, Matthew 6:6)**

While Saul was day by day cowering at Goliath’s threats, teenage David was day by day taking care of his family’s sheep (17:15).

Resilient Christians know what it means to trust God’s \_\_\_\_\_. (Menial tasks?)

**B. Faith-Filled for \_\_\_\_\_**

David’s faithfulness as a *character trait* prompted him to see Goliath through the eyes of faith!

**1. The Heart of Faith (Proverbs 29:25, I Samuel 17:26)**

Fear always has a way of warping perspective. Fear always sees the obstacles instead of the \_\_\_\_\_.

As believers, we need to work consistently on having an accurate view of God’s power, His position, His love and His \_\_\_\_\_!

It is no secret that we live in a fallen world with real challenges and real threats that causes our hearts to tremble, but *whatever fear we face, GOD IS GREATER! (John 16:33)*

**2. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Faith**

David’s choice to exercise faith was met with criticism (I Samuel 17:28).

The *unjust criticism* of David was met with faith – “**Is there not a cause?**” (29)

David had a cause and blood-bought believers today have a cause to share the Gospel with the lost with an \_\_\_\_\_ focus (I Corinthians 1:18-19).

**CONCLUSION:** When we attempt to step out in faith and to do something for God, criticism can be expected. We should never let the qualms or criticism of others stop us from fulfilling God’s calling on our lives. Only a deep-hearted and rooted faith in God can give us the confidence to press-on through whatever criticism or doubt comes our way. Whatever David lacked in facing Goliath was met with \_\_\_\_\_ in God – and in facing life’s fears, we have the same!

**III. THE PATH OF \_\_\_\_\_**

**A. Confidence in \_\_\_\_\_ Means (I Samuel 17:34-37)**

**B. Confidence in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ (I Samuel 17:42-49, I Peter 5:8)**

**CONCLUSION:** (Proverbs 18:10)

**NEXT WEEK – “SELAH: OVERCOMING ANXIETY”**