

PURSUE

THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE OF A MAN AFTER GOD'S HEART

² Saul and the Israelites assembled and camped in the Valley of Elah and drew up their battle line to meet the Philistines. ³ The Philistines occupied one hill and the Israelites another, with the valley between them. ⁴ A champion named Goliath, who was from Gath, came out of the Philistine camp. His height was six cubits and a span. ⁵ He had a bronze helmet on his head and wore a coat of scale armor of bronze weighing five thousand shekels; ⁶ on his legs he wore bronze greaves, and a bronze javelin was slung on his back.

1 Samuel 17:2-11, 23-47 (NIV)

⁷ His spear shaft was like a weaver's rod, and its iron point weighed six hundred shekels. His shield bearer went ahead of him. ⁸ Goliath stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, "Why do you come out and line up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not the servants of Saul? Choose a man and have him come down to me. ⁹ If he is able to fight and kill me, we will become your subjects; but if I overcome him and kill him, you will become our subjects and serve us." ¹⁰ Then the Philistine said, "This day I defy the armies of Israel! Give me a man and let us fight each other." ¹¹ On hearing the Philistine's words, Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified...

1 Samuel 17:2-11, 23-47 (NIV)

²³ As he was talking with them, Goliath, the Philistine champion from Gath, stepped out from his lines and shouted his usual defiance, and David heard it. ²⁴ Whenever the Israelites saw the man, they all fled from him in great fear. ²⁵ Now the Israelites had been saying, “Do you see how this man keeps coming out? He comes out to defy Israel. The king will give great wealth to the man who kills him. He will also give him his daughter in marriage and will exempt his family from taxes in Israel.” ²⁶ David asked the men standing near him, “What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and removes this disgrace from Israel? Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?” ²⁷ They repeated to him what they had been saying and told him, “This is what will be done for the man who kills him.”

1 Samuel 17:2-11, 23-47 (NIV)

²⁸ When Eliab, David's oldest brother, heard him speaking with the men, he burned with anger at him and asked, "Why have you come down here? And with whom did you leave those few sheep in the wilderness? I know how conceited you are and how wicked your heart is; you came down only to watch the battle."²⁹ "Now what have I done?" said David. "Can't I even speak?"³⁰ He then turned away to someone else and brought up the same matter, and the men answered him as before.³¹ What David said was overheard and reported to Saul, and Saul sent for him.

³² David said to Saul, "Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him."

1 Samuel 17:2-11, 23-47 (NIV)

³³ Saul replied, “You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a young man, and he has been a warrior from his youth.” ³⁴ But David said to Saul, “Your servant has been keeping his father’s sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, ³⁵ I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. ³⁶ Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. ³⁷ The LORD who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine.” Saul said to David, “Go, and the LORD be with you.”

1 Samuel 17:2-11, 23-47 (NIV)

³⁸ Then Saul dressed David in his own tunic. He put a coat of armor on him and a bronze helmet on his head. ³⁹ David fastened on his sword over the tunic and tried walking around, because he was not used to them. “I cannot go in these,” he said to Saul, “because I am not used to them.” So he took them off. ⁴⁰ Then he took his staff in his hand, chose five smooth stones from the stream, put them in the pouch of his shepherd’s bag and, with his sling in his hand, approached the Philistine. ⁴¹ Meanwhile, the Philistine, with his shield bearer in front of him, kept coming closer to David. ⁴² He looked David over and saw that he was little more than a boy, glowing with health and handsome, and he despised him.

1 Samuel 17:2-11, 23-47 (NIV)

⁴³ He said to David, “Am I a dog, that you come at me with sticks?” And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. ⁴⁴ “Come here,” he said, “and I’ll give your flesh to the birds and the wild animals!”

⁴⁵ David said to the Philistine, “You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. ⁴⁶ This day the LORD will deliver you into my hands, and I’ll strike you down and cut off your head. This very day I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds and the wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. ⁴⁷ All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD’s, and he will give all of you into our hands.”

1 Samuel 17:2-11, 23-47 (NIV)

**DAVID PURSUED GOD
AND FOUND COURAGE
TO SLAY GIANTS**

¹¹When Saul and the Israelites heard this, they were terrified and deeply shaken. - 1 Samuel 17:11 (NLT)

¹¹When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid. - 1 Samuel 17:11 (ESV)

¹¹When Saul and all Israel heard these words from the Philistine, **they lost their courage** and were terrified. - 1 Samuel 17:11 (HCSB)

Remember: Our Pursuits Determine Our Perceptions!

Courage: the awareness of the nearness and faithfulness of God that makes us bold when we're confronted by a problem or enemy.

DAVID'S COURAGE KEPT HIM IN THE SPIRIT

²⁶ David asked the men standing near him, “What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and removes this disgrace from Israel? **Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?**”... ³² David said to Saul, “Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; **your servant will go and fight him.**”

1 Samuel 17:26, 32 (NIV)

DAVID'S COURAGE KEPT HIM IN THE SPIRIT

¹²For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

Ephesians 6:12 (NLT)

DAVID'S COURAGE KEPT HIM IN THE SPIRIT

⁹The men of Ephraim, though armed with bows, **turned back on the day of battle;** ¹⁰they did not keep God's covenant and refused to live by his law. ¹¹They forgot what he had done, the wonders he had shown them.

Psalm 78:9-11 (NIV)

⁵**But you, keep your head in all situations,** endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

2 Timothy 4:5 (NIV)

DAVID'S COURAGE GREW THROUGH THE PRIVATE BATTLES

³² David said to Saul, “Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; **your servant will go and fight him...** ³⁶ **Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear;** this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. ³⁷ **The LORD who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine.”**

1 Samuel 17:32, 36-37 (NIV)

DAVID'S COURAGE GREW THROUGH THE PRIVATE BATTLES

Private Battles are Beneficial, Valuable, and Necessary

Fighting Private Battles is How God:

1. Prepares Us for Public Battles
2. Ensures Our Small Battles Don't Grow Into Big Battles





DAVID'S COURAGE LED HIM TO HIS DESTINY

⁴⁸ As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, **David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him.** ⁴⁹ Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell facedown on the ground. ⁵⁰ **So David triumphed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone;** without a sword in his hand he struck down the Philistine and killed him. ⁵¹ David ran and stood over him. He took hold of the Philistine's sword and drew it from the sheath. After he killed him, he cut off his head with the sword. When the Philistines saw that their hero was dead, they turned and ran.

1 Samuel 17:48-51 (NIV)