

DAVID RAN

“As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly towards the battle line to meet him.” (1 Sam 17:48)

Goliath was a giant over 9 feet tall. He was an experienced warrior and had been a soldier all of his life. The fact that he was alive after all his years of combat was proof that he had never experienced a serious defeat.

David, by contrast, was not a warrior, he was a shepherd. The contrast is made even more dramatic by the fact that while Goliath had been a warrior since his youth, David was a youth. Further, not only did David not have an armor bearer, he did even have any armor. With only a staff, a sling, and a shepherd's pouch David seemed quite vulnerable.

It is the nature of predators to search for an easy prey. Even the mighty lion looks first of all for the weak and the wounded. Can you not picture in your mind's eye the lion crouching and slowly advancing toward some unfortunate victim. Each step brings him closer to the taste of warm blood. When the frightened victim finally sees the danger and turns to run it is often too late. Predators learn to expect their victims to flee. With a burst of speed the lion strikes and the deed is done.

Sure enough, as Goliath and his armor bearer drew near, David began to run, but not as Goliath expected. David did not run away from Goliath, he ran quickly towards him. It seems logical to assume that Goliath was surprised. The fragile deer runs away from the lion, not vice versa. Perhaps it was during this brief moment of confusion that the mighty giant became vulnerable to an insignificant opponent with an insignificant weapon. We know, of course, that God was the ultimate reason for David's victory. Goliath depended upon a sword, a spear, and a shield, but David depended upon Jehovah the God of Israel. David, of course, would not have been running toward

Goliath if he did not have confidence in God.

There are, of course, many lessons to be learned from this famous story. The lesson for today involves the value of offence. There is no provision in the Christian's armor to protect our back. Though the devil walks around like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour (1 Pet. 5:8), he will still flee from us when we resist him (Ja. 4:7). We need to have confidence that not only will the devil be defeated on that day, he can also be defeated on this day, or any day.

The Jewish leaders were confounded by the behavior of the apostles. The apostles did not run and hide like they were supposed to. When the Jews saw the boldness of these unlearned and ignorant men it brought to their minds the courage and boldness of Jesus (Acts 4:13). These powerful rulers of the people had specifically commanded the apostles not to preach or to teach in the name of Jesus (Acts 4:17). The believers responded, not by praying for more speed, but more boldness (Acts 4:29).

The confusion of the Jewish leaders was compounded by what happened next. They had the apostles arrested and placed in the public prison, and under normal circumstances that would have been sufficient to put so much fear in their hearts that it would have silenced their message. It did not! Their boldness could not be contained. An angel of the Lord opened the prison doors, set them free, and set the apostles free, and commanded them to go into the temple and preach all the words of this life and that is precisely what they did (Acts 5:19). Note! When this happened it was the Jewish leaders who were afraid and not the apostles (Acts 5:26).

Are their "giants" in your life? Are their intimidating situations you are afraid to encounter? It is absolutely certain that if you have a spirit of fear you did not get it from God. Note! "God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." (2 Tim 1:7) It was God who gave David the

courage to run to the giant instead of away from him. The same God can also give you the same kind of courage. The devil expects you to run. He is counting on it! He knows that his time is short and he seeks to beguile and destroy you with the power of his deception. Don't be deceived! For the wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are bold as a lion. (Prov. 28:1).