

The Life of David (4): His confrontation with Goliath (2) Hymns 154, 476/Speak O LORD, All I have is Christ

Last week in beginning to consider this chapter, I suggested three different views of the narrative—the liberal view (which views the account as an allegory or myth), the moralistic view (which merely sees David as an example to follow), and the evangelical view (which primarily focuses on the big-picture and sees David defeating Goliath, as a type of Christ crushing the head of the serpent).

And yet, as I mentioned last week, the evangelical view not only sees David as a type of Christ, but he is also an example of Christian grace and humility. Put plainly, we must first see in David our Savior, and then secondly, an example.

And thus, I want to reduce these verses (vv31-58) into three practical lessons from David, concerning the Christian's spiritual battle (we find the proper mindset, weapons, and motive for battle).

- I. The Proper Mindset for Battle
- II. The Proper Weapons for Battle
- III. The Proper Motive for Battle

I. The Proper Mindset for Battle

1. Before I come to this first point, I want to first underscore a very basic but important point—our fight is spiritual.
2. While David fought a literal Philistine, and so his battle was physical, it shadowed Christ's spiritual battle of Satan.
3. Furthermore, if you remember, the OC nation of physical Israel, shadowed the NC nation of spiritual Israel (the church).
4. This is important to remember—our battle is not with a physical enemy, but with a spiritual and invisible enemy.
5. Eph.6:12—"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principles, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places."
6. And I really believe this is half of the problem—many (if not most Christians), fail to take this warfare serious.
7. Oh, we believe it (at least in theory), we read about it in our Bible, and we hear it mentioned on occasion from the pulpit.
8. But my dear friends, how much do we actually think about this spiritual warfare? How often do we remind ourselves that we fight not against flesh and blood?
9. Let me put it like this—Christians fight against Satan, through demons, who influence and govern, this world.
10. And fundamentally what does Satan, his demons, and the world tempt us to do? Well, very simply—TO SIN!
11. These are our enemies, and we are in a fierce battle with them—they tempt us to sin in the way we think, feel, and act.
12. Thus, such things as impurity, discontentment, unbelief, depression, anger, dishonesty, laziness, these are the enemies we face.
13. As a result, I suggest that 95% of the battle concerns our mindset—we have to have our minds in the right place.
14. Now, this isn't necessarily so with regards to a physical war, but it is so, with regards to a spiritual and moral war!
15. And so, I want to suggest, according to 1 Samuel 17, there are three important facts to keep in mind for the battle.
16. (1) We fight as victorious—now, out of these three things I want to mention, the remaining two things are taken from David himself, but this one is not.
17. This one is actually taken from the Israelite army, and it builds upon something I actually mentioned last week.

18. If you remember, according to vv52-53, after Israel saw David's victory, they pursued and defeated the Philistines.
19. If you remember prior to this, they were "dismayed and greatly afraid" now they are filled with courage and bravery—WHY?
20. Well, I trust it's obvious—having seen David defeat Goliath, the Israelites were now fighting from and not for victory.
21. And Oh, my dear brethren, this is exactly how we too must fight—we must fight as those who have the victory!
22. In other words, we must fight as those who know we've been liberated from the bondage of sin and tyranny of Satan.
23. Are Christians called to be soldiers? Yes! But they are called to fight the good of faith after they've been liberated.
24. In other words, we are not expected to first defeat Goliath and then pursue the Philistines—we cannot defeat Goliath.
25. Christ Himself, our Greater than David, defeats Goliath for us, and then we, by His grace, fight for Him, at His back.
26. In other words, we are not David nor do we defeat Goliath—Christ defeats Satan, and then we, by His grace, fight at His back.
27. I think this is one of the most important aspects for every Christian to rightly understand—we don't fight for victory but from victory.
28. That is, we already have the victory in Christ—we have already been delivered from Satan, sin, and this world.
29. It's for this reason, throughout Scripture, we are reminded who we are in Christ, before we are told to fight for Christ.
30. For example, think of Paul's letter to the Ephesians—he spends the first half of the book telling them who they are in Christ, and he spends the second half exhorting them to fight for Christ.
31. Perhaps, I can put it like this—our David doesn't save us from one greater than Goliath, and then send into the battle alone.
32. What did God do for David before he faced Goliath? Let me put the question like this—what happened in ch.16 to prepare David for ch.17?
33. He was anointed—he was given the Holy Spirit to enable and empower him to accomplish his specific calling.
34. Now, in talking about David's anointing a few weeks ago, we learned it symbolized the special presence of the Spirit.
35. We further learned that this special filling of the Spirit, was intended to enable David to fulfill his calling as king.
36. I mentioned then, that the NT teaches us every Christian is a king (of sorts), and thus, we too have been anointed.
37. O dear friends, let ever be reminded, we fight as victors who have been given ever resource necessary to fight!
38. We have the Holy Spirit of God within us, who is greater than all our enemies, and ensures we get the victory.
39. 1Jn.4:4—"You are of God, little children, and have overcome them (false teachers), because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world."
40. John just mentioned the false teachers who were agents of Satan, sent into the church to lead Christians astray.
41. Some believed their lies and left the faith, and yet, others did not. Why? Why did some refuse to believe the lies of Satan?
42. Well, it wasn't because they were smarter or stronger than the rest, but it was because they had an Anointing from God.
43. They had the Holy Spirit who lived within them, and was greater than he who is in the world (Satan and his demons)

44. (2) We fight as confident—as I've already said, these remaining two points are taken from young David himself.
45. David fought as confident that the Lord would help him, and what was one primary reason or cause of his confidence.
46. Well, according to v37, it was at least in part, because David remembered the Lord's assistance in former times.
47. V37—"Moreover David said, 'The LORD, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.'"
48. In other words, because of what He has done for me in times past, I trust He will take care of me in time to come.
49. Now, I find it interesting to notice, that David here refers to the covenantal name of God—Yahweh (the self-existent and unchanging God).
50. The LORD, my LORD, my covenant keeping God—the all-powerful and never changing God will be with me.
51. William Taylor—"One great reason why his faith was now so strong was that he remembered God's former kindness to him. He thought of the day when he prevailed over the lion and the bear, and he reasoned that the God who had heard his prayer and helped him then, would assist him now."
52. And it's for this reason, dear Christian, we must improve upon our past experiences to strengthen us for new battles.
53. But what if you haven't won many battles lately? What if the enemy has been getting the better of you recently?
54. Well then, think back to your ultimate deliverance, when the Lord brought you to Himself in the very beginning.
55. Would God make you a Christian, bring you to Himself, and then allow your remaining enemies to defeat you?
56. Rom.8:31-32—"What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?"
57. In other words—if God gave us the greater (in His Son), will He not also give us the lesser (protection to endure).
58. (3) We fight as needy—I take this point from the broader principle, that David was but a humble before Goliath.
59. In fact, both Saul and Goliath mock him for his size, v33—"And Saul said to David, You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are a youth, and he a man of war from his youth."
60. V43—"So the Philistine said to David, Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks? And the Philistine cursed David by his gods."
61. In other words, brethren, knew full well that he was not able to defeat Goliath in his own power and strength—left to himself he was but a weak and helpless lad.
62. Remember, what we've already seen—David's strength did not come from himself, but it came from His covenant God.
63. David was in himself weak and needy—if someone were to walk by, they would think David would be destroyed.
64. Perhaps another way of putting this would be, David was no match for Goliath in and of his strength and ability.
65. But where did David's strength come from—well, it come from God, who anointed David through His prophet Samuel.
66. This is where true strength comes from—in a heart knowledge of our weakness, and a heart knowledge of our anointing.
67. Only in the army of Christ is this true—in no other warfare does this make sense—to know and own our weakness.
68. Scott Oliphant—"If we ever think that we are capable, in and of ourselves, to fight the Lord's battle, we lose the battle altogether. The Lord uses the weak in the world to shame the strong; he uses the simple to confound the strong and mighty. He does that, as Paul reminds us, so that no one will have occasion to boast."

69. This is why the Lord chose David out of all the sons of Jesse—if you remember, his brothers were older and stronger.
70. God chose the youngest and weakest of the sons of Jesse, in order to prove the point, that strength comes from Him.

II. The Proper Weapons for Battle

1. We learn from v38, that Saul originally clothed David in his own armor, but David was unable to walk, "For he had not tested them."
2. That is, David had never worn them before and wasn't familiar with them—furthermore, they likely were too big.
3. If you remember, Saul was "head and shoulders" above the rest—he was himself a giant of a man and David a young man.
4. So we find that David removed them (v39), v40—"Then he took his staff in his hand; and he chose for himself five smooth stones from the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag, in a pouch which he had, and his sling was in his hand. And he drew near to the Philistine."
5. In other words, David returned to what he knew—because he was a shepherd, he was familiar with his staff and sling.
6. Now, it seems rather likely that David used his sling to drive away all many of beasts who threatened his sheep.
7. David likely had much practice at shooting smooth stones at his enemies—and thus, he selected five smooth stones.
8. Why David selected 5 stones we are not told—some have suggested, since Scripture elsewhere tells us Goliath had four sons, that David anticipated having to kill all five.
9. While this is possible, I personally don't think it's likely—I think he simply chose to make sure he got the job done.
10. Unfortunately, too many people have been fixated on the number of stones, and missed the main point of the stones.
11. The primary reason David killed Goliath with a slingshot, was so that, God would get all of the credit and glory.
12. In other words, David came to the battle with humble, and perhaps even despised means—a staff and slingshot.
13. This is probably what Goliath meant in v43—"Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks"—that is, a mere staff.
14. Thus, in light of these things, I want to suggest five things about the weapons every Christian has to fight the battle.
15. (1) The weaponry of the Christian is not carnal—this goes back to what I've already said—spiritual warfare needs spiritual weapons.
16. 2Cor.10:3-4—"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds."
17. To "walk in the flesh" here simply means "to live in this physical realm"—though we live in this physical world our weapons are not carnal or physical.
18. Now, this doesn't deny that David's weapons were carnal or physical, because his enemy (Goliath) was physical.
19. But because our enemies (Satan and sin) are spiritual, we have need of spiritual weapons to fight and defeat them.
20. Just as David was tempted to fight in Saul's armor, I suggest the church is tempted to fight in the world's armor (let me suggest three ways this is true).
21. (a) The business method to government—that is, when churches are run similar to secular corporate businesses.
22. While David would have looked somewhat impressive with Saul's armor, he would not have been very effective.

23. And too, a church can look rather impressive from the outside—it can be very large and offer many programs.
24. But I fear oftentimes, it's merely Saul's armor! O Church do not fall prey to this temptation, the church is not a business.
25. (b) The entertainment method to worship—that is, when public worship is turned into a circus, run by clowns.
26. And again, it may appear to be impressive at first sight, similar to David, but upon further inspection the armor is too big.
27. God has already told us what, when, and how to worship Him, and it's not to appeal to the carnal appetites of men.
28. We read the Scriptures, pray, sing, preach, and partake of the sacraments, these are the weapons sanctioned by God.
29. Anything in addition to these is but Saul's armor! Don't be tempted, dear brethren, to enter battle dressed in it!
30. (c) The psychology method to counseling—that is, when counseling is given to professionals who don't know their Bible.
31. Surely you know, a person's counseling abilities, are only as good as their theology and knowledge of Scripture.
32. I have never understood why Christians look to professional counselors, who oftentimes, aren't even Christian.
33. I fear what happens is, they believe that the counseling techniques of professionals, will somehow assist them.
34. But it's not counseling techniques or methods that bring change to the heart, it's the word properly applied and believed.
35. O Church of the living God! Take off Saul's armor! Because you know, if truth be told, it looks ridiculous on us.
36. Even the world laughs at the church when she tries to be like the world—because they know such armor is too big.
37. (2) The weaponry of the Christian is oftentimes despised—that is, despised by the world, yes, but here I am thinking about professing Christians.
38. Now, before I go any further, I think it's important at this point to identify what the weapons of the church are.
39. Now we all know that Paul describes the Christian's armor in Eph.6:10-20, wherein 7 pieces of armor are mentioned.
40. Most of these are defensive in nature, with only two that are truly offensive—the sword of the Spirit and prayer in the Spirit.
41. The word and prayer, these are the weapons of God, that are given to every person who enlists in the army of Christ.
42. The word of God heard, read, studied, memorized, and meditated on, and prayer humbly and believingly practiced.
43. Thus, I say these things are despised even by many professing Christians because they often desire something else.
44. Many professing Christians have been deceived into thinking, they need something in addition to prayer and the word.
45. But listen to my dear friend, there is no other weaponry give to Christians from God to defeat their spiritual foes.
46. Rev.12:11—"And they overcame him (Satan) (1) by the blood of the Lamb and (2) by the word of their testimony."
47. Christians have been saved from Satan's tyranny through redemption—we have been redeemed by the Lamb's blood.
48. But this doesn't mean we have been totally removed from Satan's schemes and from his fiery darks of temptation.

49. How did the church endure through this ongoing battle—"by the word of their testimony"—this phrase is often misunderstood.
50. Oftentimes you hear people quote this verse to mean—we overcome our enemies by giving a personal testimony.
51. But this is not true—we do not overcome by our word but by His—in other words, we testify about His word.
52. This is simply another way of saying—Christians overcome Satan through the redeeming work of Christ's cross.
53. And, Christians ongoingly overcome their spiritual enemies, by testifying to the power of the sword of God's Spirit.
54. O my dear Christian friend! Do not despise the weapons God has given you—do not despise the word and prayer.
55. And how are these despised? How do professing Christians despise God's weapons? By wearing Saul's armor!
56. (3) The weaponry of the Christian is taught him in private—this can again be illustrated in David, who learned how to use his sling while shepherding sheep.
57. Here is the basic principle—long before David stood before Goliath, the Lord had been teaching him in private.
58. And so too, God teaches and prepares his NC Davids in private, to enable them to fight against their spiritual enemies.
59. A.W. Pink—"This is ever God's way: He teaches in secret that soul which He has elected shall serve Him in public. Ah, my reader, is it not just at this point that we may discover the explanation of our failures? It is because we have not sufficiently cultivated the 'secret place of the Most High.' That is our primary need. But do we really esteem communion with God our highest privilege? Do we realize that walking with God is the source of our strength?"
60. Christian, if you were to be honest, you would likely confess, the more time you spend with God in private, the skill you have for battle.
61. (4) The weaponry of the Christian is effective with God's blessing, 2Cor.10:4—"For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds."
62. These are "mighty in God" because the Mighty God blesses them—He blesses weapons that are ordained by Him.
63. Dear brethren, five smooth stones, when blessed by God, can bring down strongholds and defeat every enemy.
64. What giant can stand before Almighty God—what enemy can stand against spiritual weapons blessed by the Spirit.
65. The weapons of the Christian church, are very unique weapons—their power doesn't come from themselves but from God.
66. Brethren, think about these two weapons for a moment—these are merely means whereby Christians get to Christ.
67. This is where the power comes from—the power does not come from us, nor does it come, strictly speaking, from the weapons.
68. The power of Christian weapons comes from God, and dear friends, who can stand against the power of God!
69. Eph.6:17—"And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God"—the word is the Spirit sword because the Spirit alone can bless it.
70. (5) The weaponry of the Christian is intended to give God all the glory—that is, they are designed not to draw attention to themselves.
71. The true weapons of God are intentionally humble—they are intended to point to God and not point to ourselves.

III. The Proper Motive for Battle

1. While there are many proper motives to fight, I suggest that in v46 we have the greatest motive or reason to fight.
2. V46—"This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know there is a God in Israel."
3. This is why we fight the good fight! Yes, for our good. Yes, for the good of others. But ultimately, the glory of God's name.
4. Dear Christian, let me ask you this question—what is the foremost reason you go into battle day after day? Why do you desire victory over your remaining foes?
5. Here's an important reason—because you desire to honor and make God's name known throughout the world!