

DEFENDERS OF THE FAITH**6/3/16**

Most people fail to gasp that the Christian battle is between life and death, not between warring religious ideologies, nor atheistic debate. Everything of value has to be fought for and protected, whether it's democratic freedom, personal values or good health... challenges are forever forthcoming. This has also been the case with God's promises and values. There is a great reward for those who make their stand and defend their assets and values. There is an even greater reward when defending the plan of God. Remember, God has given you scripturally provable signs and doctrine, not just theory, nor religious debate.

Many were offended by Goliath, but only David did something about it. 1SAM 17:23 And as he talked with them, behold, there came up the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, out of the armies of the Philistines, and spake according to the same words: and David heard *them* (Goliath challenged God with physical might rather than spiritual substance). **24** And all the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him, and were sore afraid. *A reward of greater value needed to be offered than the risk that needed to be taken. 25* And the men of Israel said, Have ye seen this man that is come up? surely to defy Israel is he come up: and it shall be, *that the man who killeth him, the king will enrich him with great riches, and will give him his daughter, and make his father's house free in Israel. 26* And David spake to the men that stood by him, saying, What shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine, and taketh away the reproach from Israel? for **who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?** **27** And the people answered him after this manner, saying, So shall it be done to the man that killeth him.

David stood alone in faith, because fear dominated most others. 1SAM 17:32 And David said to Saul, Let no man's heart fail because of him; thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine. *David set out to defend God's inheritance and equally build the faith of those who were challenged by failure. We do the same...*

MAT 9:37 Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly *is* plenteous, but the **labourers** *are* few; **38** Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth **labourers** into his harvest. *Our commitments to fellowship and prayer are equally as effective today, as David's actions were then.*

David rejected natural armour. 1SAM 17:38 And Saul armed **David** with his **armour**, and he put an helmet of brass upon his head; also he armed him with a coat of mail. **39** And **David** girded his sword upon his **armour**, and he assayed to go; for he had not proved *it*. And **David** said unto Saul, I cannot go with these; for I have not **proved them**. And **David** put them off him. *David had already built a track record on personal experience and faith; he wasn't about to depend on unproven ability nor weaponry.*

2COR 10:4 (For the weapons of our warfare *are not carnal*, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) *We are the same. We have the Holy Spirit with signs following and wisely depend on that which is proven. This is scripturally sound and works continuously.*

David chose simple small stones as weapons. 1SAM 17:40 And he took his staff in his hand, and chose him **five** smooth **stones** out of the brook (*there were a total of 5 giants in Goliath's family*), and put them in a shepherd's bag which he had, even in a scrip; and his sling *was* in his hand: and he drew near to the Philistine. **ACT 4:13** Now when they saw the boldness of **Peter** (*petros... small stone*) and John, and perceived that they were **unlearned** and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus. *Once the Holy Spirit was poured out with signs following, the Christian experience was unstoppable. Likewise after Goliath was slain, all the other giants were also slain, by those who imitated David's faith.*

John utters a metaphor that favourably compares with David's reward. JOH 3:28 Ye yourselves bear me witness, that I said, I am not the Christ, but that I am sent before him. **29** He that hath the **bride** is the **bridegroom** (*the bride was the king's daughter for David*): but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled. **30** He must increase, but I *must* decrease. *The spiritual side of our life should grow while the natural side should fade well into the background. Like David, we have the 'King's daughter' and eternal riches that fail not.*

A great and ongoing reward for defending the faith. HEB 11:6 But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a **rewarder** of them that diligently seek him. *To expect a reward for fighting the good fight is biblically valid and encouraged... be eager to defend God's values. There are many Goliaths in this world today that many are afraid to stand and fight. 1PET 3:15* But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and *be* ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: *Jesus defeated death, let's defend the gospel of life.*