

I. Review

Last week we started to lay out Psalms Chapter 18, and what I began to show you was how each part of these verses represents a different building block of our Christian life. You know, everybody gets excited about prophecy, and certainly prophecy is an exciting thing in the day and age we live in. People love the books of Revelation and Daniel, but without a doubt, probably the most important part of the Bible will be the part that has to do with your spiritual growth. **Prophecy and all the exciting things of the word of God will mean absolutely nothing if you don't have the things that God wants you to have in your life.**

From the day we started this church over 20 years ago, my whole mission has been to train and teach you to be able to take your stand in these last days for the Lord. As you grow, I want you to see the importance of each one of these. **I don't know of another place in the Bible where collectively everything is together, so that if you take your time, look at each piece, explain it, take it apart, then put the whole thing back together, will lay out for us what we need to do.** We have a lot of young Christians here. We have a lot of men and women who may have been saved for quite a few years but never really got into the Bible. This lesson is for you. My advice to you: I'm trying to break this down piece by piece, explaining each piece so you can take it and better understand it, but you need to apply it, too. Let us help you however we can.

I told you that these were the keys to David's song (in II Samuel) and his Psalm (in the book of Psalms). They represent the victory that God gave him. This is what alludes most people: the victory of Christ in their life. Most people, when they begin to build their relationship, have issues which they must deal with—drugs, alcohol, whatever. Most churches and most pastors that I've been associated with over the years preach good messages about giving up the world. They'll tell you the world is bad (which it is). They'll tell you that the things of the world won't do you any good (and they won't). They'll continually preach and preach and preach on getting the things of the world out of your life. Now I'm all for that, but here's where the problem comes in. **It's wrong for any pastor to get up and preach to you that you need to give up all these things if they're not willing to give you something to replace those things with.** That's the problem. I want you to give up the things of the world and the Lord wants you to give them up, but you have to replace them with something. If you don't do that, then it's not going to work for you. It's just that simple.

I want you to see how these will be our example of the areas in our lives, what I call the building blocks of our faith, that God adds to as you begin to grow, that in time give you the victory. We have looked at a few things so far.

➤ Really Understanding What It Means to Love Him

We started out, before we ever got into this, about really understanding what it means to love Him. **To love Him is based on you knowing Him,** and we looked at the book of I John and how it is so crucial to that.

➤ Build Your Foundation on the Rock

The second thing that we looked at was the fact that **there has to be a foundation in your life, and that foundation is likened unto the Rock which is Jesus Christ in I Corinthians**

Chapter 3. I told you that in the Old Testament, for Israel, their Rock was God because they were God's people. In the New Testament, our Rock is Christ because the New Testament is built around Christ. Now they are the same; you know that, obviously based on the trinity, but it is the way it plays itself out and the way that God deals with us in our lives. The Rock of your foundation will be simply the God of our foundation or our salvation.

I showed you the great example of that in Matthew Chapter 7 about two men: a wise man and a foolish man. It's an incredible story; it's very simple and very basic. One man builds his house upon a rock and the other builds his house upon the sand. One is wise and one is foolish. It's a picture of both our spiritual body (I Corinthians Chapter 5) as well as our own house—our family. As we saw last week, when the storms of life come, and they're going to come, the house on the sand gets destroyed, but the house that's built on the rock stands fast. That's an incredible yet simple picture of what's wrong with Christianity today. It shows why God's people fold up, and why they can't get the victory in their lives. **It goes back to where you build your foundation. You either build it on sand or you build it on the rock.** What we're doing here, in Psalms 18, is showing you that process. It's probably the most influential message you'll ever get on your spiritual relationship and how you should build on that foundation and grow.

➤ Build Your Fortress of Protection

I also showed you that after the foundation is laid, the first order of business will be to build the fortress. **It's building a fort in your life based on Biblical principles, Biblical promises, and doctrinal issues like Isaiah 28 talks about which will protect you and your family.**

I gave the example that across America and in our history, as Americans moved westward, they built forts to protect the people from the Indians and everything else that was out there. Today we don't have forts to protect us from the Indians, but we have forts across this country made up of military men who protect this country from foreign identities, etc. I think there are over 40 or 50 American Army forts, and I'm not even counting the Navy bases, Air Force or Marine Corps. The Army forts stand as the forts for our protection, and they're still called forts. You've got Fort Campbell, Fort Devens, Fort Lewis...all through the United States. **I showed you that the New Testament local church, this church and churches like this across this country, need to be fortresses of truth.** Where the military forts may be forts of military defense, the church needs to be the fortress of truth. There needs to be a place where truth stands because there is no truth in this country anywhere. It's up to the forts, like *Fort Old Paths* here or *Fort Hanson* in Massachusetts (coming next week with Mike Fernandez), that are fortresses of truth across this country that stand for what's right and against what's wrong.

I also talked about the Church Militant versus the Church Triumphant. They're completely unknown today to most people about the two aspects of the church. We are part of the Church Militant yet at the same time we are part of the Church Triumphant because Jesus is coming, and

the church is going to have the ultimate victory. But right now, we're in the warfare. Right now, we're in the battle. Right now, we're in the fight. The Church Militant is this local New Testament church like all New Testament local churches that have the word of God—Fortresses of our faith.

As I've told you, we will lay out each one of these areas in Psalms 18:2 and show you the absolute importance of them in your life. I don't know of anything that's more important than getting these things down in your life on the foundation that you laid the day you got saved. So this week, we're going to add another one to your foundation.

II. Psalms 18:1-2 – Christ as My Deliverer

Let's read Psalms 18:1-2 again. We've been stuck here for a couple of weeks, and we'll be stuck here for a few more weeks because I want to take the time to build this right.

Psalms 18:1-2. I will love thee, O Lord, my strength.

*2. The Lord [is] my rock, and my fortress, **and my deliverer**; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, [and] my high tower.*

Once you know Him, and the first week we talked about this, He becomes the Rock of your salvation, and you build upon that Rock the foundation, and as we talked about last week, a fortress. Next we see the area that you will build, based on you building that fortress and the faith of your relationship, and that will be to understand Christ as your deliverer. Now I know that sounds simple, but here's the problem. And I want to be clear about this. When I talk about Christ as our deliverer, in most of God's people's minds, you think that He's your UPS and FedEx guy. You think that He delivers things to you. "Oh God, give me this!" and then He's supposed to deliver it. I'm not talking about that in any way, shape, or form. **He's not your FedEx man or your UPS guy but rather, in the battles of the Church Militant, He can and will, like we see with David, deliver you and me from our enemies who try to stop us.**

➤ Responsibility and Accountability

I know you're all on different levels. You older guys and gals, who have really been in the mix of it here, know exactly what I'm talking about when I talk about the sting of battle. You know what it's like for people not to like you because of your stand for the Lord. You know what it's like for you taking a stand on the King James Bible or a good, Godly life with people who don't want that. You know the problems that it's going to cause you. You'll find very quickly that there are two areas, that when you start to work with somebody who has come out of whatever problems they're in, you've got to have with them. If they accept these two things, you get along fine. If they don't accept these things, then you're going to have some problems. Do you know what they are?

The first one is responsibility—taking responsibility for the things that are wrong in our lives. The second one is that once you take responsibility, then you've got to have accountability to somebody to fix them. You will see so quickly that when you start to work

with people, and I'm preaching to the choir for most of you because you work with people and you see it, the moment that you touch a sensitive area that they're not willing to surrender, you're going to see that they're not going to take responsibility for it or they're not going to be accountable to anybody to fix it. Without those two things in your life, as a Christian, you can forget it!

The job of every pastor ought to be to get you to the place where you're responsible to God and you're accountable to God; however, it takes a spiritual growth process to get there. So right now, in your young Christian life with whatever you're coming out of, whatever you're trying to deal with, and however you're trying to grow, it's going to take that so we can show you how to do that in time to the Lord.

➤ The Example of David as Warrior King and Shepherd King

David himself will be an incredible example of this. The life of David is probably one of the most intense and incredible studies you're ever going to take in the Bible. It will go all different places. Last week, I told you about David being the warrior king—how that he fought the battles like we do right now, but he was also going to be crowned king. That's a picture of you and me. Right now, we are to fight the battles, but there is a day that we're going to be a joint heir with Jesus Christ, and we're going to reign with Him.

There's another way you can study David. David was a warrior king, but David was also a shepherd king. He was a shepherd taking care of the sheep, but then he became the king of Israel. That's another picture for us. Right now, we should be shepherds—we should be teaching and helping people grow and get the word of God. Then someday, we're going to be a joint heir with Jesus Christ and reign with Him.

The thing I like about David, not only does it show me how he was God's man, but it shows me how he failed just like we all do. He's an incredible example. I know he had his bad times, but despite that, you see God continually giving him the victory. In Chronicles and Kings, when it comes to all the kings of Israel, and there's 30 some for Judah and 30 some for the northern tribes of Israel, when he lays out each one of them, their kingdoms, and what was good and bad about them, you're going to find that he compares every one of them to David. David was the most perfect king that God had. After all his failures in life (and we have them too), you find a steady progression of David becoming everything that God wanted him to be, and in Acts 13:22, the final thing that God says about him directly is that he was a man after God's own heart.

If you want to see God as our deliverer, as it says in Psalms 18, you'll want to look at God delivering David in some of the most overwhelming odds that you could ever imagine.

When you look at that, and you realize that it's David historically, but it's a picture of me and you today inspirationally, you will see and learn from how God delivers him from the overwhelming odds that he faces, how that God will deliver you and me from the overwhelming odds that we face. David will be the main man to study.

Most of you are young in the Lord and you're under the protection of this church. Nobody really clobbers you or causes you problems because you're under the umbrella of the ministry here, but

someday some of you guys and gals will get out there and you'll understand in the ministry what overwhelming odds really are. You're going to learn, and the best way to learn it is to go through it, understanding that no matter what you go through, when you understand these principles that I'm trying to give you, how God will be your deliverer.

When you read the word deliverer in Psalms 18, it just seems so mundane; however, when you take it out and look at what it means for you, like David (warrior king, shepherd king) in the overwhelming odds that you're going to face, David will be the man to look at.

For me, the greatest example of God's deliverance when it comes to David will be found in I Samuel Chapters 17-18. Everybody knows this story; it's Sunday School 101—the day David faced Goliath and how God delivered him. Today I'm going to give it to you different than what you got in Sunday School. I'm going to take you a little deeper today. I'm going to take you underneath the surface of what's going on here. **You need to understand today the giants that are out there who are waiting to contend with you.** You're going to find some incredible New Testament doctrinal principles and promises as well as some great inspirational ones on God delivering us. **Now let me show you the great example of God delivering us in the face of our enemies with overwhelming odds;** the faith and trust and then the confidence that comes out of building a fortress on the right foundation, the Rock; having a solid foundation and then building on that.

III. David and Goliath—A Great Example of God's Deliverance

Bear with me now. Turn over to I Samuel Chapter 17, and we're going to kind of split this chapter up with the points that I want to make here. You already know the story, so I want to just focus in on some things.

1 Samuel 17:1-11. Now the Philistines gathered together their armies to battle, and were gathered together at Shochoh, which [belongeth] to Judah, and pitched between Shochoh and Azekah, in Ephesdammim.

2. And Saul and the men of Israel were gathered together; and pitched by the valley of Elah, and set the battle in array against the Philistines.

3. And the Philistines stood on a mountain on the one side, and Israel stood on a mountain on the other side: and [there was] a valley between them.

4. And there went out a champion out of the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, of Gath, whose height [was] six cubits and a span.

5. And [he had] an helmet of brass upon his head, and he [was] armed with a coat of mail; and the weight of the coat [was] five thousand shekels of brass. (That's pretty heavy!)

6. And [he had] greaves of brass upon his legs, and a target of brass between his shoulders.

7. *And the staff of his spear [was] like a weaver's beam; and his spear's head [weighed] six hundred shekels of iron: and one bearing a shield went before him.*

8. *And he stood and cried unto the armies of Israel, and said unto them, Why are ye come out to set [your] battle in array? [am] not I a Philistine, and ye servants to Saul? choose you a man for you, and let him come down to me.*

(You see this when you study history from that period of time. They would gather for war getting their armies set up and instead of losing a lot of men, they would pick one champion from one army and another champion from the other and those two would do battle. The winner takes all, and you wouldn't have a war. That's the way it used to be, and of course that's what he's making a reference to here).

9. *If he be able to fight with me, and to kill me, then will we be your servants (there it is): but if I prevail against him, and kill him, then shall ye be our servants, and serve us (this is what I explained earlier).*

10. *And the Philistine said, I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together.*

11. *When Saul and all Israel heard those words of the Philistine, they were dismayed, and greatly afraid.*

There are some incredible things to see here that they passed over in Sunday School, and I understand. You don't give this kind of stuff to little kids, but you're supposed to be ready to take on the giants of life. I want to show you some things that might help you if you apply them and you pay attention.

➤ God Has Separated His People from the World

The first thing I want you to see here, and I don't know how anybody would miss this, is in verse three. *And the Philistines stood on a mountain on the one side, and Israel stood on a mountain on the other side: and [there was] a valley between them.*

Do you know what that tells me? That tells me that God has separated His people from the world. The Philistines are on one mountain, and God's people are on the other mountain; also, there is a valley in-between. Do you know what the problem is today with God's people? You guys are living on the same mountain with the Philistines!

This is called separation or sanctification in the Bible. It clearly shows you that there are two mountains here: one for the worldly Philistines and Goliath, and the other one for God's people on the other side. **The first thing you've got to know is that you've got to be separate from the world.** Now I know that when you first get right with God or you first get saved, there are some things of the world that you've gotten addicted to—gambling, pornography, alcohol, drugs, etc. I understand that and God understands it, but I am going to tell you right now that wherever you're at today, a year from now if you haven't moved off that, then there's something wrong in

your building process. You're on the wrong mountain. You can try to justify it any way you want to, but it's places like this that clearly show you that your justification is your own mind.

There are two mountains: the world is on one and God's people are on the other. **You can't be with the Philistines and still do battle for God or do anything for God.** Starting out, people struggle. That's what the church is for, that's what we're here for, that's what messages like this are for, that's what Thursday night Bible studies are for—it's helping you learn how to put the right things in your life so that you can get the victory over whatever is dogging you this morning. It's just that simple: two mountains.

➤ The Devil is Going to Have His Champions

The next thing I want you to see is in verse four. *And there went out a champion out of the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, of Gath, whose height [was] six cubits and a span.*

The devil is going to have his champions. Right now, I know that many of you don't see this or understand it. I tried to explain this to the girls when they were here from England. One of them got saved, and they really got dialed into the word of God. It was great while they were here, but when you've been in this business as long as I have and you know how things work and how the Lord works and how the devil works, I knew that while God was putting the things in their life right here, the devil was preparing a champion to wait for them at Heathrow Airport when they got off that plane.

I say the same thing to the kids at camp. All week they are protected. They're behind fences and gates and everybody around them is saved and loves the Lord. There is good preaching, good singing, good fun times...everything is built around that, and God can really do something. But every time we come down to that last night, I tell them that while they were at camp that week and God was preparing them to be His champion, the devil was preparing a champion to meet them outside the gate. The quicker you learn that lesson, the better off you're going to be. He'll always be preparing a champion to stop you. I don't care who you are or how spiritual you are or think you are.

It's one of the problems that I see with young Christians who get defeated. They'll make the right choices; they'll start putting some things in their life, but they're young. This is where the importance of a church like this, or any Bible believing church, comes in because the devil is going to throw his champion up against you to knock you out before you get your feet on the ground. I've seen it happen all my life in the ministry. A guy or gal comes in; they get settled, get their feet on the ground, start doing pretty good, and then all of a sudden...Bang! The champion shows up. You know what he's a champion of? He's a champion of stopping you. My goal is to get you to be a bigger champion for God than he is for the world. Right now, wherever you're at with the Lord in your life, there's a champion out there waiting for every one of you to stop you.

➤ Goliath is Overwhelming

In verses 4-8, we see this champion of the Philistines whose name is Goliath. Physically, he overwhelms David in every respect. Now depending on how you take a cubit, he could be

almost 18 feet tall. They have found skeletons of giants down through archaeology history, that you don't know about because they hide it, who are at least that tall if not taller. **Being 16-18 foot tall, he's probably 800-900 pounds, and yet, the Bible says in verse 33 that not only does he outsize David, but he has been trained as a man of war from his youth.**

When you come through these verses, you find out that not only does he outdistance David in height, weight, and arm reach, but he's got a helmet, a coat of mail that weighs 5,000 shekels of brass, greaves to protect his knees, a target of brass that protects his back, a spear whose staff is like a weaver's beam, and he's got a shield. Historically, he's before all Israel defying God. All to stop God's plan to establish the kingdom of heaven for the nation of Israel by stopping God's man. And he will be in every day of your life to defy God and to stop you because it looks like he overwhelms you.

➤ Short-Term vs Long-Term

Let me just stop here for a second. You hear me talk about short-term and long-term. **Most people make short-term decisions without ever looking at the long-term consequences.** I try to beat that into you as much as I can. Here's a good example of this, and you'll see it a couple of times in this story. For a moment, let's just look at this in terms of short-term and long-term. Short-term, you've got this giant defying the people of God, and David is going to fight him; however, long-term it's understanding David's importance to Israel's future. You've got to understand that in the short-term, yes this is a good study, but long-term, if God would not have delivered him, **David would have wiped out the future of the nation of Israel by his death because he is in the line of Christ.**

Now that's historically for David. Let's look at it inspirationally for you and for me. This is the importance of us, short-term, getting the victory, and long-term becoming everything and fulfilling what God wants us to do to establish the kingdom of God. **You see, David's importance was to establish the physical kingdom of Israel. Our importance is to get the victory, and get God to deliver us and understand it, because we too are in the line of Christ—spiritually.** You can't miss things like that. You can't blow things like that off or just look at the story and see the surface value of it. There is more to this story about you taking your stand because of the problems we all have from which God delivers us and will give us the victory. This is why the devil will try to stop you. You're in the line of Christ just like he wanted to stop David because he was in the line of Christ. The difference between us and David is that David would not let that happen. Unfortunately, many of God's people will today.

➤ Sometimes the Opposition Will Come from your Family and Friends

Let's look at verse eleven. *When Saul and all Israel heard those words of the Philistine, they were dismayed, and greatly afraid.*

Everybody's scared to death except David. We looked at Goliath but now let's look at David. David is probably 16 or 17 years old. We already know that he's the youngest boy in his family, so he's not big. I always got the idea that Goliath would see him coming out and just roar with laughter. "This is the guy you're sending out to fight me!" In my mind, David is probably

wearing one of those little shepherd skirt-type things that they wore back then with his little skinny legs hanging out the bottom. And he's got a little belt on with a little leather pouch over here, a slingshot hanging on it, and he's got a shepherd's staff. Here is a kid who looks like that and then you've got Goliath who looks like he has just stepped off the SS Panzer Division and coming out of there loaded to the hilt. David is outsized, and he's also outgunned as far as the world is concerned. I just want you to understand that. Yet he's going to go out and fight the guy!

I Samuel 17:31-32. And when the words were heard which David spake, they rehearsed [them] before Saul: and he sent for him.

*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 told them not to be afraid. And you know, Saul should have been the one to go out and fight him. The Bible tells you that Saul was the biggest guy in the kingdom—head and shoulders above every man. **I'm going to tell you from my experience, the ones who shoot their mouths off the loudest about how much they love God and how they want to do this and that are usually the ones who when the battle comes down, they don't show up!** David is probably 16 or 17 years old and greatly outsized, and so will it be with you and me and the giants in our lives. We will be greatly outgunned and outsized.

I Samuel 17:33. And Saul said to David, Thou art not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him: for thou [art but] a youth, and he a man of war from his youth.

Now you need to see this, too. **David is committed to go and fight this guy, and the guy that should fight him, who is the leader of Israel, is trying to talk him out of it!** Not only Saul, but his own oldest brother in verse 28 is giving him all kinds of problems because he's going to go fight him.

*I Samuel 17:28. And **Eliab his eldest brother** heard when he spake unto the men; and Eliab's anger was kindled against David, and he said, **Why camest thou down hither?** and with whom hast thou left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know thy pride, and the naughtiness of thine heart; for thou art come down that thou mightest see the battle.*

I want to tell you something. **When you decide to take your stand, sometimes it will come from your own family. Sometimes it will come from the friends in your life or the people you're associated with. They will never get into the fight, they don't want it, they're cowards, but they don't want you to fight either.**

So you don't have to just overcome the giant; sometimes you've got to overcome your brothers, your sisters, or just the people in your life that try to tell you that you can't do it. **Don't let anybody ever tell you when you're determined to do something for God that you can't do it.**

➤ David has the Right Attitude and Motivation to Fight This Giant

I Samuel 17:25-26. 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?***

David is not interested in earthly rewards. He wants to protect God's honor. Boy, there's a good motive for why we do the ministry, or why we don't do it. He's looking out for God's interest in this battle. He's not looking out for his own interest. He doesn't care about the riches or the king's daughter. Somebody has insulted His God, and they're going to pay the price! He says, "Really?" to his brother and Saul. Then he says, "Who is this uncircumcised Philistine?"

Remember Colossians 2 which we talked about a couple of weeks ago at Thursday night Bible study? **Uncircumcised is a picture of an unsaved man**, and it indicates to me that he didn't know who this guy was before he showed up on his mountain yelling across to the other mountain. *For who [is] this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?* I want to tell you something. **If you're going to plan on getting into this spiritual battle and you're going to face the giants of life, you'd better have the right motive in why you're doing what you're doing.**

➤ David was Sure of God's Deliverance

You've got to love this. Look at what follows in verses 34-37. This will not only be a great doctrinal picture that you'll want to get into your Bible, but it's also an incredible inspirational picture for all of you who are in a growth process.

*I Samuel 17:34-37. And David said unto Saul, Thy servant **kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock:***

35. And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered [it] out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught [him] by his beard, and smote him, and slew him.

*36. Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be (you'll want to mark this in your Bible) **as one of them**, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God.*

37. David said moreover, The Lord that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said unto David, Go, and the Lord be with thee.

David was sure of God's deliverance. The key to your life and my life in getting anything done for God, because the giants (the champions) are waiting outside that door to stop you, is the only thing that is going to get you through: Will God deliver you from the hand of the Philistines?

➤ Always Look Back at the Victories God Has Already Given You

David smote the lion and the bear and delivered the lamb out of his mouth. Doctrinally, the lion and the bear in Revelation 13:2 will be the antichrist. That's why he says here, *and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them* to me. In the Old Testament, there are 18 men who are types of the antichrist, and Goliath is one of them. So here he's showing you doctrinally that David is a type of Christ, and it's God delivering Israel (the lamb) out of the mouth of the antichrist by the hand of Christ (typified by David).

Now inspirationally, it shows us how God prepared David for the battle with the giants. **I've told you before that the number one thing that you have to have before anything else can be in your life is your confidence in God.** Are you confident He will deliver you? Are you confident that He really saved you? Is your confidence alone in God and the things of God?

In verse 34, when he goes back and talks about the lion and the bear, can you understand what that meant to him? How he got the confidence to go out and fight? He's looking back, telling you two times, about when he fought the lion and the bear. Unless it was a baby cub, which I don't think it was, it was a big lion. *And I ain't lyin'; it's big.* It probably a 600–800-pound lion, and a bear...are you kidding me? Unless he was meeting Smoky the Bear, it was a big bear. David is a little guy although he must have a whale of a punch. He grabbed that lion by the beard and whacked him! You know what he's doing? It's what we ought to be doing. He's looking forward to the battle with Goliath. **He knows God is going to deliver him and has the confidence because God delivered him with the bear and the lion; therefore, he can take on Goliath.**

If you don't look back at the victory God has given you in your life, you'll never look forward to the victories. And some of God's people can't do that. Forrest Gump said, "Life is like a box of chocolates. You never know what you're gonna get". I like that and it is true, but I'll tell you what life is really like. It's a box of crayons, and you've got to color life with one of those crayons. Remember when you colored something in school—you had every color in the rainbow to use. You know as a child of God, you've got some of the brightest colors in your crayon box to color your future. Why do you insist on just using a black one? Why do you insist on just coloring everything in life dark gray? You know why? It's because you have no confidence. You know why you have no confidence? It's because you think messages like this are stupid. Oh, you're big on prophecy, but when it comes to just really fundamentally understanding what is going to make your day work tomorrow and give you the victory that God can deliver you, you just keep coloring life with the dark black one. It's the only color you've got in your box.

You're beginning to see now how David is not just somebody who's looking at Goliath and saying that he just has to fight him. **His confidence that God is going to deliver him is looking back and seeing God had delivered him long before Goliath showed up. The lesson for you and for me is that we have to learn to fight the lions and the bears of life before we can ever take on Goliath.** And when you start to work with people, you're going to meet some lions and some bears. You've got to learn how to work through it. God trained David while he was tending the sheep, and God will teach and train you while you tend the sheep of this church. You

take care of feeding the flock, and I guarantee there will be some lions and bears. Ministering in your own church and working with people—you getting the victory now in the little things so that when the Goliaths come, and they will come, that you can look back at the lions and the bears and have the confidence that God is going to deliver you in the future like he did back there.

➤ God Strengthens you Through the Things you Do for Him

Philippians 4:13. I can do all **things** through Christ **which** strengtheneth me.

In every new Bible, that verse is changed because they don't understand anything about the Bible and destroy one of the greatest doctrines that I'm talking about this morning. All the new Bibles say *I can do all things through Christ WHO strengtheneth me*. That's not what the verse says in your King James Bible. It says *I can do all things through Christ WHICH strengtheneth me*. **If you think for a moment that just because you come to church and you're a nice person and you try to do what's right that God is going to come down and strengthen you, you're out of your mind.** It says, *I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me*. **Do you know what the "which" is? It's the things that you do. God strengthens you through the things you do for Him.**

David is a great example. He's got this giant out here, and he's looking back, and said, "Hey! Don't worry, man. Who is this uncircumcised Philistine? Hey, I was watching the sheep one day back there and a lion and a bear came down. God delivered me out of their hands. He'll deliver me with this guy!" But you've got to learn to fight the lions and the bears before you can take on Goliath.

➤ You Can't Fight the Battle with the Giants in Life in Somebody Else's Armor

I Samuel 17:38-39. 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.

Now this is another great principle. David is a little guy maybe 5'8"—5'10" and a lightweight while Saul is a big guy. Can you imagine them putting that armor on this little guy. I mean there's enough room for four or five of you to get in there! **But we see a great principle: you can't fight the battle with the giants in life in somebody else's armor.** You can't. You see, David didn't need Saul's armor because David had God's armor. **You need to put on your own armor and prove your own armor.**

Now let me explain something here. When you first get saved, or maybe you're saved but just never had any real Bible, and you come to church here and we begin to help you, what we normally do is we put a team around you. Sometimes it's a husband-and-wife team, sometimes

it's 2-3 guys or gals...we cookie cut it to whatever your issues are. They begin to bring you through Discipleship I and then later Discipleship II, or basically whatever you need. The truth of the matter is that when you're in those young stages of your Christian life, you just got saved or the Bible is all new to you, and you come here, in reality, you're going to survive based on somebody else's armor and their spirituality. You're not going to have your own yet. That's why I put people around you who can answer your questions, who you can call anytime 24/7 and get the answers you need. People who will teach you, who will correct you, who will encourage you, and who help you begin to make good choices. People around you who will edify you, be your strength when you're weak, and to protect you. Some of you meet every other week, some of you meet every week, and I've had them where you had to meet every day with somebody. **The bottom line is that this is the process we will do to develop you, and in time, to help you grow spiritually so that you develop your own armor because you can't live in somebody else's armor.** You can't live with somebody else's spirituality. At some point in your life, you must develop your own.

Your kids and your family (we talked about this Thursday night) when they're young, they'll survive off of your spirituality and armor. They don't even know God. You must teach them who God is. You must introduce them to all the things that the church has introduced you to, and in time, you train them, and they will develop their own armor. **My main focus for all of you is to get you to the place where you can stand on your own and fight the good fight when the Goliaths show up in your life, and they will come.** You will find the failure of Christians and Christianity will simply be that they try to live off somebody else's spirituality and they never develop their own, until the giants show up. No deliverance in their life, no confidence in their life, and they go unarmed into the world system of the world, the flesh, and the devil and wonder why they fall.

➤ Five Smooth Stones

I told you this was better than what you heard at Sunday School. No offense to the Sunday School teachers. You can't teach these to little kids, but I'm teaching them to you. Every story in the Bible that you teach to those kids, you can take and lay it out just like this one to give you everything you need because they're in there for that reason.

*I Samuel 17:40. And he took his staff in his hand, and **chose him five smooth stones** out of the brook, 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.*

Here again we see an amazing couple of principles that you've got to see. We now begin to really get a look at David's confidence level with God, and we look at David again, not just looking short-term at Goliath, but looking long-term. He goes down to the brook, this is the brook Elah that runs through the valley there, and he picks up five smooth stones. I've heard sermons all my life from guys who knew nothing about the Bible. They would suggest that David took five stones because he doubted in himself that he could kill Goliath with just one shot, or maybe he would miss him and have to reload and go for a second round. Nothing could be farther from the truth. When you understand and know your Bible and you see David's

confidence in God...I mean in this chapter four times he tells us that God is going to deliver him. **He was not worried about picking up five smooth stones because he doubted in himself the ability to take Goliath out.** I don't know if you know this, but in 1 Chronicles 20:5 and 2 Samuel 21:18-21, Goliath has four brothers who are also giants. David is looking short-term at Goliath and taking him out, but he's also looking long-term. If they want to make this a family affair, he is ready to go five for five. David has incredible confidence.

I'm just going to throw this principle in for you. David is probably letting that sling go around and saying, "Lord, you know where this thing needs to go. I just trust in you, Lord. I'm just standing up for you," and then God says, "Will you stop slinging that thing. It's already gone, David!" Now this is just off the record. That's a good prayer if somebody breaks into your house at night and you grab your 9-millimeter and it's dark. When you bring that gun up you say, "Lord, make this bullet to whom it may concern!"

This is just a side note, and I'm not going to hit this one hard. 1 Chronicles 20:5 and 2 Samuel 21:18 says that Goliath, and he names them, has four brothers. Then in the same passage, it says these four brothers were also his sons. So he fathered these brothers, who were his sons, through his mother. I'm just going to very easily touch this one, but everything comes from the Bible. One of the filthiest terms that everybody wants to throw around that deals with somebody having sex with a mother comes from right here.

➤ Having the Confidence that God will Deliver You

I Samuel 17:41-42. And the Philistine came on and drew near unto David; and the man that bare the shield [went] before him.

*42. And when the Philistine looked about, and saw David, **he disdained him**: for he was [but] a youth, and ruddy, and of a fair countenance.*

The Bible says Goliath disdained him. That means to have no respect; he thought he was unworthy, and he made fun of him.

I Samuel 17:43. And the Philistine said unto David, [Am] I a dog, that thou comest to me with staves? And the Philistine cursed David by his gods.

*44. And the Philistine said to David, Come to me, and **I will give thy flesh unto the fowls of the air, and to the beasts of the field.***

Doctrinally, that's a reference to the second coming of Christ; that's what happens at the Battle of Armageddon. So here is a man that's a type of the antichrist (Goliath) who is obviously satanic inspired, and he's being a prophet and doesn't even know it.

Now let's look at David's response:

I Samuel 17:45-51. Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied.

You'll want to mark in your Bible there in verse 45: sword, spear, and shield. We will look at those shortly.

46. ***This day** will the Lord deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines **this day** unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.*

47. *And all this assembly shall know that the Lord saveth not with sword and spear: (here it comes!) for the battle is the Lord's, and he will give you into our hands.*

48. *And it came to pass, **when the Philistine arose, and came, and drew nigh to meet David, that David hastened, and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine.***

49. *And David put his hand in his bag, and took thence a stone, and slang [it], and smote the Philistine in his forehead (right between the eyes), that the stone sunk into his forehead; and he fell upon his face to the earth.*

50. *So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and smote the Philistine, and slew him; **but [there was] no sword in the hand of David.***

51. ***Therefore David ran,** and stood upon the Philistine, and took his sword, and drew it out of the sheath thereof, and slew him, and **cut off his head** therewith. And when the Philistines saw their champion was dead, they fled. (You bet they did!)*

Now first off, I want you to see the reference to the second coming of Christ here doctrinally. Notice in verse 46, *this day*. You need to mark that; that's the day of the Lord. Notice that he's going to take his head...Antichrist gets a head wound; see Revelation 13:3 and Zechariah 11:17. Notice there's no sword in David's hand because Revelation 19 says the sharp two-edged sword comes out of His mouth at the 2nd coming. Revelation 19:17-19 talks about the birds and all the animals eating all the flesh. In fact, it's called *the supper of the great God* there in that passage. So what you see here historically is God delivering David. Doctrinally, it's God delivering Israel, and inspirationally, it's God delivering you and me from the Goliaths in life.

In verse 48, David RAN toward the enemy to meet Goliath. Note: there is absolutely no fear of this giant in his life. This giant is four times his size and armed to the teeth with the world's weaponry. It's a great study because in Acts 8:29-30, and I don't know if you would even make this parallel, when God sends Philip out for the Ethiopian eunuch and said to go near and join himself to that man's chariot; the Bible says Philip RAN. Here is David going out to meet Goliath, and the Bible says he RAN. **A child of God should be running into the battle and not running away from the battle, and a child of God should run for the opportunities to minister to somebody just like he runs for the opportunity to fight the Goliaths in life.** It comes down to the confidence that God will deliver you. David runs toward that Philistine and lets that rock go. It hits him right between the eyes.

Now, I want you to see this. I told you to mark in your Bible in verse 45: Goliath's armor is a sword, a spear, and a shield; however, he has much more of that stuff when we first saw him. Yet the Bible says that when he starts to come to David, he arose. He gets up. You know what

Goliath did? He saw that little David down there, and he said, “I could swipe that kid with one hand tied behind my back. Who is he to come to me? I don’t need all this stuff!” **And he took off his coat of mail, his greaves, his helmet...all of the armor except three pieces. When he goes and fights David, David hits him right where the helmet should have been.** Ephesians 6 says, take the helmet of salvation—a picture of an unsaved man getting nailed with a Rock (the Lord Jesus Christ). What an incredible picture of God delivering us.

I’ll tell you one of the things which you’ll always want to use against the world as David does here, and it is that **the world will always be overconfident that they can take you out.** But you don’t need Saul’s armor. David just needed God’s armor.

IV. Summary

Now you can clearly see the progression. You start out by knowing God and loving God. Next, you lay a foundation in your life. That foundation is built on a Rock. You build a fortress, and that fortress will give you the confidence that God will deliver you in any and all issues that you will face in life. The giants in life, my dear friends, will be many. Goliath and people like him will always disdain you and threaten you. Many times, it will be people in your own family or friends who will try to get you not to fight, but the child of God is to stand fast. Hold your ground, but when the time comes, you attack, and you run to the battle. That’s leadership in action.

The great lesson that comes out of Psalms 18 for me is a very simple one, and I’ve seen it in so many of God’s people’s lives. **When you love God and have the Rock for your foundation and build your house upon that, you build a fortress and have the confidence in Him that He’s going to deliver you.** Believe me, it will never be the size of the dog in the fight, but simply the size of the fight in the dog.

The promise of Isaiah 54:17 will rule the day. *No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue [that] shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This [is] the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness [is] of me, saith the Lord.*

God will always get you through, but before you can face the giants, you’ve got to take on the lions and the bears. Let God build you. That’s what this church is for. That’s what lessons like this are for. Every week you should be taking some part of this and going home and working it out; seeing how it fits into your world and into your life then applying it on that foundation. That’s spiritual growth. That’s what it takes for any Christian man or woman to get to the place where you can take your stand like David did.

Now you can see how building these areas in your life will be the key to the victory. Step by step, as we go through this, we’ll continue to lay each one of these out so you can see it. You can understand it, and then you’re in a better position to apply it. What I’m interested in here is leadership in action: your life, your home, your ministry.