

Let Us Overcome the Evil One's Giants

¹²I am writing to you, children, because your sins have been forgiven on account of His name. ¹³I am writing to you, fathers, because you have known the One who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. ¹⁴I have written to you, children, because you have known the Father. I have written to you, fathers, because you have known the One who is from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one. The Fleeting World Opposes Eternal God ¹⁵Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶For everything in the world – the desire of the flesh, the desire of the eyes, and the boasting of life – is not from the Father but from the world. ¹⁷The world is passing away along with its desire, but the one who does the will of God abides forever (1 John 2:13-17)

Do you often feel that giants oppose us? God gives special grace (grace = desire & power) to conquer giants during our youth (whether in age or in the Lord). However, unconquered giants in our early years will attack later in life, especially when we become weak. David picked up five stones and with one stone killed the first giant. But what happened to the other four *giant-killing-capable* stones? Later in life, now a King and after David had buried Saul (his foe for over 12 years), he became weary and four Philistine giants (the four sons of the *Raphah*, the giant) come back to attack him:

*¹⁵Once again the Philistines made war with Israel, so David went down with his servants and fought against the Philistines. **But David became weary.** ¹⁶So Ishbi-benob – who was a descendant of the Raphah (The Interlinear Bible renders the text: 'Ishbi-Benob of the sons of Rapha the giant'), whose spear weighed 300 shekels of bronze, who was girded with new armor – thought to kill David. ¹⁷But Abishai son of Zeruiah came to his aid, struck the Philistine and killed him. Then the men of David swore to him, saying, "You must not go out with us to battle anymore. You must not quench the lamp of Israel!" ¹⁸Now it came to pass after this that there was war again with the Philistines at Gob, and Sibbecai the Hushathite killed Saph, a descendant of the Rapha. ¹⁹Then there was war again with the Philistines at Gob, and Elhanan son of Jaare-oregim the Beth-lehemite killed Goliath the Gittite – his spear had a shaft like a weaver's beam. ²⁰Once again there was war at Gath, where there was a champion that had on every hand six fingers and on every foot six toes – a total of 24, and he also was a descendant of the Rapha. ²¹When he taunted Israel, Jonathan son of David's brother Shimea killed him. ²²These four were born to the Rapha in Gath, and they fell by the hand of David and by the hand of his servants (2 Samuel 21:15-22).*

David is now older, he has been a man of war all the years after conquering Goliath but he can no longer fight giants. You will note that David's servants (a typology of children) and not David conquered these four giants. How are we to conquer the giants of our time? By becoming MIGHTY IN SPIRIT instead of becoming weary. I believe these five giants come to oppose you and me as well today.

One of the most impactful messages I received in the Institute of Basic Life Principles (IBLP) Basic Seminar (which I attended more than 15 times) was that of the Five Giants we should conquer in our youth. Here is a basic summary of that message.

1st Giant – Goliath: To reveal, advertise/disclose in a shameful/disgraceful sense, gossip, revile, verbally abuse. Scripture teaches that to conquer the tongue is to "*bridle the whole body*" (James 3:2). This means that we understand fully how important *every word* we speak is because every word, every idle word, will be judged by Messiah *Yeshua*. Scripture refers to the tongue as: a sword, a sharp arrow, a venom and poison. What was David's secret to victory against Goliath? He sized up the battle correctly: Goliath was reviling God and not Israel. God will take care of His enemies! He learned skills in the area of the spirit (meditation), the soul (melodious music) and the body (protecting himself with his hands) and he was prepared for the battle in his youth and even as a youth, he was victorious. {Humanistic Medicine supported by man's laws is actually God's enemy (abortion, birth control, euthanasia, infanticide to name a few) and God will take care of His enemies} But how do we respond to verbal abuse? Being reviled (sneered at, poked fun at, mocked), *Yeshua* blessed and cursed not. We respond by telling the person who is cursing you how God is using what

they said to change you for the better! (If nothing comes to mind, certainly verbal abuse should make you want to seek God more, and in seeking Him, there is great benefit). Therefore being persecuted we suffer and being defamed we entreat (no anger/reaction). We conquer Goliath through meditation on Scripture: *“⁹How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to Your word” (Ps 119:9) and “¹¹Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and say all kinds of evil against you falsely, on account of Me. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great! For in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you” (Matt. 5:11-12)*

2nd Giant – Ishbi-benob: My dwelling is on the heights, or I belong above, i.e. pride. This is typically the giant that attacks after years of achievement. In accepting *praise* from others we tend to become proud. Scripture says that pride puffs up but we do not need pride; we need humility. In Proverbs it says that by humility and the fear of the Lord is Honor, Riches and Life. How do we demonstrate genuine humility? We do it by deflecting praise to others, to the ones who it really belongs to, like parents, teachers, leaders, and God. It has been said that *'A man is tried by how he handles the praise he receives!'* This giant attacks during times of weariness and distress attacking with a spear and a new weapon (sword). Pride often comes to prop us up and also comes in ways we don't expect. We can even become proud of our humility and spirituality but we should always remember that our righteousness is as filthy rags before the Almighty. David needed outside help to conquer this giant – he needed a helper to conquer pride. We also may need a *true friend* to show us our blind spots and tell us when we are prideful. This giant was conquered by *Abishai* (the one who is a gift). Freely we have received His grace and freely we should give it to others. *Abishai* was the son of *Zeruah*, the leprous one. We should depend on *Yeshua* for EVERYTHING. We are but lepers that have been cleansed by His Blood. Do we really have anything to brag about? When we understand that *“¹⁷Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow” (Jas. 1:17)* we conquer pride in our lives. God abases the proud (Dan. 4:37) and you can be sure that He will take care of His enemies. Do not enroll in the enemy's roster because of pride.

3rd Giant – Saph: a double-faced bowl i.e. hypocrisy, a play act or a mask, these come after Pride. Hypocrisy is the opposite of sincerity (Spanish *sin cera*, no wax). The root cause of hypocrisy is *moral impurity*. Hypocrisy is like opportunistic agents or germs that are parasites and empty the soul of spiritual vitality. We have viruses that pretend “I'm like you,” “I'll take over for you,” and finally “I don't need you” and bacteria that infiltrate (a known enemy) but multiply geometrically. *Saph* was conquered by *Sibbecai the Hushathite*, meaning corpse-like i.e. someone who is dead to self.

4th Giant – Lahmi: Full of food, i.e., lustful and sensual. The brother of Goliath (verbal abuse) is the giant of lustful desires. He was conquered by *Elhanan* (God is gracious). In Scripture grace is the desire and the power God gives to do His Will. *Elhanan* was the son of a *son of Jaare-oregim the Beth-lehemite!* *Yeshua* the *Beth-lehemite* is a Mighty Warrior and we are His brothers!

5th Giant – The Six-Fingered Giant: the powerful grasp of covetousness and greed. Many things compete with *Yeshua* and with serving God. One such thing is to expect from things (or creation) what only God can give. In Scripture covetousness is idolatry. If we are not careful, the things of this world can have a pull on our lives. This giant was conquered by Jonathan which means given by God. In Scripture God gives children. Children! Children are often God's arrows to overcome covetousness and greed. Note that the TNK states that Jonathan was David's brother's son – his nephew. We should practice gratefulness. The more we grasp eternal treasure the more we can release earthly possessions.

Our society holds doctors and medicine in a position of unparalleled prestige and power. Whether it is in the hospital or the pharmacy, whatever a doctor says goes (*'doctor's orders,'* you know). In fact, one the greatest and most powerful lobby groups in the US is the AMA. According to NPR, the medical and health care industries are *unconquerable giants* in our society. Indeed humanistic medicine (man's ultimate power is over life and death, a power that belongs only to God) is a formidable foe. This giant can and should be conquered