

March 15, 2011
Charles Stanley's Life Principle #9
*Trusting the Lord means looking beyond
what we can see to what God sees*

PRAYER FOCUS: _____

- 1 Samuel 17:1-54

*David's success as a giant killer was his ability
to trust and obey God. How can you have the same kind of faith?*

Recall past victories.

What triumphs did David remember (1 Sam. 17:32-37)?

How did these victories give him confidence against Goliath?

List a few victories from your own life that could serve as reminders of how God worked through you in the past.

Reject discouraging words.

No one from the Israelite camp encouraged David in his quest to defeat Goliath. Describe briefly how each of the following men tried to dissuade him:

His brother Eliab (vv. 26-30)

King Saul (v. 33)

Goliath (vv. 42-43)

All of them saw a young, inexperienced man instead of someone God could work through. Why? They looked at David from man's perspective instead of the Lord's.

As this story demonstrates, some of our worst opposition and discouragement may come from those who should be on our side, such as family members or fellow believers.

Describe how you can respond when others give worldly counsel instead of encouraging you to obey the Lord.

Recognize the true nature of the conflict.

What was David's perspective on Goliath's challenge to the Israelites (v. 26)?

What were two reasons the young man had confidence in challenging his opponent (vv. 46-47)?

Whatever adversary you face, the real enemy is Satan. He wants to defeat you and discourage you from serving God. Certainly, you have a responsibility to address the practical aspects of your difficult situation. But remember that behind each challenge is a spiritual war. For instance, while you seek medical treatment, you might also need to wage a spiritual battle against discouragement and fear.

What do you think the Father wants His children to remember in the midst of conflict?

Respond to the challenge with a positive declaration of faith.

David asked the fearful Israelites, "Who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should taunt the armies of the living God?" (v. 26). To Saul, he said, "The LORD ... will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine" (v. 37). And in answer to Goliath's ridicule: "I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel" (v. 45). David firmly declared his belief. He wouldn't lose, because the Almighty was with him.

The Scriptures are full of promises: for guidance (Ps. 32:8), God's help (121:1-2), hope (Ps. 16:9), joy (Ps. 43:4), mercy (Ex. 20:6), the Father's care (1 Peter 5:6-7) and peace (John 16:33)— to name just a few.

Choose a verse that speaks to your need, and write it below.

When worry or frustration builds, recite encouraging scriptures aloud to yourself. Your faith will grow, and so will your peace.

Rely on the Power of God.

David knew it wasn't his own reputation on the line; he also knew it was not his strength that would win the battle. Glory and victory belonged to the Lord alone.

What did David believe Goliath's defeat would show everyone who watched (v. 47)?

In John 15:5, Jesus said, "He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing." In other words, we can do nothing of spiritual value unless we depend on Christ to work through us.

What would it look like for you to rely on Jesus in your present trials?