

I've always found it valuable to listen to people who have done it before. That can be for anything. You getting ready for retirement? Are you about to have a new addition to the family? You wanna start a business? Talk to someone who has done it already. You can really get a lot of good advice. They can tell you what to expect, what to look out for, all kinds of things.

David is a valuable person to look up to because he did what seemed to be impossible. Most of us can remember how David was able to defeat the giant named Goliath. It's a classic narrative. The underdog goes up against the unbeatable opponent and comes out on top. He accomplished what seemed to be impossible.

Now, I imagine not many of us are considering fighting giants anytime soon. But we all have giants that we face; things we want to do that just seem impossible. So how did David do it? How did he do the impossible? How did David even have the confidence to try? Today, as we look at David's words in 1 Samuel 17, we will get to see the source of David's ability as God shows us How David Killed the Giant.

In 1 Samuel 17, David's words tell us three things about David. David knew himself. David knew right from wrong. And, most importantly, David knew God. We'll look at each of those and then apply them to ourselves.

1st: David knew himself. He knew his past. He knew what he had accomplished. Those past victories gave David confidence to take on this bigger task. That's valuable for us too. As we focus on the small victories in our lives, maybe things that we assume everyone has done, that gives us confidence to take on the big things.

2nd: David knew right from wrong. David knew that he stood with God's army and his opponent stood against God. He heard Goliath blaspheming God, making fun of the Almighty, and David was not going to stand for it. David knew that it would be wrong for him to stand aside and let that giant talk. That gave him confidence to stand up to Goliath, even if he was a terrifying giant.

That's valuable for us too. You ever notice how a guilty conscience can really

sap your courage? How easy is it to tell someone else they are sinning, when you are so aware of ways that you are living in sin? How easy is it to tell someone else about Jesus, when you know your life isn't exactly "Christian"? When your conscience is clear though? That really gives a person confidence.

3rd: and most important, David knew God. This one is most important because it really covers the other two as well. For example: The Bible tells us that God knows all things, so who is the expert on who you are? God! Who has the best grasp on right and wrong? God! Knowing God better is the best way by far to better understand yourself, morality, basically anything truly valuable.

And this is where it fit in with David. He acknowledged that even his past victories against the lion and the bear were not his own doing. It was God who had won those victories for him. David knew that God was the one who had defeated his greatest enemies in the past and that gave him the confidence to stand against even this giant.

We have that same confidence. God has won victories for us too, and against enemies far more terrifying than lions or bears. We face Satan, our own sinful natures, and the whole sinful world. But God, our champion, has defeated them all.

We have Satan himself trying to lead us away to destruction and he is an expert at it. He has been an expert at tempting and he has had thousands of years experience tempting people to damnation. How can we stand up to Satan when we can't even claim a century's worth of experience against him?

We can't, but God did. In fact, the reason the Son of God came into the world was to destroy the devil's work! Ever since those pivotal events in history, Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, Jesus' flock has been knocking down the gates of Hades with the simple confession of Christ as Savior. The ancient dragon has been hurled down. Satan never stood a chance.

We have our own sinful natures trying to drag us to hell too! We naturally want everything that is contrary to what God wants. God's ways are naturally repulsive to us! In fact, it is a miracle that any one of us even comes to church at all! How can we stand against our very selves?

We can't, but God did. Through baptism, each one of us was buried with Christ and raised to new life! God's Word is daily leading you and me to drown our sinful nature with repentance, so that we might be raised up to new spiritual life. Even our sinful nature never stood a chance.

We have an entire sinful world that floods us with antichristian influence through advertisements and stories and ideas that all have the ultimate goal of leading us to hell. How can we hope to escape 167 hours a week of the world's influence with only 1 hour a week here, or maybe 2 or so if we come to Bible study or read the word on our own?

We can't, but God did. Jesus has overcome the world and everyone who believes in Jesus shares in his victory over the world! It never stood a chance!

In all these things and more, God gives us the victory. Christ makes us winners. The greatest failure of our lives makes us no less a winner than we are in Christ. The greatest victory we can remember makes us no more a winner than we are in Christ. What could give us more confidence than the victories that Jesus has won for us and continues to win for us? It was God's past victories that gave David confidence and it gives us confidence.

Back to our 2nd point: since David knew God, he also knew right from wrong. In David's words, we see that David understood that morality is not just a matter of doing action A instead of action B. What truly matters is one's relationship to God. David knew that he was fighting for God's army and the giant was fighting against God's army.

Think about the Pharisees whom Jesus constantly condemned. They were actually shining examples of morality in their communities. They always seemed to do the right thing. But Jesus still condemned them. Why? Because Jesus knew their hearts. Jesus knew their hearts were corrupt and sinful. Even though they did action A instead of action B, they did not have a right relationship with God. That meant they were thoroughly corrupt just like the rest of us. We just talked about how sinful we all naturally are, naturally calling bad everything God calls good, naturally wanting everything God doesn't want.

A clean conscience cannot come from just doing the right things. It can only

come through trusting God's promises. It can only come to us through trusting that God put all our sins on Jesus and Jesus died on the cross to take away our sins. It can only come to us through knowing that Jesus' bodily resurrection from the grave is proof positive that we are innocent in God's sight. In Psalm 32, David himself wrote, "Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered." Morality is a matter of having a right relationship with God, which only comes through Jesus.

You see how knowing God did so much for David? Not only did knowing God help David know himself better, not only did it show him how to have a truly clean conscience, but it gave him confidence to do the impossible. David knew exactly what God wanted to give him and so David went for it. David knew that God wanted him to defeat the giant Goliath, so David did it.

You see the benefit for us knowing God too? Knowing God is vital, not only because it stops us from taking in so much of the world's influence but because it really benefits every part of our lives.

People often say to me that they don't know how I speak in front of so many people, or they don't know how I memorize my sermons. Some of them say it would be impossible for them, but for me it's pretty normal. I understand it and so I can do things that others believe to be impossible for them.

When Christians know God, they do incredible things that the rest of the world believes to be impossible. There are Christians who have beaten addictions by getting to know God. There are Christians who have faced horrible tragedies with steadfast faith because they knew God.

Dear friends, get to know your God. Learn his Word by coming to church, by asking me questions, by coming to Bible study, by reading the Bible on your own, by talking about it with your friends. Get to know your God. That's how David defeated the giant. And that is how you can do the impossible. Amen.