

Wings

*“Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles.”
Isaiah 40:31*



April 29, 2018

David's Sling

David defeated Goliath, not because of miraculous intervention, but because David used the simple tool God had equipped him to use. The same advantage is available to us today.

“. . . his sling was in his hand. And he drew near to the Philistine” (1 Sam. 17:40).



David's victory over Goliath was a remarkable achievement—but not for the reason we might think. Study the story more closely, and we find a lesson that has enormous practical relevance for our lives today.

Consider the obstacles David faced leading up to this encounter. He was not a soldier but a shepherd boy sent by his father to deliver supplies to his brothers in the army (v. 17-20). He arrived in time to witness the entire Israelite army running away from Goliath, “dreadfully afraid” (v. 23-24)—not exactly a confidence-inspiring performance. His oldest brother (one of those who had just run away in fear) took out his frustration on his little brother, berating him for even being there (v. 28). When David volunteered to take on Goliath by himself, King Saul refused to let him go, saying, “You are not able to go against this Philistine” (v. 33). There was no way this kid could survive against a trained

warrior. More negativity to discourage him from getting involved.

Nevertheless, David persisted in his determination to take on the giant. Saul reluctantly agreed to let him fight—but only if he was equipped with the proper armor and weapons. David tried on the gear, but knew it wouldn't work. “I cannot walk with these, for I have not tested them” (v. 38-39).

So David ran out to meet the Philistine armed with the only weapon he knew: “His sling was in his hand.” With that sling and a single stone, he brought down the brute who had terrorized a whole army.

David had a dozen reasons not to go up against Goliath—but one very good reason to do so: *somebody* needed to put this barbarian in his place, and no one else was willing to step up to the task. David had only a sling to work with, but he was experienced with it, and knew how to use it to his advantage. That simple weapon, coupled with a strong faith in God, was sufficient to win the day.

David's life experiences, brief as they were, had prepared him for this

moment. Years before, God put a sling in his hand, and David had become proficient in its use. Where others saw only a kid with a slingshot, God saw exactly the instrument He needed to accomplish His purpose.

Each one of us has a “sling” in our hands, too, given to us by God to be used against the giants we encounter along the way. But do we recognize the value of what we've been given? Perhaps it's the ability to speak simple words of comfort; or to create objects of beauty and utility; or to manage money or people; or any one of an infinite number of other talents. God has given each of us a gift—and a unique background that has prepared us to use it—and He *expects* each one to use it. If we allow the naysayers around us to obscure the value of what we have in our hands, we will spend our lives running away from the challenges we face, rather than confronting them with courage.

David may have been just a boy, but he was a boy who trusted God and the gift God had given him. We must learn to do the same.

– David King