

Power

One of my favorite stories in The Bible has always been David and Goliath.

- Really, not just with Goliath, but the entire story of David.

Can I just say in advance...

- David far exceeded everyone's expectations of him

Just a little reminder of what led to the point of David fighting the giant:

- The Prophet Samuel was sent by God to Jesse's house to anoint a new King (**1 Samuel 16**)
- Jesse brought his 7 oldest sons before Samuel, none were God's chosen
- No thought was given to little David, but he was chosen by God to be King.

Saul who still; sat on the throne was suffering a "distressing Spirit" and asked for a harp player...

Someone mentioned David.

18 Then one of the servants answered and said, "Look, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, **who is skillful in playing, a mighty man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a handsome person; and the Lord is with him.**"

Pay attention to this verse:

- All Saul was looking for was a harp player
- **David far exceeded those expectations...**

In the next chapter we find Jesse sending David to take supplies to his brothers who were serving in the king's army.

- Then David heard about Goliath

When David told his brother that he would fight Goliath, his brother mocked him...

- Told him to go home and tend his sheep
- **Maybe he was underestimating David...**

David convinced Saul to let him fight the giant...

- Saul didn't think he was equipped and tried to put his armor on David...

40 Then **he took his staff in his hand; and he chose for himself five smooth stones from the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag, in a pouch which he had, and his sling was in his hand.** And he drew near to the Philistine.

Nobody gave David much credit, nobody had confidence in him...
 Now here he is going into battle against a giant who has terrified all of Israel.

- **And he goes with a stick, 5 rocks, and a strap of leather**
- **But he went with the power of God!!**

41 So the Philistine came, and began drawing near to David, and the man who bore the shield went before him. 42 And when the Philistine looked about and saw David, he disdained him; for he was only a youth, ruddy and good-looking. 43 So the Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. 44 And the Philistine said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field!"

- Goliath looked at David and laughed at him
- Maybe he underestimated him...

45 Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. 46 This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. 47 Then all this assembly shall know that the Lord does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the Lord's, and He will give you into our hands."

David who had been overlooked and underestimated had just defeated the giant!!

- He was a hero!!
- I think he was the first Super Hero!!
- People couldn't get enough of him

Now, why am I telling you the story about David and Goliath again?
 How does this line up with what we've been talking about; Jesus design for the church?

Simply this:

- Don't be too quick to underestimate yourself
- Or underestimate others

Ephesians 3:20-21

20 Now to **Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us**, 21 to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

According to the power that works in us...

Acts 1:8

8 But you shall receive **power** when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Jesus designed His church to have power

- **He designed His church to exceed the expectation of the world!!**

Last week we talked about Peter and John, the healing of the lame man by the Temple gate...

When they were questioned about this, hear is the question they were asked...

Acts 4:5-7

5 And it came to pass, on the next day, that their rulers, elders, and scribes, 6 as well as Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and as many as were of the family of the high priest, were gathered together at Jerusalem. 7 And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, **“By what power or by what name have you done this?”**

We are supposed to operate in power!!

- **And**

Sure, we talk a good game...

- **But the old saying is “Talk is cheap”**

1 Corinthians 4:18-20

18 Now some are puffed up, as though I were not coming to you. 19 But I will come to you shortly, if the Lord wills, and I will know, **not the word of those who are puffed up, but the power.** 20 **For the kingdom of God is not in word but in power.**

2 Timothy 1:6-7

6 Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. 7 For **God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.**

2 Timothy 3:1-5

3 But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: 2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, 4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 **having a form of godliness but denying its power.** And from such people turn away!

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

2 And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. 2 For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. 3 I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. 4 And **my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,** 5 that **your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.**