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CHAPLAINCY  
SERVICES



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# SLAYING GIANTS

The truth is, we all face "Giants" in our lives—the almost seemingly insurmountable problems or issues that seem to grow over time. Just a few examples of these giants: fear, addiction, disease, injuries, stress, PTSD, marital and family problems—the list is endless. So how can we overcome, slay if you will, the giants in our lives? Whatever giants we may face, they can feel as though they are ruling our lives and are virtually unstoppable. Praise God He gives us the answers we need.

One of the greatest analogies for slaying giants is found in the story of David and Goliath of Gath (1 Samuel 17). There was Goliath, nine feet six inches tall, taunting the Israelite army—If Goliath wins the Israelites would serve the Philistines, but if his opponent wins, the Philistines would serve Israel—Yet no one, not even King Saul, had the courage to step out. As we know in the rest of the story: David took down the giant with a sling fired stone before beholding him with his own sword.

What we can learn from this

story about facing our own giants is that they can be defeated! Regardless of what giants you are dealing with, what problems you are facing, or what temptation you are struggling with, the giants in our lives can be slain. Remember that Goliath was not always a giant. He once was a helpless little baby.

Praise God that a huge part of what we see in David's victory over the giant is that the battle was, and is, God's, not ours. David told Goliath "All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the Lord saves; for the battle is the Lord's, and He will give all of you into our hands." 1 Samuel 17:47

A lot of times the reason our giants defeat us time and time again is that we try to face them on our own. We need God's strength to help face and slay the giants in our lives.

While David became proficient with a physical weapon through practice, training and practical use (just as we may with our weapons) there is a spiritual dynamic not to be

ignored. Spiritual battle requires Spiritual "weapons". Prayer is one such weapon. When a believer prays, God will provide him/her with His prospective. When we see God for who He is, we see our giants for what they are. Another "weapon" is fellowship with other believers—iron sharpening iron.

If you tolerate a giant, he can take over your territory much like crime will take over a neighborhood if left unchecked. That is why we do not run from our giants, we don't negotiate, we attack them and take them in to custody, one way or the other. David did not just hold his ground—he sprinted toward Goliath!

So what is your giant today? PTSD, alcohol, depression, so called "hidden" sin? Whatever it is, whatever problem or issue you are facing, force your giant into the light of day and take it out. Put on your armor. And please know we are always here to help.

Chaplain Mark Smith