Introduction: Fear is an incapacitating force. Fear can stop the strongest person in their tracts. In this series we will learn God’s will concerning fear; we will learn the difference between fear and faith; and at the end of the series I would like tell you what the host of the television show (Fear Factor) used to tell the winners, “Evidently, fear is not a factor for you.”

Definition of Fear: A distressing emotion aroused by impending danger, evil, pain, etc., whether the threat is real or imagined; an unpleasant and often strong emotion caused by anticipation of danger.

David and Goliath

1st Samuel 17:11 CEV) Saul and his men heard what Goliath said, but they were so frightened of Goliath that they couldn't do a thing.

- 1st Samuel 17 opens with the Philistines having gathered their forces to war against Israel. The Philistines occupied one hill and the Israelites another, with a valley between them. This was a standoff of major proportions.
- The Philistines had a champion in their camp named Goliath.
  - This man was a beast.
  - He was over nine feet tall, he wore 125 lbs. of bronze armor, a bronze helmet, bronze greaves around his legs, and he carried a bronze javelin on his back.
  - This was “Gladiator on Steroids!”
  - The head of the spear he carried by itself weighed 15 lbs.
  - His shield was so big that he had a shield bearer to carry it for him.
- (verses 8-10) Goliath stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, "Why do you come out and line up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not the servants of Saul? Choose a man and have him come down to me. If he is able to fight and kill me, we will become your subjects; but if I overcome him and kill him, you will become our subjects and serve us." Then the Philistine said, "This day I defy the ranks of Israel! Give me a man and let us fight each other."
- Our text says that Saul and his men were so afraid that they could not do ANYTHING!
- They were incapacitated by fear.
- Goliath brought an entire nation to a standstill with his look and his speech.
- (v.16) For forty days the Philistine came forward every morning and evening and took his stand.
  - They were stuck in place for 40 days.
  - The old adage, “Sticks and stones may break by bones, but words will never hurt me,” may have worked on the playground, but it does not work in real life.
  - The enemy’s bark is bigger than his bite.

Golden Nuggets:

1. We have a real enemy: He uses fear as a tool. If he can get us to fear, he can get us to stop acting like God’s representatives in the earth.
2. Our Enemy uses images: He will try to make the situation seem like worse that what it really is. If he can get you to SEE yourself defeated in your own mind, then you are already defeated. By doing this he can defeat you, before you ever get started.
3. **Our enemy uses words:** In many ways we daily fight a battle of words. Our enemy, like the giant he used in this chapter, is constantly seeking to strike fear in our hearts with negative words. Our job, as Born-Again believers, is to filter the words that we hear through God’s Spirit living on the inside of us. The Holy Spirit will confirm with us what words we should receive and repeat; and what words we should reject and dismiss. Words of fear can incapacitate, words of faith can empower. Which words will you receive today?

4. **God is bigger than any enemy:** Paul asked the question, “If God be for us, who can be against us?” (Rom 8:31). The answer is: anyone that wants to lose! Goliath, as big and bad as he thought he was, wound up dead and decapitated; and this is the fate of those that come up against God’s children. We must have more confidence in God than fear of our enemies.

**Some background on David:**

- David was the youngest of eight boys and his three oldest brothers were in Saul’s army.
- David was tending sheep while his brothers were being intimidated by Goliath.
- He had recently been anointed by Samuel to be the next king of Israel, but David knew that it was not going to happen overnight.
- So what did David do after being anointed?
  - He went right back to tending to his sheep.
  - He was faithful over his designated task until the Lord opened another door for him to step through. This is a lesson that we can all learn from.

David’s father Jesse prepared food for his three oldest sons and asked David to take the food to them and to check on them. David loaded up and set out early in the morning. He reached the camp as the army was going out to their battle positions. David left his things with the supply sergeant and ran to the battle-lines to greet his brothers. As he was talking with them, Goliath stepped out from his lines and shouted his usual insolence, but this time David heard it.

- Goliath had been speaking this fear-inspiring threats for 40 straight days, but this time someone on the Israelite side had the courage to do something about it.
- David heard what the giant said with different ears.
- He had just been anointed, so he was able to listen within a spiritual context.
- The men heard intimidating words against their army, but David heard insulting words against his nation and his God.
- David was able to perceive what was really going on. David looked around and saw grown men, men that were supposed to be soldiers, running from the giant and his words.

(1st Sam 17:26 NIV) David asked the men standing near him, "What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and removes this disgrace from Israel? Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?"

- They told him of the reward. The reward included:
  - The king’s daughter in marriage and Tax-exempt status for him and his entire family.
  - Can you see their problem? Their focus was on money; David’s focus was on God. Money makes a great servant, but a poor master.
  - Money was their motivator, but it could not motivate them past a seemingly insurmountable task.
  - Money could not help them overcome the incapacitating force of fear.
  - On the other hand, David’s motivator was God and God clearly enabled him to overcome any inkling of fear.
Let’s take a closer look at David’s response:

- David immediately identified that Goliath as uncircumcised; meaning that he was not in covenant with God.
- David then pointed out the fact that Goliath was defying not just Israel, but the armies of the living God!
- David was looking beyond the surface.
- Fear was the fruit, unbelief was the root.

Golden Nuggets:
5. Look at every situation through the lens of faith.
6. Listen to every situation through the filter of faith.
7. Learn to identify situations that are not of God (uncircumcised) and resist them.
8. Never allow money to be your “only” motivation.

(1st Sam 17:30 MSG) Ignoring his brother, he turned to someone else, asked the same question, and got the same answer as before.

- David asked the question and the soldiers gave him the answer.
- While David was talking with the soldiers his oldest brother (Eliab) overheard the conversation. Eliab immediately lost his temper.
- I believe Eliab was still mad about the fact that David was the one that was picked by the prophet Samuel and not him.
- His jealousy turned to anger and he bursted out with, “What are you doing here! Why aren't you minding your own business, tending that scrawny flock of sheep? I know what you're up to. You've come down here hoping to see a bloody battle!”
- That was really uncalled for.
- David could have allowed his big brother to scare him or he could have left in anger.
- Instead, he replied to his brother, “What is it with you? All I did was ask a question.”
- And then he went on to ignore his brother. David was not intimidated by his anger.
- ***Story of Bishop Eddie Long and Bishop T.D. Jakes.

Bishop Eddie Long told a story many years ago where he, Bishop T.D. Jakes and their wives were in a car. Long was driving, Jakes was next to him in the front, and their wives were in the back. Long began to vent to Jakes (his Spiritual Father) about all the things that people had been saying about him and how the media had cast a negative light on some of things he was doing. He expected Jakes to comfort and console him when Jakes simply looked at him and said, “You can wreck your car swinging at gnats!” Long was taken aback, because he expected something nicer from Jakes. However, Jakes did explain. He asked, “Are you driving this car?” “Yes,” replied Long. Jakes went on, “So imagine that some gnats flew in the vehicle and started flying around your head. What if you took your attention off of the road and started focusing on the gnats? What if you took your hands off of the wheel and started swinging at the gnats? You could kill everyone in this vehicle swinging at gnats that cannot hurt you. Don’t be afraid of gnats, just ignore them!” That's what David did, he ignored his brother and he moved forward. He did not allow his brother’s anger to stir up fear or any other negative emotion in his life.
A group of soldiers who had a direct line to the king heard David asking questions. They took it upon themselves to let the king know that someone was inquiring about the taking up the challenge to kill Goliath. After 40 straight days of taunting I am sure king Saul was desperate. He called for David. As soon as David got before the king the 17yr. old fearless believer said, “Your Majesty, this Philistine shouldn't turn us into cowards. I'll go out and fight him myself!” Can you picture that? Saul had an entire trained military force that was scared to death of Goliath and a 17yr. old shepherd boy was not afraid. Why? Because the Lord was with him. Saul looked at young David and said, “You don't have a chance against him, You're only a boy, and he's been a soldier all his life.” This is where David had a choice to make: either he was going to believe what Saul said or what he knew God could do. Many believers start out in faith, but when they hear something negative – like what David heard – they allow fear to creep in. David, however, was fearless!

(1st Sam 17:34-37 NIV) He replied to Saul, “Your servant has been keeping his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God.” The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.” Saul said to David, "Go, and the Lord be with you.” Do you see what David was doing? He was looking back to look forward. He reminded himself of the faithfulness of God. He allowed his past victories to be a platform from which to launch his future successes! He attributed the success to the Lord of his life. ***After hearing such testimony all Saul could say was, “Go, and the Lord be with you.”

Golden Nuggets:

9. **You have to overcome discouragement to overcome fear:** David had to ignore the discouragement of his brother and King Saul.

10. **Establish some altars in your life:** Whenever God did something mighty for the nation of Israel they established on altar. This altar served as a reminder of what God did. David had mental altars established that provided him the encouragement he needed for this fight.

11. **God want us to be fearless:** The entire army of Israel was afraid of this man. King Saul himself was terrified. But a little shepherd boy, anointed by God, did the seemingly impossible. What giant is torturing you this morning? If God gave you a stone, would you be ready to fight?

(1st Sam 17:39 KJV) And David girded his sword upon his armor, and he attempted to go; for he had not proved it. And David said unto Saul, I cannot go with these; for I have not proved them. And David put them off him.
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The Just (uncompromising righteous) Shall Live By His Faith! (Hab 2:4 AMP)

- Saul gave David the authorization to fight Goliath and he did the responsible thing by providing David with armor.
- Saul equipped David with the best possible body armor.
- The fate of their nation was on the line. David put on all the armor and he quickly realized that he was not ready to fight with it on. He had not trained with this equipment.
- In our text David said, “I have not proved them.”
- David knew that going into battle with unproven equipment was dangerous.
- Instead of the armor he took his shepherd’s staff, five smooth stones, and a slingshot.

If David had attempted to go into battle with unproven equipment the devil would have attacked his mind with thoughts of doubt, fear, and unbelief the entire way. David would have had to battle thoughts like, “You don’t know what you are doing,” “You have never used this stuff,” “You have never fought with a sword,” and so on. These thoughts can wear on anyone.

- David could not afford not to be confident.
- He needed complete confidence in God and his own abilities.
- He had not proven the armor and the sword, but he had plenty of experience with a slingshot and a stone.

12. **Go with what you know:** When you face a challenge with the personal experience of having succeeded in the past you have a confidence that will feed your faith and starve your fear.

13. **Don’t open the door to fear by making foolish decisions:** Your preparation will show up in your performance. When you make wise choices it is easy to combat fear, doubt, and unbelief.

**Closing Confession:** Father, I know I face a real enemy daily. I know he comes up against me with pictures, plots, plans, and words. But I also know You are a real God that can deal with real issues, real enemies, and real opposition in a real way! You are bigger than anything and anyone that can come up against me. My confidence in You is greater than the fear of anyone else.

David was anointed by the prophet Samuel. My encounter came directly through Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit enables me to hear and to see through spiritual means. I learn what to receive and what to reject. When I get the right things in my heart, I will speak the right things with my lips, and I will do the right things with my hands. I overcome discouragement and fear. I will not fear, I will not fail, I will not falter, and I am ready for any giant! In Jesus’ name.