

Unshakeable Confidence

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INTRODUCTION

If we are blatantly honest, the Coronavirus has negatively impacted all of us over the past two years – and we're longing for it to end. Pastor Ashwin's new series titled '*Unshakeable*', reminds us that we are God's people and belong to an unshakeable kingdom. Through this series we will unpack different aspects of the spiritual life that are 'unshakable'; today's sermon focuses on *Unshakeable Confidence*.

We all succumb to weakness/frailty, undergo trials and tribulations, and sometimes wrestle with our faith. However, when we focus on Jesus, trusting and obeying Him implicitly and practicing His teachings, we are always victorious. Through His Word, His shed blood, death and resurrection, we have a strong foundation on which to build our lives, and the confidence that no matter what trials we encounter – our roots are secure in God and we are safe with Him.

Here's an example of complete confidence in God, in an undeniably disproportionate situation, the mother of all battles – in which the underdog wins the contest. 1 Samuel 17 tells the story of David and Goliath. The crux of this story is about focusing on, and confidence in Almighty God. Goliath, a man of gigantic proportions, dressed in full battle armor, challenges the Israelites to send a 'representative of their nation', to fight one-on-one with him in order to decide which nation would rule. King Saul, Eliab (David's eldest brother) and the rest of the Israelites were terrified; cowering in fear, they could not see past Goliath's intimidating demeanor. David, the youngest of his brothers, a shepherd boy delivering lunch to his brothers was an unlikely candidate in this fight; but God knew David's heart. David saw Goliath as an unbeliever who was defying and insulting the living God Himself, and he absolutely refused to put up with this arrogance. He was confident in *God's* ability to win the battle. Placing his faith in God, David met Goliath with nothing but a slingshot and a stone; and he was victorious!

We never know what God is preparing for us, and there are no accidents in God's plans when He opens doors that lead to our destiny and victory. How big is your God? From His Word we know that He is omnipotent, omniscient and omnipresent – and He never changes. Spiritual battles are not overcome in accordance with the ways of the world. Our success hinges on our dependence on God, not ourselves. When we focus on our problems, they appear daunting and insurmountable; when we focus on God, our perspective changes and we are confident in His ability to save us. We should fight all our battles in the name and power of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

Have you placed your battles in God's hands? Jesus did not fight according to the ways of this world. Instead, He offered His life as an atonement for the sins of the whole world (1 John 2:2), and this atoning sacrifice destroyed the 'giant' of sin and death. Those of us who accept Him as our Lord and Savior, share in His victory. With the defeat of this greatest enemy, when God fights for us, we always win. Let's have 'unshakable confidence' in God!

IN - PURSUE RELATIONSHIP

1. What is the best “David and Goliath” moment that you can recall?
2. When was a time you observed someone who exhibited confidence in going headlong into something that you cannot imagine doing so if you were in their place?

UP - PURSUE GOD

Read 1 Samuel 17:4-11, 23-25, 32-50

3. What do you observe about Goliath’s and David’s armor, attitudes, and preparation for the battle? How did these influence their words and actions? In what did their confidence ultimately lie?
4. David was willing to fight Goliath when no other Israelite soldiers were, including his older brother Eliab and even king Saul. Why?

OUT - PURSUE MISSION

5. Pastor Matt Chandler reframes the David and Goliath story and points out that we are like the Israelites, Goliath is like sin and death, and Jesus is like David. How can this help us understand what Jesus accomplished for us?
6. How has your journey as a believer changed your level of confidence for the future? How can you encourage somebody this week to have unshakeable confidence in God despite their challenging circumstances?

For Personal Reflection/Prayer:

What challenges are you facing? What giants are intimidating you? Have you placed your battles in God’s hands or are you fighting it in your own strength? What would it look like to yield control over to God?

THE WORD (NIV)

1 Samuel 17:4-11, 32, 40-50

4 A champion named Goliath, who was from Gath, came out of the Philistine camp. His height was six cubits and a span. 5 He had a bronze helmet on his head and wore a coat of scale armor of bronze weighing five thousand shekels; 6 on his legs he wore bronze greaves, and a bronze javelin was slung on his back. 7 His spear shaft was like a weaver’s rod, and its iron point weighed six hundred shekels. His shield bearer went ahead of him. 8 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. 9 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.” 10 Then the Philistine said, “This day I defy the armies of Israel! Give me a man and let us fight each other.” 11 On hearing the Philistine’s words, Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified.

32 David said to Saul, “Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him.”

40 Then he took his staff in his hand, chose five smooth stones from the stream, put them in the pouch of his shepherd’s bag and, with his sling in his hand, approached the Philistine. 41 Meanwhile, the Philistine, with his shield bearer in front of him, kept coming closer to David. 42 He looked David over and saw that he was little more than a boy, glowing with health and handsome, and he despised him. 43 He said to David, “Am I a dog, that you come at me with sticks?” And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. 44 “Come here,” he said, “and I’ll give your flesh to the birds and the wild animals!”

45 David said to the Philistine, “You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. 46 This day the Lord will deliver you into my hands, and I’ll strike you down and cut off your head. This very day I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds and the wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. 47 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.” 48 As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him. 49 Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell facedown on the ground. 50 So David triumphed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone; without a sword in his hand he struck down the Philistine and killed him.