

Dec 10, 2023



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks
Baptist Church**
Grand Prairie, Texas

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

Trusting in God's character and power can help us to live more closely by faith rather than by sight

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

Show me what it means in my struggles to trust You and Your character, dear God. You are powerful and loving

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:

For we walk by faith, not by sight
(2 Cor 5:7 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", Feb 12, 2022)

Series: Faith that Pleases God

UNIT 1: Profiles in Faith

NEXT WEEK

The Family of Faith
(Matt 1:1-17)

The Faith of David **1 Sam 17:31-37, 45, 48-50**

Lesson Background and Introduction

The events of today's text occur sometime before 1010 BC, the year that Israel's kingship transitioned from Saul to David. Prior to the events of this lesson's text, the prophet Samuel had anointed David to be Saul's successor as king of Israel (1 Samuel 16:1-13). Having been rejected by the Lord, Saul's days as king were numbered (see 1 Samuel 15). Even so, Saul looked on David with favor and employed him in personal service (16:14-23), at least for a time. David entered the army encampment in 1 Samuel 17 as part of an episode of an Israelite war with the Philistines. David was a late arrival due to the fact that he had been left to tend sheep while his older brothers went off to war (1 Samuel 17:13-14). After several weeks, the war degenerated into something of a stalemate. But the Israelite army seemed ready to break due to low morale (17:11, 24). The reason was the relentless taunts of a Philistine named Goliath, who stood about 9'9" tall (17:4-10). As our text begins, David had heard the taunt (17:23) as well as the promise of reward for defeating Goliath (17:25-27). David had also just borne the criticism of his oldest brother for an apparent neglect of duty to attend to sheep left in David's care (17:28).

Faith and responsibility are key aspects of walking with God. Faith is our decision to follow the Lord, and responsibility is how we live out our faith on this earth. If we step out in confidence to bring the living God to others, we love as the Lord loves us. My own faith and responsibility shined bright when I was a life skills educator for teenage mothers. I worked with teen moms to prepare them for life, school, and work. The mothers were often judged for being pregnant, and many people did not see their potential. My role was not an easy one because of their lack of self-confidence and support. However, I brought my love of the Lord to work every day to show them that God's love for them was mine as well. Many times the love I demonstrated led to conversations about God's loving them. The young mothers opened up to me and appreciated my company, which I attributed to the presence of the living God in my life. What made the job harder was the fact that many teen moms were foster children or had been sent to us by the court system. They had experienced many childhood traumas; they didn't trust adults. But that was all the more reason to show them the love of God. That was my fundamental reason for coming to work every day. I wanted them to know whom I was following as I served as his hands and feet. And that is the key factor of the violent encounter of today's text: there was no doubt whom David served and whom Goliath served. Can the same be said of you?

(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Faith through Experience (1 Sam 17:31-37)

Experience that leads to boldness (31-32)

- Boldness because of the help of God (1 Thess 2:2)
- Boldness because God will be with us (Dan 3:16-18)
- Boldness because of hope (2 Cor 3:12)
- Boldness because God's grace works in us (1 Cor 15:10)
- Boldness because of being a servant of God (2 Cor 6:3-10)

Experience regardless of age (33)

- Age is no problem if living a godly example (1 Tim 4:12)
- Age should not hinder following Jesus (Matt 18:10)
- Age should not hinder because God appoints His followers (Jer 1:4-8)
- Age should not hinder if seeking God's wisdom and discernment (1 Kings 3:6-12)

Experience that brings confidence (34-37)

- Confidence because of having Jesus as our High Priest (Heb 4:15-16)
- Confidence because of being cleansed by God (Heb 10:22)
- Confidence by continuously being in Jesus (1 John 2:28)
- Confidence because believing in the Name of Jesus (1 John 5:13-15)

Faith In Action (1 Sam 17:45, 48-50)

Actions empowered by God (45)

- Empowerment through the power of the Holy Spirit (1 Thess 5:19-22)
- Empowerment through God's gifts (1 Peter 4:10)
- Empowerment through prophetic messages (1 Tim 4:14)
- Empowerment through God's power (1 Cor 2:3-5)
- Empowerment through God's grace (2 Cor 12:8-10)
- Empowerment through the full armor of God (Eph 6:10-11)

Actions without fear (48)

- Don't fear just pray for God's will to be done (Acts 21:13-14)
- Don't fear or worry but keep the faith (2 Tim 4:6-8)
- Don't fear just be faithful (Rev 2:10)
- Don't fear just trust God (John 14:1)

Actions that lead to victory (49-50)

- Victory through Jesus (1 Cor 15:57)
- Victory through overcoming of the world (1 John 5:4)
- Victory through deliverance (Prov 21:31)
- Victory through the love of Jesus (Rom 8:37-39)