



# FAITH matters

March 13, 2023

You know the story....some 3000 years ago in the land that is now Israel. Israelites with King Saul at war with the Philistines. Philistines on one ridge and Israelites on the other. The Bible says Philistine giant, Goliath, stood 6 cubits and a span in height, over 9 feet tall. A candidate for a basketball scholarship! His armor alone weighed over 100 pounds.

For 40 days Goliath walked down into the valley and bellowed at the Israelites, daring one of them to come out and fight him. Everyone in King Saul's army was terrified of him, everyone except David, the little shepherd boy. The Israelites compared themselves to Goliath and thought "How small I am." But David compared Goliath to God and thought "How puny he is."

Can you picture it? A teenage boy with fuzz on his cheeks strides into the valley to meet a giant as thousands look on. He is armed only with a slingshot and five smooth stones.

David said, "You come to me with a sword and a spear, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel whom you have defied. Today the Lord will conquer you, and I will strike you down." You know the rest. David takes one stone, loads it into the sling and hits Goliath right between the eyes. A deafening roar cascades through the valley as Goliath hits the dirt. All of Israel is cheering. This is a classic underdog story. It is no wonder that children love it and remember it forever. The child in all of us is thrilled by this conquest of the small over the great.

But there is more than just the story of a giant killing. The story gives us hope in facing our own giants. Whom do we have on our side in order to face our own giants? GOD! Whom do we have to be dependent upon? GOD! For we all face giants, don't we? What is the name of the giant you face? Aging? Illness? A personal habit that is destructive? Loneliness? Change? Everybody faces at least one giant.

What do you do when you come face to face with your giant? You use what you have. God has equipped us with all the things needed for life. And you invite God into the arena with you. God is far bigger than any problem we can have this year. As the Israelite warriors trusted in a young shepherd, we too may trust in Him who walks with us in the valleys of our lives. Name that giant! And watch it tumble!

~Written by Rev. Pam Pendexter



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