

Is There Not A Cause?

The giant's incredible size loomed over the valley as he hurled his insults toward the armies of Israel. He was a champion among the Philistine warriors, and everyone knew why: he was huge! Several feet taller than the average man, no one could hope to survive hand to hand combat with Goliath of Gath. No one, that is, except a youngster named David. Armed with faith in God, David displayed remarkable courage as he challenged and then defeated this giant of a man. His confrontation with Goliath is a truly remarkable display of faith, courage, conviction, impressing on us the victory God gives those who rely on Him (1 Samuel 17).

David's brothers scolded him when they heard of his proposal to fight Goliath. David's response was simple and persuasive: "Is there not a cause?" (1 Samuel 17:29). His declaration reminds us that even today there are many giants that defy the army of the living God. Causes still exist that move the faithful to action. We are in the Lord's army, and our faith equips us to fight His foes (Ephesians 6:10-18). When the enemy seems much too large for us to defeat, our faith must cling to the power and truth of God. God assures victory to His people who trust and obey Jesus Christ (Revelation 11:15; 17:14).

The enemy of false doctrine must be battled. Contending for the faith is not fashionable to many these days (Jude 3-4). When a soldier of the cross engages in a battle of faith with a false teacher over his false doctrine, the advocate of error often gets more sympathy, respect and encouragement than the one standing for the truth. Nevertheless, wherever error tries to infiltrate the church and hold men captive, a cause exists that compels the faithful to action (Galatians 2:4-5). Do you join the brothers of David in faithlessly rebuking faithful conflict against error? Or, in the day of battle, do you join the fray and hold up the hands of those fighting the good fight of faith?

The enemy of worldliness is a formidable giant which we must engage in battle. The world defies the armies of the living God every day. Living amidst the enticements of the world induces some Christians to retreat from the high and holy ground they have gained with Christ as their Captain (Hebrews 12:1-2). Soldiers of Christ can be intimidated into silence and inaction by this giant enemy of faith. Others succumb to the power of worldliness (1 Peter 2:11-12; 2 Peter 2:18-22; Romans 13:12-14; Galatians 5:19-21). Like David, we must stand our ground by living holy lives, trusting in God to deliver us from the enemy's assaults (1 Corinthians 10:13).

The enemy of complacency is an insidious giant. Infecting Christians with a lethargic approach to godliness, complacency is an intimidating opponent. Complacency leads to neglect, procrastination, toleration, and compromise with sin. Complacency prevents the lost from being Christians. It causes the strong to grow weak and the weak to grow weaker. However, through faith, this giant can also be slain (Romans 12:11).

David knew the urgency of stopping the mouth of Goliath. Like David, we must assess the causes for which we fight to be sure we are on the Lord's side (Matthew 12:30).

Then, as soldiers of Christ, let us engage the enemy. With faith in God and His power to deliver us from the foe, let us “fight the good fight of faith” (1 Timothy 6:12; cp. 2 Corinthians 10:3-5; Ephesians 6:10-13).

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