

Serve God's Purpose Part 3

Accept God's Challenge

“6 Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child. 7 But the LORD said unto me, Say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak. 8 Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the LORD.” (Jeremiah 1:6-8 KJV)

The prophet Jeremiah attended God's call and accepted God's challenge. David, also in his young age, accepted God's challenge. David faced the challenge that King Saul and all Israel were facing. He saw the giant enemy, but he accepted the challenge because he knew that the battle is the Lord's.

“1 Now the Philistines gathered together their armies to battle, and were gathered together at Shochoh, which belongeth to Judah, and pitched between Shochoh and Azekah, in Ephesdammim. 2 And Saul and the men of Israel were gathered together, and pitched by the valley of Elah, and set the battle in array against the Philistines. 3 And the Philistines stood on a mountain on the one side, and Israel stood on a mountain on the other side: and there was a valley between them. 4 And there went out a champion out of the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span. 5 And he had an helmet of brass upon his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail; and the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of brass. 6 And he had greaves of brass upon his legs, and a target of brass between his shoulders. 7 And the staff of his spear was like a weaver's beam; and his spear's head weighed six hundred shekels of iron: and one bearing a shield went before him. 8 And he stood and cried unto the armies of Israel, and said unto them, Why are ye come out to set your battle in array? am not I a Philistine, and ye servants to Saul? choose you a man for you, and let him come down to me. 9 If he be able to fight with me, and to kill me, then will we be your servants: but if I prevail against him, and kill him, then shall ye be our servants, and serve us. 10 And the Philistine said, I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together. 11 When Saul and all Israel heard those words of the Philistine, they were dismayed, and greatly afraid.” (1 Samuel 17:1-11 KJV) Goliath was a huge man in size and with complete and strong armor. He was armed with powerful weapons and he challenged the Israelites that the battle can be settled with only a single fight; the one who wins will subdue the opposite army.

Goliath was overconfident for his victory because he trusted in the arm of flesh that he had – the huge size of his body, the strength of his armor and the might of his weapons. The Israelites were dismayed and terrified because they saw all the factors that Goliath had. * Similarly, in some occasions you are baffled with certain challenges that God allows you to pass through before reaching the next position which He prepared for you to be. In order to be there then you need to pass such hurdles and obstacles. * Do not look on your limitations and do not look on what you do not have, but look unto God and His power and what He can do for you as He called you to serve Him. God may use the weak and the base in the world in order to frustrate the wise and the powerful, the same as in preaching Christ to the lost: *“18 For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. 19 For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. 20 Where is the wise? where is the*

scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? 21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. 22 For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: 23 But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; 24 But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God. 25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men 26 For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: 27 But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; 28 And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: 29 That no flesh should glory in his presence. 30 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: 31 That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.” (1 Corinthians 1:18-31 KJV) In serving God's purpose we might face lot of obstacles and big problems but that does not mean it need wise, big, much or sophisticated resources to overcome, neither it means we are unfit to overcome. Because such problems can be solved with simple, weak, foolish and based resources. Therefore let us have faith and put our eyes on God that He will make all those simple resources available to our use so we can overcome.

In the midst of a very hard situation, God moved to bring David into the scene to accomplish God's purpose in his generation: *“ 12 Now David was the son of that Ephrathite of Bethlehemjudah, whose name was Jesse; and he had eight sons: and the man went among men for an old man in the days of Saul. 13 And the three eldest sons of Jesse went and followed Saul to the battle: and the names of his three sons that went to the battle were Eliab the firstborn, and next unto him Abinadab, and the third Shammah. 14 And David was the youngest: and the three eldest followed Saul. 15 But David went and returned from Saul to feed his father's sheep at Bethlehem. 16 And the Philistine drew near morning and evening, and presented himself forty days. 17 And Jesse said unto David his son, Take now for thy brethren an ephah of this parched corn, and these ten loaves, and run to the camp of thy brethren; 18 And carry these ten cheeses unto the captain of their thousand, and look how thy brethren fare, and take their pledge. 19 Now Saul, and they, and all the men of Israel, were in the valley of Elah, fighting with the Philistines. 20 And David rose up early in the morning, and left the sheep with a keeper, and took, and went, as Jesse had commanded him; and he came to the trench, as the host was going forth to the fight, and shouted for the battle. 21 For Israel and the Philistines had put the battle in array, army against army. 22 And David left his carriage in the hand of the keeper of the carriage, and ran into the army, and came and saluted his brethren. 23 And as he talked with them, behold, there came up the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, out of the armies of the Philistines, and spake according to the same words: and David heard them. 24 And all the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him, and were sore afraid. 25 And the men of Israel said, Have ye seen this man that is come up? surely to defy Israel is he come up: and it shall be, that the man who killeth him, the king will enrich him with great riches, and will give him his daughter, and make his father's house free in Israel.” (1 Samuel 17:12-25 KJV)* In the midst of your struggles God may bring people to you and put them beside you in order to help you to overcome. Therefore you need to be sensitive and discerning to such movement of God so you will be able to overcome.

David was sent by his father Jesse to bring food and to see the situation of his brothers in the camp, but he later saw a greater need of his service. **Like David, when the Lord calls you to serve Him you don't at once see the need for your service. But if you are willing and you obey without complaining, God will bring you where He wants you to be to accomplish certain purpose and achievement in life.**

“26 And David spake to the men that stood by him, saying, What shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine, and taketh away the reproach from Israel? for who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God? 27 And the people answered him after this manner, saying, So shall it be done to the man that killeth him. 28 And Eliab his eldest brother heard when he spake unto the men; and Eliab's anger was kindled against David, and he said, Why camest thou down hither? and with whom hast thou left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know thy pride, and the naughtiness of thine heart; for thou art come down that thou mightest see the battle. 29 And David said, What have I now done? Is there not a cause? 30 And he turned from him toward another, and spake after the same manner: and the people answered him again after the former manner. 31 And when the words were heard which David spake, they rehearsed them before Saul: and he sent for him.” (1 Samuel 17:26-31 KJV)

God made a way that David would be meeting King Saul for that particular issue. *“32 And David said to Saul, Let no man's heart fail because of him; thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine. 33 And Saul said to David, Thou art not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him: for thou art but a youth, and he a man of war from his youth. 34 And David said unto Saul, Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock: 35 And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him. 36 Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God. 37 David said moreover, The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said unto David, Go, and the LORD be with thee.” (1 Samuel 17:32-37 KJV)*

After a discussion, King Saul allowed David to go out and fight the giant. *“38 And Saul armed David with his armour, and he put an helmet of brass upon his head; also he armed him with a coat of mail. 39 And David girded his sword upon his armour, and he assayed 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. 40 And he took his staff in his hand, and chose him five smooth stones out of the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag which he had, even in a scrip; and his sling was in his hand: and he drew near to the Philistine.” (1 Samuel 17:38-40 KJV)*

But David refused to go along the traditional weapons and armor that people trust on. Instead, he took with him his staff and his sling with five smooth stones – things which he knew how to use with skill. **In the same way you cannot overcome your problem and the struggle that you are passing through using the old cultural and traditional things that contradict the Word of God. You need to renounce such so you can see the new resources that God had made available for you to overcome.**

“41 And the Philistine came on and drew near unto David; and the man that bare the shield went before him. 42 And when the Philistine looked about, and saw David, he disdained him: for he was but a youth, and ruddy, and of a fair countenance. 43 And the Philistine said unto David, Am I a dog, that thou comest to me with staves? And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. 44 And the Philistine said to David, Come to me, and I will give thy flesh unto the fowls of the air, and to the beasts of the field. 45 Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied. 46 This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. 47 And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the LORD's, and he will give you into our hands. 48 And it came to pass, when the Philistine arose, and came, and drew nigh to meet David, that David hastened, and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine. 49 And David put his hand in his bag, and took thence a stone, and slang it, and smote the Philistine in his forehead, that the stone sunk into his forehead; and he fell upon his face to the earth. 50 So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and smote the Philistine, and slew him; but there was no sword in the hand of David. 51 Therefore David ran, and stood upon the Philistine, and took his sword, and drew it out of the sheath thereof, and slew him, and cut off his head therewith. And when the Philistines saw their champion was dead, they fled.” (1 Samuel 17:41-51 KJV) David was able to win the battle and brought victory for Israel because he was willing to accept the challenge that God allowed to come across his life.

Like David, be a man or woman of courage and accept whatever God is offering to you and is leading you to do. He is with you while you are willing to take the step by step moving forward. And God has His own pace of time when He will lift you up like David.

Moreover, David's right attitude towards the challenge as follows contributed to his victory over Goliath, the giant Philistine:

A. His full trust in God: David trusted in God that He enabled him to win the battle. He did not need sword and spear made by man but he attacked in the name of the Lord Almighty. David said, *“47 And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the LORD's, and he will give you into our hands.” (1 Samuel 17:47 KJV)* Also in his Psalm he said, *“7 Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God. 8 They are brought down and fallen: but we are risen, and stand upright.” (Psalm 20:7-8 KJV).* **Trusting in man's power will lead only to a defeat, but fully trusting in God will lead you to the victory over all challenges, problems, and troubles in life.**

B. He used His skills and experiences that he had while being a shepherd: David dealt with Goliath as he was dealing with the bear or lion that attacked his sheep. He used what he had and the things that he was skilled with. **To achieve God's purpose, God will lead you to use the things that you are skilled and well-experienced with. God needs all your previous**

experiences and skills in tackling obstacles in the ministry. Thus the Lord also trains you to master hurdles so that you soon will be more effective in serving Him.

C. He was motivated with the reward that he would receive: Apparently David was motivated to go and fight because of the reward that King Saul assigned to any person who would go, stand firm, fight and defeat the enemy. **Are you motivated with the reward that is kept for you?** Jesus said, **“12 And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.” (Revelation 22:12 KJV) “58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.” (1 Corinthians 15:58 KJV)** Above all be motivated with God’s promise of eternal life, **“4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,” (1 Peter 1:4 KJV)**

My Dear and Beloved: God had called you to serve His good will and purpose, and you need to go through the challenges that He had allowed to come into your life. God will not let you to be alone. He is with you and will give you the victory over your enemies. God will bring the right people who are willing to help you in your struggles. God wants you to use all the skills that you know and apply them into these challenges and you will succeed with His help and support. God wants you to fully trust Him and rely on Him in your life and for the challenges that are ahead of you, **“6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: 7 Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.” (1 Peter 5:6-7 KJV)**

Let us pray ...

My Prayer: Father God in Heaven, I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord, thank you for all the challenges that you placed ahead of me when you called me to serve you. Lord thank you for your Word and good promises, and thank you for the good plan that you have for me.

Confess and renounce now all your sins. Confess and renounce your fears, doubts, worries and lack of faith. Confess and renounce your delay obedience and stubbornness. Renounce your pride and your non willingness to humble down before God and accept the new challenges that He placed before you, and your reluctant to respond to the calling of God in your life and what He wants you to do for Him. Confess and renounce your trust on people, on money and on the material things in this world. Confess and renounce doing your own will and not the will of God. Confess all your idols and the wrong traditional practices that you are still observing in your life. Confess and renounce your worldliness and your love for material things. Confess and renounce your bondage and yoke with non believers and friends, and your indulgence to the social Media, News and games. Confess your lack of reading of God’s Word and your lack of prayers. Lord forgive me, I repent of the following sins

Lord God, thank you for your message to me. Lord, I accept the challenges that you placed ahead of me when you called me to serve you. I pray that you build up my faith more in you and in your Word. Lord, equip me so I can go forward and achieve your will and your purpose in my life. Lord open my eyes and give me discernment to see the people whom you

sent to help me in doing my ministry and the right resource that you placed before me to use in order to overcome my struggles.

Lord help me to overcome this struggle in my life _____.
This is my prayer in Jesus’ name, Amen.

Lord thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who repented of their sins and committed their lives to go and serve you. Lord increase their faith in you and help them to overcome the struggles that they are facing in their lives. Lord protect them from the evil ones, sustain them and provide all their needs so they will continue to serve you.

Lord, we commit ourselves as your church to go on in the mission work that you entrusted to us. Lord increase our faith. Lord help us to overcome the following struggles that we are facing in our service and ministry _____.
Devil we come against you in the name of Jesus and we cast you away and out; you have no right to disturb any ministry and any worker in the church. Lord we commit ourselves to go forward reaching new people and places with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Lord continue to lead us with your Holy Spirit to do the things that you wants us to do. Lord refill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the spiritual gifts that we need to go and evangelize, and make new disciples and train new workers to go and plant more Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, ‘Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God.’ Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

Serve God’s Purpose Part 3. Accept God’s Challenge. Jeremiah 1:6-8. 1 Samuel 17:1-51. 1 Corinthians 1:18-31. Psalm 20:7-8. Revelation 22:12. 1 Corinthians 15:58. 1 Peter 1:4. 1 Peter 5:6-7

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