

Sunday 9AM & 11:15AM Notes 10/27/2019 – Jeff Lyle

“Why We Want the Word” Psalm 19: 7-14 | 9AM

Smith Wigglesworth prophesied in 1947 that the greatest revival would occur in the midst of that generation who intentionally married the Spirit of God and the Word of God in both identity, theology and ministry. We are living in the midst of such a generation of Christians and churches. Those who have historically cherished the written word of God, the Bible, are being awakened to the need and offer of the power of the Holy Spirit that has always been available but was historically ignored by them. Denominations who once shunned the supernatural work of God the Spirit are now being gloriously entrusted with His presence and power. For those Christians and denominations who have historically been given to the signs, wonders and gifts of the Holy Spirit, there must be an accompanying return to the prioritizing of the written Word. Man does not live by signs and wonders alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God. This message takes a penetrating look at what God’s written word contains, how it is described and what it accomplishes. Those who pursue the Spirit independently of the Word will eventually fall into error. The bible itself tells us of the immense value of God’s Word. We all need a baptism back into the fullness of the written Word of God as our soul’s anchor.

I. What God’s Word Contains

When David was writing Psalm 19, there was no New Testament. The Gospels, the Book of acts, the letters from the Apostles and the Book of Revelation had not yet been breathed out by God. Psalm 19 repeatedly references the Hebrew Bible, what modern Christians refer to as the Old Testament. While the New Testament had not yet been penned down, all that David writes of the Hebrew Bible applies to the Christian’s copy of the Scriptures in both Old and New Testaments. David uses five different Hebrew words which all refer to the revelation of God given to ancient Israel. From these five Hebrew words, we learn important, sometimes overlapping, characteristics of our bibles today.

Here are those words and the descriptions of what is being communicated through them:

- Law – torah; the collected body of God’s Law; often referring to the Pentateuch (Genesis-Deuteronomy)
- Testimony - refers to God’s written revelation of who He is and what He requires; often referring to the Ten Commandments
- Precepts - the finer points of God’s Law which release instructions, orders and commands to be followed

Sunday 9AM & 11:15AM Notes 10/27/2019 – Jeff Lyle

- Commandment - the authoritative words of God spoken by Him to His followers; these are typically spoken words from Him
- Rules - the execution of a verdict, the final determination of what is right and wrong, the enacting of a judicial decision

II. How God's Word Is Described

God inspired David to record in writing some essential descriptions of His written Word. What must we know about the bible so that we may live with confidence in it? What is it that God wants His children to be certain of concerning the most important book ever entrusted to humanity? David reveals that the bible is:

A. Perfect (7a) – “The law of the Lord is perfect...”

This word translated as **perfect** indicates that God's written Word is to be regarded as existing without blemish, complete, full, perfect, sincere, sound, without spot, undefiled, upright, whole. There is nothing in it that will harm us.

B. Sure (7b) - “...the testimony of the Lord is sure...”

Here we are taught that the bible is permanently fixed. It has been and will continue to be proven as being firm and faithful in all it communicates to us. We can build our lives upon it because God is faithful to what He says; the word here translated as **sure** indicates that we must regard the Word as being trustworthy and reliable, able to support the weight of anything that rests upon it.

C. Right (8a) - “...the precepts of the Lord are right...”

Now we are told that the scriptures are perfect in leading us along the pathway of life. When David used the word **right**, the original Hebrew meaning is that the teachings of scripture are straight, level and smooth. We can walk in them without fear of stumbling. The Bible is absolutely correct in its message. Its nature is upright, perfectly conformed to the character of the God who authored it.

D. Pure (8b) – “...the commandment of the Lord is pure...”

When God says something, and when it is recorded in the written Word, all that He communicates is clean, bright, and clear. His revelation and instructions are 100% pure - like filtered water. When we take the word into

Sunday 9AM & 11:15AM Notes **10/27/2019 – Jeff Lyle**

our heart, mind and spirit, we are drinking in the purest wisdom that can be offered to us. Everything from human reasoning, academic philosophy, Western politics or Eastern religion is polluted. God's Word is the exact opposite. His truth is both pure and purifying.

E. True & Righteous (9) – “...the rules of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether...”

David then writes that the scriptures are both true and righteous. These Hebrew words overlap with one another and are only different by degrees. The original Hebrew meaning is that God's written Word, our Bible, is fully dependable, perpetually stable and declared legally right by God Himself. The Word of God remains faithful, enduring, constant, and will ultimately be vindicated. The Bible is the standard by which all else is judged as either right or wrong. Scripture is the final authority.

F. Valuable (10a) - “More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold...”

Now we have the value of the Bible exalted in front of us. David, who certainly knew what it meant to be wealthy, declares that God's written Word is to be the single most treasured object in our lives. Money is the natural idol of every age. David declares that the value of the written Word of God far surpasses the finest gold that humans can find. Scripture holds deep pleasure for those who take it in. The written Word of God is to be our most beloved possession because it holds treasure that never diminishes in value and we can never fully spend in its entirety.

G. Delightful (10b) - “...sweeter also than honey and drippings from the honeycomb...”

Far from being some clinical, mysterious and impossible-to-understand religious book, the Bible brings deep pleasure as we read it, learn it, memorize it, and speak it. God is the purest pleasure anyone might experience. Because His written Word is symmetrical with His nature, then it also results in pleasure within the deepest part of us. Like honey, the Word drips from the heart of God down into our hearts, bringing a sweetness of the kingdom to everything it touches.

Sunday 9AM & 11:15AM Notes

10/27/2019 – Jeff Lyle

III. What God's Word Accomplishes

A. It changes us (7a) - "...reviving the soul..."

God's Word has transformational power within it. It is a living book that is so precise that it can even split the hairs of distinction between the human soul and the human spirit. Part of that power is communicated here as being able to revive the soul. This is a picture of a dead thing being brought back to life. It can also picture a lost thing being found, or a wounded thing being healed. The original Hebrew description pictures a movement back to a previous point of departure; in other words, Scripture will locate you when you are lost and lead you back to where you are meant to be. This is a beautiful picture of what it means to revive the soul of the one who trusts in the written Word.

B. It imparts wisdom to us (7b, 8b) - "...making wise the simple {foolish or silly}...enlightening the eyes..."

We have no capacity to know God and understand His ways apart from the written Word. The Bible is not for the scholar, the professional clergy or the deepest philosopher. The Bible is such a potent force in the kingdom that, for anyone who will prioritize it and prayerfully study it, wisdom will enter into their souls. Simply folks become Kingdom-wise people. What once confused them and left them in the darkness of deception or doubt will be chased away through the brilliant light of God's awakening revelation. For anyone who pursues the truth of the Word, there will be repeated occasions of the spiritual lightbulb turning on inside of their understanding of God and His Kingdom.

C. It encourages us (8a) - "...rejoicing {to brighten up or cheer up} the heart..."

God the Spirit is called by Jesus "the Comforter" or, in some translations, "the Counselor." Is it any wonder then that the written Word which Holy Spirit inspired has the power to restore joy to our hearts? The Bible is a book of great comfort, peace, hope and joy once we anchor ourselves within its words. David says that the Scripture can brighten the heart or cheer it up. Those who go consistently to God's written Word will find that depression and gloom do not find easy access to their hearts anymore. The Bible encourages us as we read it and believe it.

D. It washes us (9a) - "The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever..."

While the phrase "fear of the LORD" is not referring directly to the written Word, it is clearly a result within the person who commits himself or herself to the Bible. Deep reverence, holy awe and appropriate trembling of the soul

Sunday 9AM & 11:15AM Notes 10/27/2019 – Jeff Lyle

will all characterize us when we encounter God through the Word. Because the Author of the Word is holy, we will become holy too as we conform our lives to what is written in Scripture. That fear of the Lord that gets into us via the Word will result in our lives becoming purified. Our understanding and our behaviors will become clean. This process is constant in our lives as we continue to allow our hearts and minds to be conditioned by the truth of God's written Word. Paul spoke of this reality centuries after David when he wrote,

“...that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 so that He might present the church to Himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.” - Ephesians 5:26-27

E. It protects us (11a) - “Moreover, by them is Your servant warned {admonished, taught, polished to a shine} ...”

The Bible protects us from danger by constantly illuminating us to a reality that includes temptations from the culture, impulses of our own flesh and strategic attacks from Satan and his demons. The Word of God warns us over and over about the dangers that come actively against our lives. God's written Word often forewarns us about decisions that we will inevitably need to make in life. We are warned of potential negative outcomes that will find us if we live independently from God's truth. The Hebrew word translated **warned** indicates a teaching that admonishes us to proper courses of action. If we align with the written Word, there will be a spiritual shine that appears on our lives. We will be more greatly reflecting God's glory when we heed the warnings in God's Word.

F. It profits us (11b) - “...and in keeping them is great reward.”

For any and all who believe the Bible to be boring, out of touch or functionally irrelevant in modern times, they should think again. God's Word promises **great reward** to those who know it, believe it and align with it. There is pleasure, power, wisdom, encounter and great treasure for people of the Word. The reason for this is because, as we align with God's written Word, we position ourselves alongside of God. It magnetizes us for blessing from the Father. He declares that He will fulfil His word, bless His word, vindicate His word and never allow His word to return to Him empty. When we obey the teaching of Scripture, our lives experience reward here on earth while also storing up reward for ourselves in Heaven. For those who ignore God's written Word or refuse to align with it, there will be no reward from Him. Believing and obeying the Bible profits us both presently and in the age to come.

Sunday 9AM & 11:15AM Notes 10/27/2019 – Jeff Lyle

G. It tells the truth about us (12) - “Who can discern his errors? Declare me innocent from hidden faults.”

Humbly, David acknowledges something for himself and on your and my behalf also. We cannot fully discern all of our own failures, struggles, weaknesses and sins. So deep has depravity marked human beings that we do not even have the ability to fully comprehend the offensive things that are still in our lives. We have **hidden faults**. This is not speaking of intentionally secret sins. David is referencing the sinful parts of his heart and life of which he is completely ignorant. The written Word of God will reveal these places to each of us as we study it over the course of our lives. The Bible will always tell us the truth about us. When the Word exposes something in our lives as being sinful, we are able to move out of our ignorance about that particular thing and confess it to God. When we do so, we are cleansed and freed from that formerly hidden fault. How can we discern our sins apart from God’s revelation?

H. It restrains us (13a) - “Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me!”

Going deeper, David now acknowledges the instinct of the flesh to intentionally act in opposition to the Spirit. The Word of God has the power to so transform our minds that we are more greatly empowered to refuse the temptation to willfully sin against God. The written Word, when it is active inside of the believer, prevents any and all sin from becoming our master. Apart from the activity of the Spirit as He uses God’s written Word, we will find ourselves regularly stumbling in areas of repeated sin. Our minds will rationalize our sinful actions. We might even excuse our sins from being as bad as they are. Other sources of information will then seek to define for us what is right and what is wrong. A steady diet of God’s holy Word will prevent that kind of deception from taking hold of our lives. We will be kept back from presumptuous sins by the power of the written Word. Yes, we must be restrained by the Bible.

I. It emboldens us (13b) – “Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.”

David credits, in part, God’s Word as what keeps him blameless in the eyes of God. There is no cause for accusation and indictment for those who obey the voice of God as revealed in His written Word. As one lives daily in **blameless** conduct, one then is perpetually steered clear of being guilty of any **great transgression**. We find ourselves emboldened to declare that we are blameless and **innocent** in the sight of God and man. This is NOT arrogance or religious pride. This is a holy confidence that all believers can receive. We can (and should!) know that we are walking in blamelessness

Sunday 9AM & 11:15AM Notes 10/27/2019 – Jeff Lyle

with the Almighty as we continue to say YES to all that He has written in our Bibles.

J. It dignifies us (14) - “Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.”

In the end, the plea of the Spirit-filled believer is that his or her own words would bring as much pleasure to God as His word brings pleasure to us. David knew that whatever was in his heart would eventually come out of his mouth. Therefore, he wanted his heart to meditate only upon those things which pleased the Lord. If the contents of David's heart were good, right and holy, the words that came out of his mouth would have the same God-pleasing quality. David knew that there were potentially some things upon which his heart might meditate that were completely unacceptable to God. He wanted to always avoid those things. David meditated on God's written Word so that he would always know that he was walking in alignment with his Rock and his Redeemer. This is the heart-cry for everyone who belongs to God. We are most definitely people **of the Spirit, but that will always be proven true by us also remaining people of the written Word.**

11:15 Notes Below

Sunday 9AM & 11:15AM Notes 10/27/2019 – Jeff Lyle

“No More Hand-Me-Down Armor”

1 Samuel 17:32-54 | 11:15 AM

There are unforeseen moments in life that will define our entire storyline. Many times, we did not see them coming when we awoke on the day that they occurred. God’s providence sets up encounters, events and opportunities that will mark us forever. How we respond to those moments is crucial. Most of the time, how we respond is determined by everything we have believed, envisioned, and committed ourselves to prior to that moment arriving. David was about to face the giant in the valley. If he was going to emerge victorious, there were several obstacles he would need to overcome. David needed to be covered in the armor of God, trusting that the Lord was going to bring him a humanly impossible breakthrough. A different type of armor was offered to him. If David trusted in human resources for the victory, his moment could implode. If he would wear the armor that God provided, the giant would fall. This message walks us through a familiar story from an uncommon point of view. The armor we wear in our defining moments will likely determine the storyline of our life.

I. David Wears the Breastplate of Righteousness (31-40)

A. David’s righteous commitment (31-33) - “When the words that David spoke were heard, they repeated them before Saul, and he sent for him. 32 And David said to Saul, “Let no man's heart fail because of him. Your servant will go and fight with this Philistine.” 33 And Saul said to David, “You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him, for you are but a youth, and he has been a man of war from his youth.”

While King Saul and his soldiers stood immobilized in the fear of Goliath, word got around that David was willing to meet the giant for battle in the valley. Boldly, when David was invited to speak to Saul, he proclaimed perfect confidence that he could slay the Philistine warrior. Saul immediately spoke doubt over David’s confidence in God. Saul began to point out all that was lacking in David: age, ability, and David’s lack of experience were all pointed out by the king. It is not uncommon for someone with pure-hearted faith in God to be confronted by someone with lesser

Sunday 9AM & 11:15AM Notes

10/27/2019 – Jeff Lyle

faith (or zero faith) about why their vision will not come to pass. It is essential that those who are expressing deep confidence in God's ability to bring victory do not allow themselves to be talked down into doubt by others. What great temptation comes our way when someone we admire speaks doom over our vision or commitments. David heard the words but, as we see next, did not receive the message.

B. David's righteous convictions (34-37a) - "But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep sheep for his father. And when there came a lion, or a bear, and took a lamb from the flock, 35 I went after him and struck him and delivered it out of his mouth. And if he arose against me, I caught him by his beard and struck him and killed him. 36 Your servant has struck down both lions and bears, and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, for he has defied the armies of the living God." 37 And David said, "The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine."

Rather than leaving defeated and sad at what Saul had spoken over David, he simply rehearses before the faithless king the testimony of his past experiences with God. Citing victories that God had provided in battling lions and bears, David had learned that God would provide whatever was needed to accomplish His will. If God gave victory to a teenage boy against a lion and a bear, why would David wonder that Goliath would be any different? David's righteous convictions were that God would use David to defend His own name which Goliath was dishonoring. David had the conviction that the blessing of God would rest upon the armies of Israel if they would simply respond to the challenge for His glory. David told the fearful King Saul that, if Saul would let David represent Israel in the fight, the Philistine giant would die that very day and David would not become a casualty of war. Saul's inner convictions were about fear and defeat. David's convictions centered in honoring God and believing him for powerful victory. David's heart was protected by the breastplate of righteous conviction, therefore he was immune from the fear of the giant in the valley.

C. David's righteous dependence (37b-40) - "And Saul said to David, "Go, and the Lord be with you!" Then Saul clothed David with his armor. He put a helmet of bronze on his head and clothed him with a coat of mail, 39 and David strapped his sword over his armor. And he tried in vain to go, for he had not tested them. Then David said to Saul, "I cannot go with these, for I

Sunday 9AM & 11:15AM Notes

10/27/2019 – Jeff Lyle

have not tested them.” So David put them off. 40 Then he took his staff in his hand and chose five smooth stones from the brook and put them in his shepherd's pouch. His sling was in his hand, and he approached the Philistine.”

Saul must have stood there in stunned silence for a moment. Here was this young lad who had more courage than he did as the king of Israel. David had not breathed in the atmosphere of doubt and fear that the rest of the soldiers had been spiritually poisoned with. He was the only one willing to take on Goliath, so Saul reluctantly said yes. The next thing we witness is the attempt of the faithless king to saddle David with all of Saul's own armor. Humbly, David allowed himself to be fitted with the normal battle gear. When he attempted to head out to the valley in all of Saul's armor, he immediately recognized that there was no room left for the anointing of God! David was so covered up in the ways of man that he felt inwardly that he would be ill-equipped for the massive challenge awaiting him. He turns back to Saul and declares to the king that this is not the way he wanted to fight for the glory of God. These were not the weapons of warfare that God had blessed in David's past, so he refused to head out to the fight wearing something that would dilute his righteous dependence upon God. David took off the armor in the presence of the silent king of Israel. Now free of Saul's armor, David heads down to the valley with no human equipment to lean on. He stoops at the brook and draws out five stones as his only ammunition. He has his slingshot ready as he moves toward the giant in the valley. David said no to what everyone else would have said yes to. David intentionally made his approach to the battle designed to give God all the glory when the breakthrough came. Saul's name would not be attached to it because David refused everything the unbelieving king offered. The battle would belong to the Lord upon whom David was depending.

II. David Raises the Shield of Faith (41-47)

“In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one.” - Ephesians 6:16

Sunday 9AM & 11:15AM Notes

10/27/2019 – Jeff Lyle

A. The enemy always has something to say (41-44) - “And the Philistine moved forward and came near to David, with his shield-bearer in front of him. 42 And when the Philistine looked and saw David, he despised him, for he was but a youth, ruddy and handsome in appearance. 43 And the Philistine said to David, “Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?” And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. 44 The Philistine said to David, “Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and to the beasts of the field.”

It is one thing for us to commit to the battle in faith, it's something else to continue in faith when the battle becomes more intense. As David made his way down the slope and into the valley where Goliath was, the giant began immediately to taunt him. Remember that Goliath is over nine feet tall, covered in armor and has another man standing in front of him with a shield to defend him. The vision of this opponent alone would have been an assault on David's natural senses. Then, from Goliath's mouth come an onslaught of disrespect, insults, mockery, blasphemies against David's God and threats about what he was going to do with David. Both David's eyes and ears would have been negatively impacted. Yet, David's heart was completely untouched by the words of Goliath. We have a spiritual enemy who never stops running his mouth. Satan is known as the accuser, and he has a host of demons that help him in the potent ministry of accusation. Sometimes, our own flesh agrees with the whispers of the enemy, and before we know it, we are operating in hesitancy, fear and intimidation. Like we are about to see from David, we cannot afford even the slightest consideration of what the enemy speaks over us by way of threats and accusation. We have to become spiritually deaf to his unending accusatory assaults against our minds, emotions and will. David, as he previously did with Saul, heard the words of Goliath but refused to receive the message.

B. Faith redirects the conversation to God (45-46) - “Then David said to the Philistine, “You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. 46 This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head. And I will give the dead bodies of the host of the Philistines this day to the birds of the air and to the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel...”

Sunday 9AM & 11:15AM Notes

10/27/2019 – Jeff Lyle

Unintimidated, David strategically redirects the conversation off of his own weakness and onto the omnipotence of his God. David is hardly impressed with Goliath's battle gear. David's weapons of faith and courage in a glorious covenant-keeping God far outweigh Goliath's human weaponry. David points out Goliath's damning error of defying the name of Israel's God and declares with supreme confidence that the God whom Goliath has blasphemed is about to bring victory to David. With pinpoint accuracy, David prophesies what is about to happen. He would knock Goliath out with the stone and cut off his head. Remember: David had no sword. With clear prophetic insight and confidence, David saw what God was about to do. Adding to his prophetic accuracy, David explains to Goliath that it would not only be him who died that day, but the whole host of the Philistines would end up becoming vulture-food. How wise of David to place all of the emphasis on the power and provision of God! The fight was not about little David. This battle was about the glory of the Lord!

C. God's glory is the supreme motivation (47) - "...that all this assembly may know that the Lord saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the Lord's, and He will give you into our hand."

Note that David also wanted a message to be sent to Israel's army. The entire assembly was in unbelief concerning the ability and will of God to provide the victory. David was not only a confident warrior, he was also an intentional teacher. Israel had become completely disconnected to God's commitment to His own glory. As Saul had led the entire army into the realm of intimidation, fear and unbelief, they had zero confidence for the battle. David put his own life on the line to remind his own people that Israel's God does not rely upon human strength, equipping, experience or ingenuity to secure victories. When we establish our mission for his glory, He sees to the outcome. If we are motivated by our own reputation, we should expect to operate without the assistance of God. David's entire motivation was righteous, therefore he was completely certain that God would give him the victory against the giant.

III. David Wielded the Sword of the Spirit (48-54)

Sunday 9AM & 11:15AM Notes 10/27/2019 – Jeff Lyle

A. Courage is proactive (48) - “When the Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine.”

Remember that David’s story began with the description of what happened to him when Samuel anointed him to become the king. We are told that **“the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon him from that day forward.”** Here is clear evidence that David was a man of the Holy Spirit. After David declared what was about to happen down there in the valley, he did not await Goliath to make the first move. He ran quickly *toward the massive giant*. David went on the offensive. So much representation of what it means to be a believer seems to be defensive or reactionary. Christians are now known for what we are against. We defend territory but aren’t well known for taking territory for the glory of God. We point out and bemoan the giants in the land. But how many of us are killing them? David did not feel the need to drag his feet and be cautious. He took off running toward the enemy with his sling in hand.

B. Courage invites God’s favor (49-50) - “And David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone and slung it and struck the Philistine on his forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the ground. 50 So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and struck the Philistine and killed him. There was no sword in the hand of David.”

With little fanfare, David did what he came to do. He had five stones prepared for the fight. He would go home with four of them still in his pouch. In total reliance upon God, David released the rock with his mark being the one area where Goliath was not covered by armor. David hit the giant right between the eyes and brought him down with one shot. All of Goliath’s taunting of the past forty days fell forever silent. Imagine the astonished silence of the Philistines as they watched their champion crash to the ground. *Would he get back up? Surely a man of his stature could not be defeated by a boy with a slingshot!* Goliath was indeed fallen, but we are not sure if he is dead yet. Remember, David prophesied that he would behead the giant. That gruesome task came next.

C. Courage sees things through to completion (51) - “Then David ran and stood over the Philistine and took his sword and drew it out of its sheath and

Sunday 9AM & 11:15AM Notes 10/27/2019 – Jeff Lyle

killed him and cut off his head with it. When the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled.

Not one to stop and proudly thump his chest, David wanted to complete in courage what he began in courage. He walks across the dusty floor of the valley and approaches the stilled body of Goliath. Removing Goliath's sword from its sheath, David moves without hesitation and ensures the giant will never speak against God again. David saw his assignment all the way to completion. His example reminds us that we are not permitted to take premature satisfaction in our assignments. We must be faithful until the end. Many examples in the Bible reveal the grave error of approaching our assignments halfheartedly. When it comes to warfare, we must be thorough and eradicate the enemy to the fullest. As David lifted up the giant's head, the Philistines were filled with their own fear and fled the scene.

D. Courage is contagious (52-54) - “And the men of Israel and Judah rose with a shout and pursued the Philistines as far as Gath and the gates of Ekron, so that the wounded Philistines fell on the way from Shaaraim as far as Gath and Ekron. 53 And the people of Israel came back from chasing the Philistines, and they plundered their camp. 54 And David took the head of the Philistine and brought it to Jerusalem, but he put his armor in his tent.”

It is amazing what can happen when one believer stands up in courage. All the fear seemed to leave the valley when Israel saw firsthand what God can do through someone who trusts Him. David was humanly the least qualified person for battle among all the others that day. He was young. He was inexperienced. He was untrained with battle gear. He was scolded by his older brother, minimized by his king and taunted by his enemy. All David had was a history with God. That was all he needed as he committed to trust God for the victory. One Israel's army saw that Goliath was dead and the Philistines were fleeing, they reconnected with the courage they had lost. The soldiers chased down and killed the Philistines and secured the full victory. What Saul and his soldiers could not accomplish in over a month, David and God accomplished in sixty minutes. Courage is contagious when we release it. You may be the very one God is raising up in your generation to bring a final defeat to some of the giants in the land. Don't wait on someone else to move. Don't suppress what God is stirring up within you. Who knows what might happen when you move in faith and courage for the glory of King Jesus? It may very well be that you will find an entire army behind you, getting set free from their fears in order to follow you into battle.