

# Kingdom Family

## focus

410-778-4208~ WWW.NEWFREEDOMCHURCH.CHURCH~ FEBRUARY 2021  
DAVID PATTERSON, SENIOR PASTOR

## Release the Stone

By Mike O'Neill

Most of us are fairly acquainted with the story of David and the Philistine giant, Goliath. There are many aspects and lessons to be gleaned, but I want to focus on just one: faith. Faith, I believe, is the larger element and the most important one in David's victory. We are told in Hebrews 11:1 that, "faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen". There was not a single physical shred of evidence that Goliath could be defeated one on one by any of Saul's warriors. So here enters David, mocked, for he was a man of little stature. Though he was a physically small shepherd boy, he was a giant himself in faith. He compels King Saul to allow him to face the Philistine Giant who had been taunting and challenging Israel's army for forty days, morning and night. King Saul was not receptive at first, but with a statement from David, he is released to battle Goliath

David says "The LORD who delivered me the from paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of the Phillistine" (1 Samuel 17:37). Saul offered David his personal armor and sword, but David declined, opting for only his own staff, sling, and 5 stones. Goliath, in stark contrast, was well armored, carrying a sword, spear and javelin, seemingly well advantaged. Running towards the giant, David reaches into his pouch and pulls a stone, launching it at the giant with his sling. As the story goes, the stone imbeds into the Goliath's forehead, dropping him to the ground.

See, David came in the name of the LORD and proclaimed that in Him would be victory. It was not the releasing of the stone that would take the giant down but rather the releasing of his faith.

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## Church Events

**Sunday Morning Services**  
worship - 10 am  
sermon - 1030 am

**Sunday Evening Services**  
February 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> - 6:30 pm

**Bible Study**  
February 3<sup>rd</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> - 7 pm  
Myers' Home

**Men's meeting**  
February 9<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> - 7 pm  
Doug Cornelius' house

**Women's Dinner**  
"The Greatest of these is Love"  
6:15 pm - 8:30 pm  
February 10<sup>th</sup>  
Carletto's

**Youth Group Meeting**  
February 13<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> - 6pm-8pm  
Church tent

**Fellowship Meal**  
February 21<sup>st</sup> - After Services

## Release the Stone Continued

David states in 1 Samuel 17:47, "the LORD does not save with sword or spear, for the battle is the LORDS". It was Davids faith in God, and God alone, that brought victory, not any weapon.

What spiritual giant stands in your way, taunting and challenging you? Who is towering above you, declaring your defeat? Maybe you have tried on someone else's armor and it did not fit. Have you tried to wield a sword that was too heavy? You may think that a sling and a stone will not defeat your giant and, in fact, it will not.

The faith though, to release the stone regardless of what the giant is, will drop it to the ground. This is because the stone is no ordinary stone; it symbolizes Christ Himself bruising the head of the enemy!

A striking observation came to light as I was making notes for this article. In Genesis 9:26,27 Noah says "cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants shall he be unto his brethren. And he said, "blessed be the Lord God of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant."

David was a descendant of Shem, and Goliath, was a Philistine, which were descendants of the Canaanites. Goliath believed that he would be victorious and that the Israelites would be servants of the Philistines. However, God honored Noah's proclamation. So as it was, Goliath, maybe unbeknownst to him, was mocking God. God will not be mocked (Gal. 6:7). Is your giant mocking you? Is your giant mocking God? Have faith like David. Face the giant with whatever you have. Release your faith knowing that God will not be mocked and watch your Goliath fall!

### Hebrews 11:1

*"faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen"*

## Immovable Hope

By Joe Boyles

"Therefore, whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall." Matthew 7:24-27

As Jesus spoke these words, He brought to a close what is widely regarded as the greatest sermon ever preached: The Sermon on the Mount (Matthew chapters 5-7). Jesus spoke of many things, and spoke of them in such a way that scripture states that "the people were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes." To put it plainly, when Jesus was teaching, the people knew He wasn't just reciting some words. No, He knew exactly what He was talking about. What is the key to all our Savior taught? Action. He says that "whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man." As we walk out our lives in Him, we have something to hope in, something greater than anything this world can offer: Jesus is with us and He promises that as we do what He has told us to do, nothing this world throws at us can overcome us. Now before we go any farther,

it's worth pointing out that He didn't say if we do what He says, everything will be easy. What He said was that when it's all said and done, we would still be standing.

Let's dig a little deeper! The house that Jesus is speaking of here is us. Our lives, our very being. That is the house in this parable. It immediately brings up the question, "What is my life built on?" Is it money, political stance, material things, popularity? There is an unending list of things this world tries to get us to build our lives on, but at the end of the day, they are all sand. The only solid foundation is the Rock, Jesus Christ. After telling us that building our "house" on the rock is wise, He tells us that rain will fall, floods will come, and winds will blow and beat on our house. All those things represent life happening. There will be seasons where problems will seem to fall like rain and bring floods as they begin to pile up and attempt to wash us away. Cue the wind.... People telling us what we've done wrong, what we should've done better, or why we could've avoided all our problems if we had only...fill in the blank.... Oh, the wind. The world around us never seems to have a lack of words when we are going through a hard time.

But there is hope! If we keep our eyes, our hearts, and our actions set on Christ, we will be found standing when the storm clouds part. The Son will always shine through the darkest days, always. Christ is our rock, our foundation, our immovable hope. Remember that as we step into each day. Problems will come, and problems will go, but the rock will always remain; and we will too, if we build our lives on Him. Blessings.