

January 21, 2024, Pastor Jason Smotherman

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- 1) Where is the largest place of authority given to the enemy in believers' lives?
- 2) Disobedience, lack of knowledge, and faithless living can hinder a believers' victory. What area do you need to resolve the quickest today? How might you go about doing it?
- 3) David teaches us three things about his battle with his Giant. What other takeaways can you find in the story of David and Goliath?
- 4) What dream have you said no too because you're convinced that it couldn't come to pass but God is stirring you to change your perspective to yes He can?

SERMON NOTES:

The Weapons of our Warfare – The Process

1 Samuel 17:45-47

Then David said to the Philistine, “**You come to me with a sword, 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. This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. Then all this assembly shall know that the Lord does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the Lord’s, and He will give you into our hands.**”

2 Corinthians 10:3-7

For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. **4 For the weapons of our warfare** are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive **to obey Christ, 6** being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete. **7 Look at what is before your eyes. If anyone is confident that he is Christ's, let him remind himself that just as he is Christ's, so also are we.**

How can the process of life (testings, trials, victories, and lessons) become a weapon in God’s hand?

Kingdom Principle:

The prayer of commitment will take you through **the process** to become **the product** of God.
Prayer. Process. Product.

You have a choice with the prayer of commitment to Jesus, you don’t have a choice about the process. All God’s children go through the process. **There is no avoiding the process.**



Jesus' ministry began being welcomed to **the process**.

Matthew 4:1

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit **into the wilderness** to be tempted by the devil.

It's in the process, best to learn in it the beginning like Jesus did, that you find the battle is real but you also find **the enemy only has the authority you give to him**.

James 4:7

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you

3 ways to give the enemy authority over your life:

- **Disobedience to God's word** (see last weeks message)
- **Ignorance of God's word** (Jesus attacked the attacker with the word of God)

Hosea 4:6

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge

1)

2) **Void of faith in God's word** (see first lesson)

Hebrews 11:6

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. The story of David gives us a great example of the process producing the product of God.

Experience, outcome, or "unity" should not replace full and convicted belief in God's promises over your life.

Couple of things to ponder:

- 1) Don't blame the enemy for attacks originating from disobedience, ignorance, or faithless Christianity. We give the enemy far too much credit. The enemy can be a tool that God uses (see Job) for His glory but largely the enemy gets a lot of credit for us being us :)
- 2) Also, as a result of living in this fallen world, we are going to face trials, testings, and battles of all kind. The good news of the gospel is that we don't have to face them alone. Just because you face hard stuff doesn't mean God isn't good.

In the end: **Jesus gave us the gameplay on the enemy.**

The wilderness teaches us that when you STAND in faith and obedience all that the enemy is, is found in 1 Peter 5:8

1 Peter 5:8

Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around **like a roaring lion** looking for someone to devour.

David knew this.

1 Samuel 17:45-47

Then David said to the Philistine, **“You come to me with a sword, 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. This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. Then all this assembly shall know that the Lord does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the Lord’s, and He will give you into our hands.”**

3 things DAVID knew:

1 - More space was given the verbal battle than the actual battle.

It is important for you to understand this as a believer.

The enemies best shot at defeating you in battle is to convince you that you’ve lost before you fight. See Davids brothers. Showing up is not equivalent to fighting up.

Most are defeated before they fight.

If you’re convinced that God can’t, you won’t.

If we’re convinced that our best days are behind us, they are.

More space is given to the verbal combat than the actual physical battle.

Goliath saw the shepherd’s staff and mocked David, saying, *“Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?”* and he pronounced a curse on David *“by his gods”* (v. 43). He threatened not only to kill David but to leave his body unburied, so the buzzards and jackals could devour it (v. 44). The awesome presence and **verbal threats** that had spread fear through the camp of the Israelites didn’t make the slightest dent in David’s intentions.

The enemy we face hopes the defeat you through mind games.

Mind games are meant to sink and destroy the place a faith found in our hearts.

David’s speech to Goliath (vv. 45–47) **was more of an announcement than a threat. First, he announced that their armor was different.**

David came, not with sword, spear, or javelin, but *“in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied”* (v. 45).



Second, **he announced that God was about to deliver Goliath into his hand and promised that what Goliath had threatened to do to David's body would happen to all the Philistines (v. 46).** Finally, **he announced that the result would be that everyone would know that there "is a God in Israel" (v. 46) and that the battle was God's.**

With the speeches over, they approached each other. The battle was over almost before it started. David took one of the smooth stones from his pouch and, with his sling, embedded the stone in the forehead of Goliath. The blow rendered him unconscious so David was able to step forth and use Goliath's own sword to sever his head (vv. 49–51). The shepherd lad had slain the warrior, with the help of his God. And he had done it with the ordinary tools of his trade.

If you convince yourself God can, He will **according to His will!**
If you are convinced by faith that the best days are ahead, they are!

2 - The Battle is won through a proper mix combination of Knowledge and Obedience

Knowledge without humility puffs up.
Obedience without love creates religion not relationship.

3 - You will have "enough" to face whatever is in front of you.

1 Corinthians 10:13 (AMP)

No temptation [regardless of its source] has overtaken *or* enticed you that is not common to human experience [nor is any temptation unusual or beyond human resistance]; but God is faithful [to His word—He is compassionate and trustworthy], and He will not let you be tempted beyond your ability [to resist], but along with the temptation He [has in the past and is now and] will [always] provide the way out as well, so that you will be able to endure it [without yielding, and will overcome temptation with joy].

The process of God will never cause you to face a temptation that He will not give you strength to say no to.

The process of God will never cause you to face a dream that He will not give you the strength to say yes too.

Say yes to the prayer!
Say yes to the process!
Say yes to become the product!