



An Impossible Fight | Shawn Johnson | 3.19.17

LG Weekly

## START

To get things started, go around the circle and answer these two questions:

**You get to have one super power, what would it be and why?**

## SHARE

This week, we chose to take time to talk about fighting.

We all have times in life where we find ourselves fighting a battle. That battle can take many forms whether it is being a literal battle field, difficult situation, illness, grief, addiction, relational fallout or something else, the point is that we are in the middle of it and know it. At times we can feel brave and full of faith, yet within hours be dealing with doubt, insecurity and fear.

When talking about fighting, what better example do we have than the story of David and Goliath. Whether you are a part of a church or never darkened the door of a church, everyone knows the historic and epic tale of that young shepherd boy facing a military giant. On the surface, most of us think we know the point of the story, yet there is much to be learned by slowing down the movie reel and looking at some key footage. God has a great deal to say to us about fighting battles and it has much more to do with Him than you.

Have a few people read 1 Samuel 17:1-24

**What is a battle you feel that you have been facing over a long period of time?**

**We find King Saul and his army was ‘dismayed and terrified’ by the verbal defiance of Goliath. We all face enemies; what types of mind games do you deal with?**

## G R O W

Goliath shouts at the ranks of Israel...” why do you come out and line up for battle?!”

This did not happen just for a day or two, but forty days in a row. For forty days, once in the morning and evening the Israelites heard continually mockery and defiance.

The enemy shouts to us “why even try...why even show up”. How many of us can become complacent and fearful in life because of that voice telling us we are not strong enough, that our God is not enough? Of course, we go through the motions and say the right things, because we should be fighting. The Israelite army knew they should be fighting, that is why they shouted their daily war cry, but let’s face it none of them believed it. With the exception of a young man named David.

Read 1 Samuel 17:25-40

In *The Holman New Testament Commentary: 1,2 Samuel* we see how differently David approached the fight with Goliath and can draw a few important insights:

David allowed Saul to put the armor on him. Ironically, Saul’s actions confirmed and foreshadowed the royal status God promised David: the Lord had clothed David with the Spirit that enabled kingship; now Saul clothed David with the symbols that exemplified kingship. Yet David was unable to grow accustomed to Saul’s military gear, and he removed it. The writer’s inclusion of the clothing incident probably was meant to serve two functions: first, to preserve an unusual but interesting occurrence in the background of the Goliath event, indicating the greater value of divine enablement over human devices; second and more importantly, to symbolize David’s rejection of Saul’s approach to kingship. Saul chose to dress in royal clothing “such as all the other nations have”; David would wear none of it. Instead, he would identify with the great shepherd-leaders of the Torah—Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and especially Moses—and live by faith in the promises of God (cf. Heb 11).

Accordingly, David armed himself as a shepherd would have, with a stick and a sling. He “took his staff in his hand” (v. 40). The stick, while a crude weapon, could have afforded some protection in close combat. David also took some stones from the bottom of the wadi. Because the stones were intended for use “with his sling” in battle, they probably were about the size of typical ancient Near Eastern

slingstones—as big as tennis balls.

The weapons David gathered for use against Goliath—the stick and the stones—were not products of human artifice; rather, they were shaped by God. As such, the author may have included these details as a counterpoint to 13:19–22; the Philistines feared and relied on weapons pulled from human forges, but David would conquer them with divinely manufactured weapons. Armed with these provisions, David “approached the Philistine.”

**David decided to be who God created him to be, he didn't act like he was someone he wasn't. Why is this so important when confronting the enemies that we face?**

**David realized something that most soldiers didn't, who was Goliath actually defying? Why is this distinction extremely important when facing the enemy?**

**If you are feeling defeated, where does your lack of resolve come from? Are you trying to fight out of your own strength or your lack of belief in the unlimited strength of God?**

**Have you experienced freedom and victory from the enemy, how would you encourage others in regards to God's power?**

## **M O V E**

This week Shawn talked about the biblical and historical account of what we would all categorize as an impossible fight. On the surface we see the story of a young shepherd boy as a physical fight, which it was, but it was much more than that. It was a spiritual fight and the victor of that fight was God. Only the Lord can save, it was never about the spears or swords, but about our faith of the God who is with us. In David's eyes, he wasn't alone in the fight, it was God who would defeat Goliath. But it was David's faith that led him onto that battlefield.

Let's read 1 Samuel 17:41-54

**How did David respond to Goliath's taunts?**

**David says, “...it is not by sword or spear that the Lord saves; for the battle is the LORD's...” why is this proclamation so crucial for us to see the enemy defeated in our lives?**

**If you are losing your battle, what needs to change for you? How can those around you help you in that fight?**

***Get some counsel:** We tend to treat our cars better than our own relationships. We take cars in for maintenance, but not our relationships. All individuals and couples need to make it a priority. At least once a year, meet up with a godly counselor and get a check-up. Sometimes talking through your struggles can help you more than you know and might get your relationship back on track. Red Rocks Church has a resource list of local Christ-centered counselors. Just visit [www.redrockschurch.com/resources](http://www.redrockschurch.com/resources) and click on 'counseling' or talk with one of our Campus Pastors or Life Group Ministry Leaders.*

## **P R A Y**

As a group, spend some time praying for each other and the struggles we all face. If you are in a co-ed group, consider breaking up into men and women's groups to talk more freely.

## **T O G O**

### **Deuteronomy 3:22**

"You must not fear them; for the Lord your God Himself will fight for you."