

## CONFIDENCE IN TIMES OF STRESS (2)

**Introduction:** Read 1 Samuel 17:1-11. Here is truly a stressful situation.

1. Last time we studied how Paul handled stress as he solicited the prayers of his brethren (Thessalonians) on his behalf (2 Thess. 3:1-5). His desire was that:
  - a. The word would be allowed to do its work among others (3:1).
  - b. He be delivered from unreasonable men who have not the faith (3:2).
  - c. He have (and did) faith and confidence in his brethren during trials (3:3-5).
2. David, the shepherd boy, also learned confidence in the time of stress.

### D. DAVID'S CONFRONTATION WITH GOLIATH.

1. **Be humble before God.** So was Saul at first (9:2, 21); he changed (13:8-14).
  - a. When Samuel anointed David King to replace Saul it was not because of his stature or position in life but because of what was in his heart (16:7).
  - b. Humility isn't putting self down--no respect w/o self-respect (Matt. 22:39).
  - c. David's older brothers were in Saul's army when Jesse sent David to greet them. The army of God was paralyzed by the challenge of one Philistine!
2. **Claim the Prize of Faithfulness.** For David it was riches, the king's daughter in marriage and tax exemption (17:25). Israel was God's covenant people.
  - a. The promise was to God's people & not to the "uncircumcised" Philistine.
  - b. "Who is this...Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?"
  - c. Consider Paul's prayer & confidence in last week's study (2 Thess. 3:1-5).
  - d. We strive for an incorruptible crown (1 Cor. 9:24-27; 1 Pet. 1:3-5).
3. **Work - Do What We Know is Right.** "*Is there not a cause*" (17:30)? Often it is hard to move God's people. How does David see the situation?
  - a. Why should this Philistine be allowed to defy the army of the living God?
  - b. "*Is there not a cause*" - *lit.* "is there no word?" Will you not answer?
  - c. David stressed things that mattered. Will God & His people be recognized?
4. **Overcome Fear.** "*And all the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him and were dreadfully afraid.*" (17:24). Fear and discouragement began with his own brethren (17:28). How often is that the case with us today?
  - a. Fear & pride caused Eliab to accuse David of pride & insolence (*cf.* 16:6-7)
  - b. Is that not often the case in the church? We tend to be self-defeating.
  - c. Even King Saul didn't view the situation correctly.
    - 1) "***YOU are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for YOU are a youth, and HE a man of war from his youth***" (17:33).
    - 2) David, however, knew the power was not in himself but in God who had delivered him from the paw of the lion and the bear (17:34-37).
  - d. Paul said the **power** is in the gospel, not in men (Rom. 1:16).
5. **Live Faithfully.** How often do we fail to live victoriously because we do not think that God is with us or that we are out of fellowship with God? Presence of sin in our lives causes us to hide from God's presence (Gen. 3:6-10).