

Step Onto The Battlefield

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The story of David and Goliath in 1 Samuel 17 is one of the most well-known Bible stories. The Israelites and the Philistines were at war, and Goliath appeared. He was an intimidating, mammoth of a warrior, standing at 9 feet tall, and wearing thick, heavy, strong armor. The text says that for 40 days, morning and evening, he mocked Israel and challenged anyone of them to a duel, but no one from Israel desired to face him. They were greatly afraid of him, and they fled to their camps whenever he appeared. Eventually David went to the camp, accepted Goliath's challenge, and was victorious.

What stands out to me in this story is in those 40 days, there is no mention of God. God doesn't appear to anyone, send a prophet, nor does the author or anyone in this story bring Him up. That is, until David arrived, and stated he would fight, and that the Lord would deliver him. Despite being ridiculed for it, he told both Saul and Goliath he would fight so that, *"All the earth may know that there is a God in Israel."*

The question is, where was God during this time? Did He not care that Israel was afraid? Why didn't He do something about Goliath? Why was He silent? Well, His silence, plus the outcome of the story, indicate that He too was waiting for someone in Israel to step onto the battlefield and fight. And remember, this went on for 40 days. That should've been an indication that this problem was not going anyway, nor was God going to take it away Himself. It was doing Israel no good to continue hiding in their camp. David understood this, and that's why he stepped up and ultimately won.

I want you to think of a situation that has been overpowering you and intimidating you; something in your life that needs to change or be fixed. Perhaps you've been praying earnestly about it, it continues to be a problem, and you're left wondering: Why isn't God doing something about this? Why isn't God listening?

Ask yourself, what steps are you taking to overcome your problem? Are you creating a game plan? What does that game plan look like? Are you talking to anyone about it? Are you asking people to hold you accountable to your plan? Or are you hiding in your camp like Israel, and waiting for God to do something or for someone like David to come bail you out?

Understand that if you want to overcome your weakness or situation, God is ready and willing to deliver you. But you must first be willing to put on His armor and step onto the battlefield to fight, so that you may be victorious, and so that all the people around you may know that there is a God in your life.