



The following notes are from a sermon given by
Pastor Wayne Flowers on Sunday July 26th 2020
at Smythe Street Church, Fredericton NB

An Overcoming Life

Topic today is “An Overcoming Life”

* An excellent resource that has been used in this sermon is David Jeremiah’s book entitled “Overcomer.”

A key passage to begin with is written by the Apostle Paul...

The time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing. 2nd Tim. 4:6-8

The story of the Bible is a story of overcoming!

There is a purpose, a goal, a plan, a direction, a reason, a cause, a race to run, a finish line, a battle to be fought, a victor’s crown, a reward.

God’s plan for your life includes overcoming the challenges and obstacles that you will most certainly encounter.

An overcoming life is not...

1. A perfect life.

Human perfection is unattainable. We are broken vessels in need of God’s grace.

2. A sheltered life.

We will not obtain a life on this side of eternity that is free from struggle.

An overcoming life is...

Faces every challenge with hope and assurance.

Not allow defeat to be the defining factor in my life.

God’s intention...- Would experience a win in your life.

- You will cross the finish line. - You will say “I made it.”

Is this truly a theme and the truth of scripture?

Overwhelmingly...YES!!

1. **Joseph** overcame the jealousy and hateful acts of his family and rose to become the second in command in Egypt. He was able to forgive his brothers and see his relationship with his family restored.
2. **Joshua and Caleb** remained full of faith and courage and possessed the promise that God had given.
3. **David** was called from keeping sheep to leading a nation. He overcame many obstacles, including the famous slaying of Goliath, surviving an outraged and evil King and Father in law, and recovering from a sinful fall.

4. **Esther** found the courage to stand before the King and uncover the plot of wicked Haman to annihilate the Jewish people.

5. **Paul** the apostle overcame adversity in the form of physical weakness, persecution and imprisonment to become one of the most powerful leaders the church has ever known.

6. **Jesus** was and is the epitome of a conqueror.

I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world. John 16:33

Transition....What do we learn from David and Goliath? What does it take to be an overcomer?

Why this story?

God put this in the narrative to inspire us to face and overcome our giants.

Giants - synonymous with the obstacles of life. Things to overcome!

These giants can be personal or they can be giants in the lives of those care about.

Giants in **families**, the **church**, our **community**, our **nation** or the **world**.

What does it take to see the giants in our lives go down?

Conviction. Courage. Confidence.

David was deeply troubled at the defiance of Goliath.

It bothered him that God's people were bound by fear and unable to respond.

David was sent to the battle front at the request of his father. "Go and see how your brothers are doing."

God places us in situations where there is a giant to bring down!

This is not by accident.

God has been looking for a champion!

You may, in the eyes of others and in your own estimation be far from a champion, but God knows who you are.

David was faithful in the task that had been assigned thus far in his life.

David was made for this!

A heart that is right and faithfulness to what God has set before you is often the platform that God will use to send you out to slay giants!

2. Courage and Confidence.

From the moment you declare your intentions to bring that giant down, you can count on the fact that your motive, your ability, your courage and your resolve will be tested.

Overcomers learn the following lessons:

1. REFUSE TO BE DISCOURAGED BY OTHERS

Sometimes that means family and friends and colleagues!
We see this in the story of David and Goliath (1st Sam. 17)

When David's oldest brother, Eliab, heard him asking about Goliath, he was furious. "Why did you come down here?" Eliab demanded. "And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your pride and the insolence of your heart, for you have come down to see the battle." David responded, "What have I done now? Is there not a cause?" 1st Sam. 17:28,29

When facing giants, there will be **resistance** and **attacks** from unlikely sources.

Sometimes, **people that should be your greatest support** will not understand you..

They will question your motives and be angry that you are tackling such a task.

Saul himself drew David aside and tried to dissuade him, questioning his youth.

Deflect the anger and the questions - stay focused on the cause!!

**Champions will take a lot of heat and criticism.
Stay true to your convictions! Maintain your courage!**

God knows why you feel the way you do and why you are where you are!
Devil is upset and is trying to discredit you and your efforts as being misguided.

2. REINFORCE YOUR FOCUS ON GOD

An interesting observation from 1st Sam. 17...

David **only make 2 comments** about Goliath. No comment about his size, skill, spear, age, experience, etc.

In contrast...**9 X David references the greatness/strength of God.**

God thoughts outnumbered Goliath thoughts 9 times to 2!

We often talk to God about our problems.
Sometimes we need to talk to our problems about God!!

3. REFLECT ON YOUR PREVIOUS VICTORIES

Your servant used to keep his father's sheep, and when a lion or a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock, I went out after it and struck it, and delivered the lamb from its mouth; and when it arose against me, I caught it by its beard, and struck and killed it. Your servant has killed both lion and bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, seeing he has defied the armies of the living God. Moreover David said, "The Lord, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." 1st Sam. 17:34-37

Journal, savour, recall, remember – every win, every time God helped you, every friend who stood by you!!!

4. RUN TOWARD YOUR PROBLEMS, NOT AWAY FROM THEM

We are often **tempted to delay, postpone, ignore, work around** the giants.

Are you in denial?

David ran towards Goliath.

His skill was to be used only within a certain range.

Eye to eye – face to face! Not remotely!!

5. REMEMBER FOR WHOM YOU ARE FIGHTING

David's words...

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. 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. 1st Sam. 17:45,47

It may be for yourself, your family, your community...

But ultimately it is for the honour and glory of God