

1 SAMUEL, PART 2 (WHO ARE YOU MOST LIKE – SAUL OR DAVID?)
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SERIES: 1 Samuel, Part 2 (Who Are You Most Like – Saul or David?)

TITLE: Program 8 – Principles Of Warfare

WEDNESDAY

OPEN

Are you in a warfare, Beloved? The question is, in this warfare are you going to know victory or are you going to be defeated? I think a lot of it has to do with understanding who your enemy is and understanding who God is. And that's what we wanna talk about today. We want you to understand God's precepts for life so that you can win the battle over the enemy. It's something that you need to know.

PART ONE

If you're going to be God's man, God's woman, in this hour and in this crucial crucial day, then, Beloved, you've got to know how to stand against the enemy. Because, believe me, life is a warfare, and that's what you can expect. You can expect the warfare because the prince of this world, the one that rules over this world is the evil one. There are two kingdoms: there's the kingdom of darkness and there's the kingdom of light. There's the kingdom

of Satan and there's the kingdom of God. And never shall the two meet. So you can expect warfare. But when you go into this warfare, what you need to understand is a few principles as you face your Goliath because God wants to bring Goliath down, but he uses human vessels to do it. And so this is what we wanna see as we look at 1 Samuel, chapter 17. I'm giving you some principles of warfare and how you deal with your Goliath. Remember, a Goliath is an enemy. Well what I want us to do is I want us to begin by going to 1 Samuel, chapter 17, and picking up where I left off. Remember, they have tried to discourage David. I mean they have said, ["You know, you're just a youth, you can't fight against this Goliath."] And this is what Saul has said also. His brother discourages him and then Saul discourages him. He says, ["This man is an experienced warrior and you're just a youth! This man, this Philistine, this Goliath, has been a warrior since his youth. I mean, you're just a shepherd boy."] (1 Samuel 17:33 Paraphrase) But it doesn't matter who you are as long as you know whose you are and as long as you understand that you have an enemy and you know how to do spiritual warfare. Well, this is a warfare. And it's a warfare because what has happened is, Goliath, this Philistine, has come out and he has defied the armies of the living God. And knowing that, David has said, "No more. I'll go. Nobody else has gone. You've had forty days of fear. I'm here, and I know that God will deliver this Philistine into my hands." Well, as he prepares to go you see David speaking to Saul and he says, verse 36, **"Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, since he has taunted the armies of the living God."** (1 Samuel 17:36) Now if you're marking your Bible, like we teach you to do, then you want to put a black cloud – just take a fine point pen and put a black cloud around, **"...he has taunted the armies of the living God."**(17:36b) Now we have marked this, by way of review, in verse 10 and in verse 26. You say, "You found those quickly." That's right because they're marked and that's we want you to do. We want you to study

along with us because if you're going to win the war, you've got to know God and you've got to know the enemy. And this book, the Bible, will teach you about the enemy. And this book, the Bible, will teach you about God and it'll teach you how to go to war and how you come out victoriously. So you want to learn how to study. That's why I urge you to go to our website, which is preceptsforlife.com, preceptsforlife.com, and there you can download the study guide and go along with us, mark the text. And if you're not ready to mark your Bible, at least you can mark the text of Scripture that we give you that goes with this portion of our study. Well, David turns around and he says, in verse 37, "...**'The Lord [is] 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.'**...." (17:37a) Alright, the first point that I showed you was that you're not to be dismayed by the enemy. You've got to remember that the enemy is man, just like you are, and you're not to fear. You're not to be dismayed and you're not to fear, because **"The fear of man brings a snare....," (Proverbs 29:25a)** You're to trust in God. The second point was that you need to remember, you need to keep on remembering who this enemy is coming against. Because it's not just against you, it's against God. Because if Christ is in you, then your enemies are Christ's enemies. You're gonna see that, as we look at covenant when we come to 1 Samuel, chapter 18. The third thing that I said was don't be swayed by the discouragement of others. Now how do you keep from being swayed, by the discouragement of others? You have faith in God. And so you need to have faith and Hebrews, chapter 11, verse 6, says this: "[Those] **who come to God must believe that He is....,**" that He is God, **"...and that He....,"** God, **"...is a rewarder of those who [earnestly, who diligently,] seek Him."**(Hebrews 11:6b) So, you and I have to have faith. And that's what keeps us from being discouraged by others. You've got to learn not to listen to all these multiple voices around you. Yes there's godly counsel. But you're going to get all sorts of discouragement when you start to stand for

God. And that's what David faced. And he faced it in these verses just before this. Well one of the things that I didn't take you to was 2 Corinthians, chapter 10. And I want us to go there because it's so important in warfare. In 2 Corinthians, chapter 10, we have Paul in a state of warfare. In 2 Corinthians, Paul bears his heart like in no other place in the Word of God. And you learn so much from his life. I've written a study that you can do on your own and it's called: Lord, Give Me a Heart For You. And it's all about Paul's heart for God, which Paul says, ["Be an imitator of me, even as I am of Christ."] (PARAPHRASE, 1 Corinthians 11:1 NASB & KJV mix) Well, Paul was in a constant warfare because he was on the front lines, because he was invading the enemies' territory, because he was snatching God's sheep out of the snare of the evil one, out of the clutches of this evil one that sought to come and to kill and to destroy. And so he was rescuing them. Well in the midst of this warfare, in 2 Corinthians, chapter 10, verse 3. He says this: **"For though we walk in the flesh....,"** though you live in a fleshly body, he says, **"...we do not war according to the flesh....,"** (2 Corinthians 10:3) You live in the flesh, but your warfare is not fleshly. You don't pull out weapons of the flesh to fight the enemy because your warfare is not against flesh and blood. He says, **"For the weapons of our warfare are not of...flesh, but [they are] divinely powerful...."(10:4a)** It's not human power, it's divine power. For they are **"...divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses."** (10:4b) In other words, the enemy wants to build a fortress. The enemy wants to build a wall, a barrier, in your heart and in your mind. So this is what he says, **"...the weapons of our warfare are not of...flesh, but [they are] divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses."**(10:4) And then he says this: **"We are destroying...."** Now watch what he's destroying. **"We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up....,"** and this is so key, **"...against the knowledge of God....,"**(10:5a) Remember, I have told you over and over and over again, that knowing God is absolutely critical. It has to be a number one priority in

your life's goals, is to know God. Because the people that know God are able to display strength. They're able to stand firm. They're able to take action. And this is why David could go out and he could face Goliath, because he knew his God. He knew that God had delivered him. It wasn't his own prowess, it wasn't his own flesh, it wasn't his own strength. It was God that had delivered him from the power, from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear. David was able to grab the beard of that lion and just punch his lights out because it was God that had given him that deliverance. It was God that had given him that power. So he says that "the weapons of our warfare are not of...flesh, but [they're] divinely powerful," and he goes on to say, "we are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God." Now where's the battle? The battle's in the mind. That battle is in the mind. Fear is of the mind. You know, **"...perfect love casts out fear..." (1 John 4:18b) "...God has not given us a spirit of [fear]..." (2 Timothy 1:7a)** How do you know how to handle yourself in fear? You know what God says. You have the knowledge of God. You put it in your mind. When the enemy comes, and he comes with his weapons, his speculations. Raised up against the knowledge of God, you are able to resist them. Why? Because you know God. And so you destroy those speculations. You destroy every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and this is how you do it. He says, **"...taking every thought captive to the obedience of [Jesus] Christ." (2 Corinthians 10:5b)** How do you handle the enemy? How do you handle the fear? How do you handle the discouragement? How do you handle these things that come against you? You walk in the **"...knowledge of God..."** and you bring **"...every thought captive to the obedience of [Jesus] Christ." (2 Corinthians 10:5b)** It's all one, right here. It's a matter of the mind. Now it's not a matter of positive thinking. It's not a matter of having a good self-image. It's a matter of knowing what God says and remembering that what God says is pure, absolute, unadulterated truth, and this is the way you fight the enemy.

The sword of the Spirit. You have one and only one offensive weapon in spiritual warfare, cause you only need one. And it says, “[And taking]...**the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.**” (Ephesians 6:17b) That’s your one and only offensive weapon. So what do you do? You whip out truth. You keep truth in your mind. And you bring every thought captive to the obedience of Jesus Christ. So if that thought does not measure up to what God says, it’s gone. This is what it’s all about. (Laughs) There’s more to say, but we’ll do it right after the break.

PART TWO

Welcome back, Beloved. And I want you to know you are beloved. You’re beloved of God and you’re beloved of me. You’re precious in His sight. I just hope you realize that. So many times we just think that we’re worthless, that we have no value, no importance. But that is not true. That is a lie from the enemy, and if you’re believing that, you’re in warfare and you need to bring that thought captive. Well, remember, we were looking at the fact that this is a warfare. And this warfare is fought by faith, by bringing “...**every thought captive to the obedience of [Jesus] Christ.**” (2 Corinthians 10:5b) by walking by what the Word of God says, by wielding the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. Well, in Hebrews, chapter 11, which is the faith chapter, you see how these people won the victory. In Hebrews 11, verse 32, he says, “...**what more shall I say? For time will fail me if I tell of Gideon, [and] Barak, [and] Samson, [and] Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, who by faith, conquered kingdoms, performed acts of righteousness...,**”(Hebrews 11:32-33a) In other words, when it wasn’t popular to be righteous, they by faith “...**performed acts of righteousness...,**” Righteousness is taking God at His word and ordering your life accordingly, ordering your behavior accordingly. They “...**obtained promises...,**” (Hebrews 11:33b) and you obtain promises by faith when you believe God. The testing of your faith, is what shows the

reality of your faith, because that's when you rely on God and you obtain that promise. They shut the mouths of lions. Now Daniel did that, but also so did David. I mean he bearded the lion and belted him and put him to death. **"...quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from weakness were made strong, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received back their dead by resurrection; and others..."** and now here's the switch, **"...and others were tortured, not accepting their release, so that they might obtain a better resurrection..."** (Hebrews 11:34-35) He's saying, "Listen, they said I'm going to believe God and I'm going to stand for God and don't deliver me, I want to have a better resurrection. I want to get a fuller reward." **"...and others experienced mockings and scourgings, yes, also chains and imprisonment."** (Hebrews 11:36) You say, "Well, they weren't victorious." Yes they were. Listen, it says, **"They were stoned, they were sawn in two..."** That's what they think happened to Isaiah the prophet. **"...they were tempted, they were put to death with the sword; they went about in sheepskins, in goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, ill-treated (men of whom the world was not worthy), wandering in deserts and mountains and caves and holes in the ground. And all [of] these...gained approval..."** God's approval, **"...through their faith..."** And they **"...did[n't even] receive what was promised."** (Hebrews 11:37-39) They hadn't even seen the Messiah. You and I know that Jesus is the Christ. We know that He is the Messiah. We know that we are indwelt by the Spirit of God. These people were not even indwelt by the Spirit of God, but they walked by faith. They brought **"...every thought captive to the obedience of [Jesus] Christ."** (2 Corinthians 10:5b) You say, "But Jesus Christ didn't exist." Jesus Christ is all the way through the Old Testament. He's called the MESHIAH, the Messiah, the Promised One. Well let's go back now, and let's look at the next point that we come to in this contest between David and Goliath. And as we look at it, remember, we're talking about how you deal

with the Goliaths in your life. How you bring down the enemy. Well, remember David says the Lord delivered him and the Lord can deliver him from the hand of this Philistine. That's faith. **"...And Saul said to David, 'Go, and may the Lord be with you.' Then Saul clothed David with his garments and put a bronze helmet on his head, and he clothed [David] with armor. David girded his sword over his armor and [he] tried to walk, for he had not tested them...."** He was wearing someone else's armor. **"...So David said to Saul, 'I ca[n't] go with these, for I have not tested them.' And David took them off. [And] he took his stick in his hand and chose for himself five smooth stones from the brook...put them in the shepherd's bag which he had, even in his pouch, and his sling was in his hand; and he approached the Philistine."** (1 Samuel 17:37b-40) Now how is he going to battle? He's not going to battle, and listen carefully, in untested armor. He's going to battle in the way that he knows and the way that he is tested. He's been a shepherd boy. He has brought down the lion. He has brought down the bear. He has protected his sheep. What did he have? He had a sling and he had stones. And that's all that he needed. Which brings me to the next point: how do you do battle against your Goliath? How do you bring them down? Well the fourth point that I want you to get is this: you don't go to battle in someone else's armor. You wear tested armor. In other words, you know that you know that you know that this works. And so by "tested armor," what I'm saying is this: that you have to have that experience. You have to know God. You have to know the promises of God. You can't run on just what your preacher teaches you. You can't run on what you hear from a televangelist. You can't just sit there and let it be a one-way thing where you just hear these truths, but you have not tested them, you have not tried them, you have not put them into practice. You've just heard them. You've heard about others having miracles or others doing this or seeing that. And so you say, "Well if others did it, I can do it, too." No, you have to go back to the Word of God. This is your

armor. And when you study Ephesians chapter 6, he says that you are in a warfare. Let's look at it for just a minute because it's so absolutely vital and it goes right along with what I'm saying. Now Ephesians is a New Testament epistle on spiritual warfare and he mentions that warfare from the first chapter all the way through to the last chapter. And in Ephesians chapter 6, in verse 10, he starts this way: **"Finally [brethren]..."** He's bringing the letter to a close except for some personal comments. And he says, **"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might."**(Ephesians 6:10) Not yours, His might. **"Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil."**(6:11) The devil's schemes, the devil has a METHODEIA (Greek word for "schemes." Strong's #3180). He has a way of attack. You need to know your enemy. You need to know his ways. You need to know that he's a liar. You need to know that he's a murderer. You need to know that he abides not in the truth. You need to know that he's a deceiver. You need to know that he puts on the disguise and disguises himself as an angel of light. You need to know that he has his own apostles. He has his own prophets. And they come close to the truth but they don't line up against the plumb line of God's Word. And that's why the symbol of Precept Ministries is a plumb line, because a plumb line shows you what is straight, a plumb line shows you what is true and the Bible is the plumb line. So he says you need to stand firm against the devil. **"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against...rulers, against the powers, against...world forces of...darkness, [even]...the spiritual forces of wickedness in...heavenly places. Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm."**(Ephesians 6:12-13) So that you're not tossed to-and-fro. Then he names the armor. And every piece of the armor – we don't have time to go into it today – but every piece of the armor has to do with the Word of God. You **"...[gird] your loins with the [belt of] truth..."**(6:14b) That's the

Word of God. You hold up the **“shield of faith.”(16:16b)** That’s the Word of God. You put on **“the helmet of salvation.”(16:17a)** That’s the Word of God. You **“...shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace...;”(16:15b)** That’s the Word of God. You **“...put on the breastplate of righteousness...,”(16:14c)** because that’s the Word of God. **(All from Ephesians 6:14-17)** So what I want you to see, and this is the next principle that is so important for you to remember, and that is that you don’t go into battle with someone else’s armor on. You’ve got to have tried and tested armor, and that comes from the Word of God. Go for it.