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SERIES: 1 Samuel, Part 2 (Who Are You Most Like – Saul or David?)
TITLE: Program 9 – Cycles Of Defeat

THURSDAY

OPEN

Are you constantly losing the same battle? Do you think that you have victory, that you've won, and then again you find yourself overcome by the same problem, by the same besetting sin? What is the problem? Is there no release? Is there no victory? O, Beloved, there is victory and we're gonna talk about it today as we look at God's precepts for life.

PART ONE

What I'm going to share with you today, Beloved, is absolutely vital if you want that ultimate victory. Because what breaks my heart, as I see so many people, believers in Jesus Christ that are living in the cycle of defeat. A cycle that God never intended us to live in. It says, **"...this is the victory that...overcome[s] the world, [even] our faith."** (1 John 5:4) And so you and I are to walk in victory. We're to walk in the power and in the freedom of the Holy Spirit. And yet so many people aren't experiencing that. And I

think they're not experiencing it because they really haven't done what we see David do in picture form for us in 1 Samuel, chapter 17, when he goes against this looming Goliath and fells Goliath. What happens afterwards? Because after he brings him down, I think that's where we find the secret of having a continuous victory rather than living in a cycle of defeat. So, let's open our Bible to 1 Samuel, chapter 17, and let's see what happens next in this saga of David and Goliath. And as we look at it, I want you to remember that God wrote these things for your instruction. He has pictures here that he wants you to see as pictures of truth. Alright, not that we pull things out of the Scriptures and make them say what they don't say, but rather we take this incidence, which illustrates truth, and we take the truth and put it together. And you and I then have the victory that is able to overcome the world, which is our faith. Faith is taking God at His Word; it's understanding it. So in 1 Samuel, chapter 17, remember David has tried on Saul's armor; it doesn't work; he puts it aside; he simply picks up a sling; he picks up five smooth stones; he puts them in his pouch and he goes out to meet the Philistine. Now you're marking the Philistine here. And let's see what happens. It says in verse 41 of 1 Samuel 17: **"Then the Philistine came on and approached David, with the shield-bearer in front of him."**(1Samuel 17:41) Now, you've got to get the picture. They're out in the middle of this huge valley. The army of the Philistines is on one hill. The army of Israel is on another hill. This Philistine has defied the armies of the living God. Now they come out to meet each other in this valley, in this battlefield. It is easy to spot Goliath because he's about nine foot tall. He is covered with all this armor and in front of him is the young man that is his shield-bearer that is going out to bear his shield to hand it to him when he needs it. So you've got really two guys there against David, who is in his youth, who doesn't have on a bit of armor that you can see. He does have on armor, and it's the armor of faith, but you can't see it. And it says, **"When the Philistine looked and saw David, he disdained him...;"** (17:42a) I

mean he just looked at him and just turned up his nose. He kinda chuckled.

“...for he was but a youth, and ruddy, with a handsome appearance.

The Philistine said to David, ‘Am I a dog, that you come [out] to me with sticks?’...” (17:42b-43a) He sees the sling in his hand. He says, “What am

I, a dog, you’ve come out with me to throw a stick at me, to beat me away?”

“...And the Philistine cursed David by his gods.” (17:43b) He called on

his gods. Now I want you to remember, that one of the gods of the

Philistines was Dagon. And Dagon was a god that they had set up the Ark of

the Covenant in the temple of Dagon. They had gone to bed and when they

get up, eventually they find the idol of Dagon, fallen on its face and its head,

now this is important, and its head laying apart from its body. So this is one

of the gods that he is calling on. And as he calls and curses David – by this,

you’ve got to remember, he’s calling on the idols. Corinthians tells us

[“behind every idol there’s a demon.”] (1 Corinthians 10:19-21) So we’ve

got spiritual warfare going on here also. And it says in verse 44: “[And] **The**

Philistine also said to David, ‘Come to me, and I will give your flesh to

the birds of the sky and the beasts of the field.’” (1 Samuel 17:44)

“Come on, come on, boy, come on, come on.” And as he’s saying, “Come

on boy, come on,” he’s saying, “You’re gonna be meat; you’re gonna be

dead meat. They’re gonna eat you.” **“Then David said to the Philistine,**

‘You come to me with a sword, a spear, and a javelin, but I come to you

in the name of the Lord of hosts...,”(17:45a) I am coming in the name of

JEHOVAH SABOATH and JEHOVAH SABOATH, the LORD of hosts, is

the one that is in charge of all the powers, all the angelic beings. And all the

people on earth, there is not one power, one principality, one authority on

this earth that he is not Lord over all of them. [“You’re coming to me just

with a spear and a javelin and a sword, my goodness. I’m coming to you in

the name of the living God, the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of

Israel whom you have taunted.”] (1 Samuel 17:45) Now remember, we’re

putting a black cloud kind of around every time that they taunt God or taunt

the armies of the living God. So you want to mark that here as you have also marked it in verse 36 and as you have marked it in verse 10 and as you have marked it in verse 26. And so he says, **“This day the Lord will deliver you...into my hands...,” (17:46a)** Now how does he know that? He knows it by faith. He knows it because he knows “greater is He that’s in us, than he that’s in the world.” (1 John 4:4) He knows it because it’s **“...‘Not by might [and it’s not] by power, but [it’s] by My Spirit,’ says the Lord of hosts.” (Zechariah 4:6)** He knows that **“The horse is prepared against the day of battle: but safety is of the LORD.” (Proverbs 21:31 KJV)** He knows that God is the one that is sovereign, that sits upon His throne. God is the one that creates good and who creates evil, who creates adversity. God is the one who does all these things. He knows His God. And remember this, and we’ve said it before, the people who know their God will be able to stand firm. Remember, you’re in a warfare and if you’re gonna stand firm, you’re gonna put on the full armor of God. If you’re gonna make it, you’re gonna bring every thought captive to the obedience of Jesus Christ. So he’s not listening, so to speak, to the words of Goliath and you’re not to listen to the threats of the enemy. You’re to listen to the words of God, to the promises of God. And that’s what he’s doing. You’re not to look at the enemy; you’re to look at God, God who is over the enemy. And that’s one of the ways that you have victory. But that’s not the point that I have for you yet today. I want you to get to that point, but first I’m gonna read the scripture because I want you to hear every word of God. Because God tells us that [man doesn’t live by bread alone, Precious One. We live by every word that comes out of the mouth of God.] (Deuteronomy 8:3) And one of the reasons that people are defeated all the time is because they are not living by every word of God. They don’t know what the word of God says. They don’t know it in its context. They don’t study it. Let me ask you a question: how many people do you know in the church that are studying the Bible on their own and going through the Bible chapter-by-chapter, verse-by-verse, and

understanding what every book of the Bible's about? Well, he says, **"This day the Lord will deliver you...into my hands..."** now watch this, **"...and I will strike you down and remove your head from you...."** (1 Samuel 17:46a) Now that is the key. That's the key that brings permanent victory over the enemy. We're gonna see it again in just a minute. But it is not just to strike down the enemy, but it is to – (Makes cutting off head noise) ["I'm going to strike you down and I'm gonna remove your head from your body."] (1 Samuel 17:46) If you remove the head, nothing's gonna work. Because everything that makes the body work is up here in the head as it communicates and transmits everything to the rest of the body. So you can't live without your head. I mean, you can take out a liver, you can take out a kidney, you can take off an arm, you can take off a leg, you can take off two legs. You can take all of those off and you can still live. But you can't take off the head and live. And so this is what he's saying. And this is your key and this is your answer if you are going to have victory, permanent victory, over the enemy, then Beloved, you have to deal thoroughly with the enemy. You have to deal thoroughly with the head of the enemy. You have to decapitate it. We'll talk about it in just a minute. But let me finish reading this. He says, **"...I will strike you down and [I will] remove your head from you...."** (1 Samuel 17:46) Now he hasn't done this yet. He's standing before a nine-foot giant that is in all this armor that has this tremendous sword and all he has is a sling and five stones. He only needs one of them. But anyway, he has the five stones. He says, **"...I will give the dead bodies of the army of the Philistines this day to the birds of the sky and [to] the wild beasts of the earth..."** (1 Samuel 17:46b) "It's not gonna be my flesh, it's gonna be yours. It's gonna be the flesh of your army that's going to be fed to the birds and fed to the beasts." It says, **"...that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel."** (1 Samuel 17:46c) Every time you and I face a Goliath, Beloved, there is a purpose in it. And the purpose in it is for you and me, facing that Goliath, to demonstrate to the world that

there is a God in Israel, that there is one and only one true God and His name is YAHWEH, *yeh-ho-vaw*. The All-Sufficient God. He is ELOHIM. He is JEHOVAH RAPHA. He is JEHOVAH NISSI. He is JEHOVAH TSIDKENU. He is all these names that comprise Him in His character. And God wants the world to see that it's "...**'Not by might [and it's not] by power, but [it's] by my Spirit,' says the Lord.**" (Zechariah 4:6) You say, "Okay, but get to that part where I have victory, permanent victory, over the enemy." We will, right after this break.

PART TWO

I'm so glad you're back. I can't wait to finish. David is not finished talking to this Philistine and I am not finished talking to you or to reading you this marvelous marvelous scripture. I have it all highlighted in yellow because it's God speaking and these are principles and truths that we need to know. It is God speaking to us through David and God has recorded it here in the Word of God so that you and I understand that the words that we have here are the very words of God. This is why I want you to study the Word of God with me. This is why the purpose of this program is to bring you face-to-face with truth. This is why we write a study guide for you so that you can discover truth for yourself. So if you haven't gone to our website, preceptsforlife.com, that's preceptsforlife.com, make sure you do it after the program. But we believe that God has called us to establish people in God's Word, to teach them to study the Bible inductively. That means that you go straight to the Bible yourself and it doesn't matter your education or lack of education because God wants every one of His children to know and understand the words. You know, I have no greater joy than studying the Word of God and knowing truth and knowing how to live. As a matter of fact, in just a minute I'm going to tell you how God delivered me permanently from a stronghold of immorality. Well let's go on and then I'll be right back with that. I want to get back to the midst of David's speech to

this Philistine and this is what he says. **“This day the Lord will deliver you...into my hands, and I will strike you down and remove your head from you and I will give the dead bodies of the army of the Philistines this day to the birds of the sky and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel...”** (1 Samuel 17:46) He says, **“...and that all [the] assembly may know that the Lord...”** now listen carefully, **“...does not deliver by sword or spear; for the battle is the Lord’s...”**(17:47a) We’ve seen that as we’ve done this little series on David and Goliath. **“...for the battle is the Lord’s and He will give you into our hands.”**(17:47b) **“...He will give you into our hands.”** David wasn’t standing there just in his singularity. He wasn’t standing there just for David. He was standing there because this man had defied the armies of the living God. It says, **“[And] Then it happened when the Philistine rose and came and drew near to meet David, that David...”** now catch this, I love it, **“...ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine.”** (17:48) I mean he didn’t stand behind there. He didn’t have to get up courage. He didn’t have to go through all these positive thinkings and everything. David knew his God and because he knew his God, he was able to take off. And when that Philistine started coming, I mean he took off and he ran quickly to the battle line. **“And David put his hand into [the] bag and took from it a stone and slung it, and struck the Philistine...”** I love it, **“...on his forehead....”** (17:49a) I mean he’s got all this armor on and yet right here where there’s no armor. Right there on his skull. Right there where it just absolutely causes him to go like this and just- to keel over. And it says that it **“...struck the Philistine on his forehead. And the stone sank into his forehead, so that he fell on his face to the ground.”** (17:49b) I want you to get the picture. I mean he’s standing there huge and mammoth and nine-foot tall, all this armor, his shield-bearer there, his sword, this mammoth mammoth sword of Goliath. And this little kid, not little kid, but this young boy, handsome and ruddy in appearance, but still a youth comes. He has

nothing on, no battle armor on. He takes that sling. He puts a stone in it (makes slinging noises). And that stone hits that Philistine and it's like he just goes over. I mean he just keels over. I mean it hits him and all of a sudden he is over on his face. Well, the enemy's gone. The enemy's dead. David can go home. Oh no. What did he say he was going to do? And this is the key to today's lesson. This is how you get victory over the enemy. All right, let's look at it. Now what do you do? Listen to what it says: "[Then] **David prevailed over the Philistine...**" and God wants you to know this, **"...with a sling and a stone, and he struck the Philistine and killed him; but there was no sword in David's hand. Then David ran...."** I have it underlined; it's so exciting! **"Then David ran and stood over the Philistine and took his sword...drew it out of [the] sheath...,**" (17:50-51a) and whose sword was it? It was Goliath's sword. It wasn't David's. He didn't go into battle with a sword. So he goes over to the Philistine. The Philistine is lying there. His sword is accessible. He reaches down. He takes out that sword and goes, "Whomp!" And it rolls. (Laughs) The head rolls. And when the head rolls, listen, there is permanent and total victory. Do you know why you're defeated over and over and over again? It's because, Beloved, you don't deal thoroughly with the enemy. You don't take the sword of the Word of God and chop off his head. I told you that I had a problem with immorality. I was immoral before I was saved. After I was saved, I was still having immoral dreams. Sometimes I would find myself suddenly attracted to a person, to a man, and then sometimes I would just find these "DT" thoughts coming at me, these dirty thoughts. And I realized, eventually, Hey, this is not just my flesh, this is a warfare. And I thought, God, I can have victory over my thoughts during the day, but how do I have victory over my dreams at night? And God showed me, "It's warfare." And so I stood against the enemy. And I took the sword of the Spirit and I cut off his head in that area. I said, "God, this body is your temple and I want you to fill me from the top of my head to the tip of my toes. And God, I don't want

anything unclean inside of me. And God, I know that “...**greater is He** [that’s] **in [me], than he** [that’s] **in the world.**”(1John 4:4b) And I know this is spiritual warfare. And therefore, claiming “...**the blood of the Lamb and...the word of [my] testimony...**,”(Revelation 12:11b) – and that’s how they overcome the devil in Revelation chapter 12 – I command the spirit of immorality, in the name of Jesus Christ and by the blood of Jesus Christ, to be gone from me.” And I lopped off his head. And I want you to know that I was set free. I was set free. You say, “Never tempted again?” Oh, sometimes. But not like it was. It wasn’t tormenting. And when the temptation came, all I had to say is, “Sorry, you’re dead and I’m not giving in.” Beloved, God intends for you and me to have victory, total victory, over the enemy. So if it’s been a problem of immorality, get rid of the Internet. I mean, whatever it is, you cut off the head of the enemy. You get rid of the source of that power. You have no place in it. The reason you haven’t had victory is because you have not cut off the head, and that’s what you will have to do. I want you to look at Ephesians, chapter 4, verse 27. It says, “...**do not give the devil an opportunity.**”(Ephesians 4:27) Now, in my Bible there’s a footnote there. And that footnote is telling me it could be translated, “**Do not give the enemy a place of occupation.**” In other words, he’s got to go. You never let the enemy define you. You never listen to the enemy’s description of you because it is coming from the one who is a murderer, who is a liar, who does not abide in the truth, the one who is out to get you and to destroy you. He’s a destroyer. But the main thing that I want you to get today, the precept for life that I want you to understand is this: you’ve got to lop off the head of the enemy. So this comes out in very very practical ways. Whatever the enemy is. If it’s a if it’s a problem, if it’s a besetting sin, then what you do is you lop off its head. You take away its power. You take away its authority and you get rid of it. We’ll talk about it more in the next program.