

# Slaying Giants

By Paul Nyamuda (3 February 2019)

## Jozi Church Launch

As I explore leadership on the African continent it seems as if the common denominator historically amongst great leaders is courage. Sadly, there is a leadership gap in our nation and on the continent not too different from the leadership vacuum left by Saul.

### Key 1 – Chosen by God – when God chooses you He anoints you.

**1 Samuel 16:1-12** - *“The Lord asked Samuel, “How long are you going to mourn for Saul now that I have rejected him as king of Israel? Fill a flask with olive oil and go. I’m sending you to Jesse in Bethlehem because I’ve selected one of his sons to be king”. But the Lord told Samuel, “Don’t look at his appearance or how tall he is, because I have rejected him. God does not see as humans see. Humans look at outward appearances, but the Lord looks into the heart.” Then Jesse called Abinadab and brought him to Samuel. But Samuel said, “The Lord has not chosen this one either.” Then Jesse had Shammah come to Samuel. “The Lord has not chosen this one either,” Samuel said. So Jesse brought seven more of his sons to Samuel, but Samuel told Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen any of these. Are these all the sons you have?” “There’s still the youngest one,” Jesse answered. “He’s tending the sheep.” Samuel told Jesse, “Send someone to get him. We won’t continue until he gets here.”*

**(There is an agenda the Lord has that will not continue until you get here).**

*So Jesse sent for him. He had a healthy complexion, attractive eyes, and a handsome appearance. The Lord said, “Go ahead, anoint him. He is the one.” Samuel took the flask of olive oil and anointed David in the presence of his brothers”. The Lord’s Spirit came over David and stayed with him from that day on. Then Samuel left for Ramah.*

If God promotes based on heart then why do we spend so much time preoccupied with outward appearance?

His physical appearance was not negative but that was not the basis of the selection.

There are many people in leadership positions whom the Lord has already rejected. How important to you is God’s approval? There are giants in our nations today. Are you qualified to slay giants? The key thing is the anointing and not your appearance. What are your value equivalents for giant slaying? **Often, we de-authorise ourselves and yet God has chosen us.** Samuel knew the importance of the anointing and was willing to wait for the person who was called by God. Are you willing to wait for this? When God anoints you to lead He also anoints you to slay national giants. Many people want to lead but are not willing to slay giants. **Giants are anything the enemy sends into your life to intimidate you, steal from you or destroy your life. There are internal and external giants.** David faced a few giants in his life including the giants of rejection and obscurity. Whatever your giant is, you can use it for God’s glory. Whatever giants you don’t deal with you are leaving for your children to have to slay. **What giants are you passing on to the next generation? God has anointed you to**

deal with the giants in your city and region. The leadership anointing is a giant slaying anointing. One of the qualifications of leadership is a willingness to slay giants. Have you identified the giants in your life? Be careful of internal giants. We waste our energy on self-made giants. Many are busy fighting their spouse so they do not qualify to carry God's burdens and slay external giants.

## Key 2 – Serving (both his father and the king)

**1 Samuel 16:14** - *"Now the Spirit of the LORD had departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD tormented him."*

**Don't grieve the Spirit lest other spirits come.**

**1 Samuel 16:22-23** - *"Saul sent to Jesse, saying, "Let David now stand before me, for he has found favour in my sight. So it came about whenever the evil spirit from God came to Saul, David would take the harp and play it with his hand; and Saul would be refreshed and be well, and the evil spirit would depart from him".*

David was willing to serve the king even though playing the lyre was not his primary calling. One of the keys to giant slaying is having a servant heart. Personal giants affect us and our sphere of authority. National giants are enemies of the nation. **South Africa's giants may be: fatherlessness, promiscuity, division, poverty, violence, poor education, low self-esteem and being politically correct. We live in a society where it is acceptable for speakers and trainers to say "throw it out to the universe" but when someone encourages prayer it can be seen as pushing Christianity. Do you know what the Jozi Giants are? Mammon and greed, families living apart. Don't attempt to slay giants like Saul, apart from the Spirit of God.**

Jesus said in **Luke 4:18-19** - <sup>18</sup> "The Spirit of the Lord is on Me, because He has anointed Me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim deliverance to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to release the oppressed, <sup>19</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour." ...

**Key 3 – Divine Strategy** (The Israelites had no strategy. They were just standing watching the giant).

**1 Samuel 17:1-7** - *"Now the Philistines gathered their forces for war and assembled at Sokoh in Judah. They pitched camp at Ephes Dammim, between Sokoh and Azekah. Saul and the Israelites assembled and camped in the Valley of Elah and drew up their battle line to meet the Philistines. The Philistines occupied one hill and the Israelites another, with the valley between them. A champion named Goliath, who was from Gath, came out of the Philistine camp. His height was six cubits and a span. He had a bronze helmet on his head and wore a coat of scale armour of bronze weighing five thousand shekels on his legs he wore bronze greaves, and a bronze javelin was slung on his back. His spear shaft was like a weaver's rod, and its iron point weighed six hundred shekels. His shield bearer went ahead of him.*

What forces are gathered against you? Where are they assembled? It is like genetics that causes baldness and yet is only revealed later on in life. God has a strategy for you but so does the enemy. One of the meanings of the name Goliath is to "uncover, to expose". This is exactly what giants try to do, to uncover you, to expose you. Some of your giants are hidden until an opportune time. Fighting your giant effectively, involves studying and knowing its tactics. Do you know the weapons that the giants in your life use? Are some of them time bombs?

## Key 4 – Identity in Christ

**1 Samuel 17:8** - *“Goliath stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, “Why do you come out and line up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not the servants of Saul?”*

Who is giving you identity? Slaying Giants is a question of identity. Goliath does not say “Israelites” or “Jehovah’s children.” **Sadly, in South Africa a lot of people’s primary definition and identity is the colour of their skin.**

**Are you letting your giants define you?** Are you internalising how the enemy has defined you? **How you define yourself will determine your victory. I have no limitations because God has established me in the land. One of the primary questions in South Africa is the question of identity, “Who am I?”**

**1 Samuel 17:9** - *“Choose a man and have him come down to me. If he is able to fight and kill me, we will become your subjects; but if I overcome him and kill him, you will become our subjects and serve us.”*

**You will be enslaved to the giants that you do not slay.** Giants like to set the terms for you? The devil did this when he was trying to tempt Jesus.

## Key 5 – Watch what you are listening to

**1 Samuel 17:10-11** - *“Then the Philistine said, “This day I defy the armies of Israel! Give me a man and let us fight each other.” **On hearing the Philistine’s words, Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified”.***

Giants speak. Words are often empowered by spirits. **Whose words are you hearing and whose words will you act on?** Again, remember that if you don’t deal with your giants you will pass them on to your children. What giants have you passed onto your children? We pass on fear to our kids. I am afraid of falling yet I was surprised to see Samuel at the edge of Qunu Falls.

**2 Timothy 1:7** - *“For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline”.*

Your identity in Christ does not make you timid. Have you limited the call of God on your life because of how you see yourself?

**Romans 8:15** - *“The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.”*

Your identity is not in your intellectual abilities but in God. When you become a Christian you bear Christ’s name and there is no need to attach any other names to yourself.

**1 Samuel 17:12-16** - *“Now David was the son of an Ephrathite named Jesse, who was from Bethlehem in Judah. Jesse had eight sons, and in Saul’s time he was very old. Jesse’s three oldest sons had followed Saul to the war: The firstborn was Eliab; the second, Abinadab; and the third, Shammah. David was the youngest. The three oldest followed Saul, but David went back and forth from Saul to tend his father’s sheep at Bethlehem. For forty days the Philistine came forward every morning and evening and **took his stand.”***

Forty is the number of testing. **Is your giant getting into your head? How long have these giants been tormenting you? Are you listening to the giant more than to God? This is what worry does, it meditates on the enemy's words. Where has your giant taken its stand? Locating your giant is key. Confront it, name it, and label it.** Talk about the elephant in the room. A lot of people go to war but are not ready for the giants like David's brothers. They get disillusioned at work or in ministry because they did not know what giants they would have to deal with. David could be in the king's palace whilst tending sheep. Many people that become giant slayers lose their authority when they fail to serve in obscurity. Some of you are between levels. **We never graduate from servanthood.**

**Don't be distracted. Don't major on the minors. Don't sweat the small stuff. Make the basics beautiful.**

**1 Samuel 17:17-20** - *"Now Jesse said to his son David, "Take this ephah of roasted grain and these ten loaves of bread for your brothers and hurry to their camp. Take along these ten cheeses to the commander of their unit. See how your brothers are and bring back some assurance from them. They are with Saul and all the men of Israel in the Valley of Elah, fighting against the Philistines." Early in the morning David left the flock in the care of a shepherd, loaded up and set out, as Jesse had directed".*

**Who are you serving? Are you doing as they have directed?**

An obedient servant heart was what got him to the battle field. His promotion took place in the context of serving his brothers and father. Is your promotion strategy centred around acts of service? David delivered reliably despite the fact that being a messenger was not his primary passion and gift. His brothers do not seem to be kind to him yet he obeys his father's request to look out for them.

**Some of your giants are hidden until an opportune time.** Do you know the weapons that the giants in your life use?

**Key 6 – Use your own weapons**

**1 Samuel 17:25** - *"So the men of Israel said, "Have you seen this man who has come up? Surely he has come up to defy Israel; and it shall be that the man who kills him the king will enrich with great riches, will give him his daughter, and give his father's house exemption from taxes in Israel."*

There are benefits and rewards associated with giant slaying. Are you familiar with these? **God calls us to be spiritually aggressive and not double-minded.** When you hear the voices of condemnation, do they distract you? God is calling us to a place of boldness even in a time when everyone is fleeing from the enemy. **David did not use Saul's armour, he used what was familiar to him.** What weapons has God given you in your life? There will always be a reward for the giant slayer, God will reward you. **Many people are looking for the breakthrough and yet they do not want to face their giants.** However to get to your giant may require you to go through valleys. You are established as a leader among your peers when you are courageous. What is everyone in your organisation afraid of?

**Key 7 – Keep your eye on the reward**

**1 Samuel 17:26** - *"Then David spoke to the men who stood by him, saying, "What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?"*

How you define a problem, affects how you deal with it. David relied on his covenant with God. **How do you see your giants in relation to God?**

### **Key 8 – Covenantal mindset**

**1 Samuel 17:28** - *“Now Eliab his oldest brother heard when he spoke to the men; and Eliab’s anger was aroused against David, and he said, “Why did you come down here? 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.”*

When the confident one comes into contact with the insecure one, often insecurity interprets confidence as arrogance. The voices you hear, have they caused you to shrink back or go forward? David did not internalise what his older brother Eliab said to him. The key is to speak to those who will hear your heart. When God has promoted you, the right people will hear about you. **What debilitating rules have you created for yourself that have limited your effectiveness? What are the counter arguments for this?**

### **Key 9 – Resilience**

**1 Samuel 17:30; 33-54** - *“Now when the words which David spoke were heard, they reported them to Saul; and he sent for him. Then David said to Saul, “Let no man’s heart fail because of him, your servant will go and fight with this Philistine.” And Saul said to David, “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.” But David said to Saul, “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.” And Saul said to David, “Go, and the LORD be with you!” Then he took his staff in his hand; and he chose for himself five smooth stones from the brook, and put them in a shepherd’s bag, in a pouch which he had, and his sling was in his hand. And he drew near to the Philistine. So the Philistine came, and began drawing near to David, and the man who bore the shield went before him. And when the Philistine looked about and saw David, he disdained him; for he was only a youth, ruddy and good-looking. So the Philistine said to David, “Am I a dog that you come to me with sticks?” And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. And the Philistine said to David, “Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field!” Then David said to the Philistine, “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, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. Then 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.” So it was, when the Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David that David hurried and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine. Then David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone; and he slung it and struck the Philistine in his forehead, so that the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the earth.*

*So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone, and struck the Philistine and killed him. But there was no sword in the hand of David. Therefore David ran and stood over the Philistine, took his sword and drew it out of its sheath and killed him, and cut off his head with it. And when the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled. Now the men of Israel and Judah arose and shouted, and pursued the Philistines as far as the entrance of the valley and to the gates of Ekron. And the wounded of the Philistines fell along the road to Shaaraim, even as far as Gath and Ekron. Then the children of Israel returned from chasing the Philistines, and they plundered their tents. And David took the head of the Philistine and brought it to Jerusalem, but he put his armor in his tent.*

One of the things that successful people are able to do is to build on their past success and translate it to present and future success. Do you remember the God who was with you in difficult situations and in successful situations. In order to slay the giants in your life, **you have to accept how God has wired you and the tools He has given you**. Are you wearing someone else's armour? God allows you to play your game, he is not saying "wear Saul's armour". The ultimate win is about slaying the giant and not what armour you use. What giants do you have to slay today on behalf of your children?

**Key 10 – The battle is the Lord's and He gets the glory**