



THE LORD'S FLOCK GROWTH DIGEST

PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

“SLAYING THE BULLY”

(Part 2 of Living in the Power of the Spirit)

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A bully is defined as one who is habitually cruel, insulting, or threatening to those who are weaker, smaller, or in some way vulnerable. Goliath, the Philistine, was the big bad bully who was threatening and insulting the Israelites (1 Samuel 17). David, the young Israelite, saw Goliath as a threat to God’s plan and people. He was determined to deliver the Israelites from the insulting attack of Goliath. The methods used by David to defeat Goliath will also work with any bully we face in our life.

1. How was this bully defeated by David?

1.1 He was defeated by David’s courage.

David was not afraid (2 Timothy 1:7). He did not forget that, as a shepherd, God protected him against the lions and the bears that tried to harm his sheep. He saw no difference between the beasts and Goliath. He did not allow his fear to stop him, to do something new and to submit his plans to God. David was not afraid of Goliath because of the following:

- 1.1.1 The Lord has promised to be with us (Hebrews 13:5).
- 1.1.2 The Lord has promised to see us through the other side (Isaiah 43:2; Joshua 1:9).
- 1.1.3 The Lord has promised to protect us (Isaiah 54:17).
- 1.1.4 The Lord has promised to enable us (Philippians 4:13).
- 1.1.5 The Lord has promised to give us victory (Romans 8:37).
- 1.1.6 The Lord has prepared us for a showdown with our bullies (2 Timothy 1:7; Sirach 2).

1.2 He was defeated by David’s conviction.

David knew that the secret of success was not the armor of men but the armor of God. The Word of God is our powerful weapon to fight our spiritual battles (Ephesians 6:17).

1.3 He was defeated by David’s confidence.

David had confidence that God will protect him just as God gave him victory over the lion and the bear. David’s only power was his faith in God. He believed that God will give him victory over Goliath. We need to forget what we think we can do and put our faith in God (Ephesians 3:20; Hebrews 11:1).

2. What does the Scripture say about trusting God to give us victory over our bullies?

- 2.1 We have this confidence that whatever we ask God for is ours (1 John 5:14-15).
- 2.2 Faith comes from hearing the Word of God (Romans 10:17).
- 2.3 God did not design us to be defeated (John 8:36).
- 2.4 Be strong and courageous for the Lord your God will not fail or forsake you (Deuteronomy 31:6,8).
- 2.5 God will give you wisdom when facing various trials (James 1:5-6).

Conclusion:

The secret of David’s success was his faith in God. Faith is the key to fight all the battles we face in life. Let us put our bullies in the hands of God and trust Him to give us victory over them. (Mark 11:23-24).

Reflection:

- 1. Are you facing any bullies today?
- 2. What are you going to do about them?

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3. Are you going to let them defeat you?