



THE LORD'S FLOCK GROWTH DIGEST

PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

“BIG BAD BULLY”

(Leaving in the Power of the Spirit Series, Part 1)
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One of the world’s major problems is bullying - the intentional use of threat or force to intimidate, cause anguish, or hurt others. Each one of us has met or faced a bully at some point in our life – at home, in school, at work, in communities, in church. They are everywhere, even in the cyberspace. Bullies have existed in our world since Cain killed Abel at the dawn of the human race, but God is bigger than any of our bullies in life.

I. The bullies in our life

- A. Situations in life that leave us paralyzed, fearful, or intimidated
- B. People that Satan uses to endanger us, to commit sin, to question God, and to be unfaithful
- C. The numerous trials we encounter in our life
 1. problems or people that assume power over us
 2. financial worries,
 3. unemployment,
 4. relationship
 5. health

II. How to conquer the bullies in our life

- A “Fight the good fight of faith” (1 Tim. 6:12).
- B. “Submit yourself to God. Resist the devil; he will flee from you” (Jam. 4:7).
- C. “So we fix our eyes not on what is seen but on what is unseen; since, what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal” Cor. 4:18).
- D. Know that our God is bigger than our problems.
 1. We should not be afraid of our trials. How we see our problems is a matter of perspective/ outlook in facing our problem.
 2. We must not allow bullies to intimidate us.

3. We should defeat our bully, no matter what or who s/he is. Satan, the bully, uses words to demean us, to terrorize us, and to remind us of our sinful past that frightens us.

III. What did David possess that he beat Goliath?

(1 Samuel 17:1-54)

A. PERCEPTION

1. The view of FEAR.

Some saw this bully as an opponent (Mt 5:11).

2. The view of FAITH – David’s view.

Some saw this bully as an obstacle (1 Sam. 17:45-48)

IV CONCLUSION

Every day we meet bullies: our trials and testing. We focus only inward and think of the unpleasant events in our life, but let us look at the many blessings of God in our lives (Heb.12:1-2). Moreover, God allows the anointed tribulators not to repudiate us but to develop/form our character, to make us persevering in times of trial and to be more like our Lord Jesus Christ who was not even spared of bullies. Finally, all things work together for good to those who love God and called according to His purpose (Rom. 8:28).

III. REFLECTION

1. During testings, why do some people emerge victorious?
2. How do we perceive our situation? How do we look at our problem?
3. How do we look at the people who malign us and our name? Do we look at them as enemies? Or someone that God has placed (in our life) so that we will be able to win the battle?

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