

March 5, 2013

EXTREME FAITH

Courage

Courage is doing what's right in the face of fear.

Courage

is knowing who you are and being that person.



FACING A GIANT

Courage is found when you know who you are and who you belong to!

David squatted for a moment and stared at himself in the brook. "I can do this," he said softly to himself. "He's not that big, and he's not that tough." Behind him, David heard the jeers. "Come on, David. Go get him!" "Go shepherd boy!" David didn't care. He was on a mission. A divine mission? That was soon to be seen. David's hand chilled as he reached into the water and began searching for several smooth stones. One at a time, David took each stone out of the water, held it up, and studied it. He was looking for the perfect ones. After all, if you're going to slay a giant, you've got to have the right weapons. There were two basic requirements. First, the stones had to be just big enough to fit in his sling. Next, they had to be smooth so they'd fly straight. "I can do this," he said under his breath. "No biggie." David walked out into the clearing and stood face-to-face with Goliath, the Philistine. Facing off with a Philistine wasn't a new concept for the Israelites. They'd been fight-ing off the big guys for

generations. Man-to-man combat wasn't unusual either. In ancient times, instead of getting everyone in the battle and risking the chance of a lot of people dying, each army often chose its strongest person and had them fight it out. The army whose man won the fight won the land or whatever else they were disputing. In this moment, though, David wasn't defending his people or his land. He was defending God's honor. It was a huge task for a young man. What do you think raced through his mind as he thought about what he had to do next? Man, Goliath really smells. I wonder what the guys behind me are thinking about right now. Okay, I know I can do this . . . but what if I miss? Did a million distracting facts, problems, and confusing things race through his brain? Maybe. But you don't find David stressing. In fact, the words he speaks in the presence of Goliath are impressive. Check them out. "This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand" (1 Sam. 17:46). "I will strike you and take your head from you" (1 Sam. 17:46).



David knew that God was with him that day, he knew that he was God's child and that he would defeat the enemy. Do you know that God is with you and He will help you defeat your enemies? Courage is all about knowing and believing in who God has made you to be because you know that you are a child of God!

Courage in God it all starts there!

God's Not Dead / News Boys

Let love explode
And bring the dead to life
A love so bold
To see a revolution somehow

Let love explode
And bring the dead to life
A love so bold
To bring a revolution somehow

Now I'm lost in your freedom
And this world I'll overcome

My God's not dead
He's surely alive
He's living on the inside
Roaring like a lion

My God's not dead
He's surely alive
He's living on the inside
Roaring like a lion

He's roaring
He's roaring
He's roaring like a lion

Let hope arise
And make the darkness hide
My faith is dead
I need a resurrection somehow

Now.
Now I'm lost in your freedom
Now.
And this world I'll overcome

My God's not dead

He's surely alive
He's living on the inside
Roaring like a lion

My God's not dead
He's surely alive
He's living on the inside
Roaring like a lion

He's roaring
He's roaring
He's roaring like a lion

He's roaring
He's roaring

Let Heaven roar
And fire fall
Come shake the ground
With the sound of revival

Let Heaven roar
And fire fall
Come shake the ground
With the sound of revival...

My God's not dead
He's surely alive
He's living on the inside
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Roaring like a lion

COURAGE

Knowing who you are and who you belong to takes courage. David could have said that he was too young to fight the Giant, he could have believed what everyone was telling him. But this was not David, David lived every part of his life out of Courage. He knew who he was, and he knew that he was God's.

Knowing who you are starts with knowing who you belong to, or who's son or daughter you are. God loves us so much he always has our back and will always be there for us in all situations. We all have Giants that we need to face off with, and we must believe that we can face them now, not waiting till later, but now!

David did not wait he trusted in God!

Think About it

What's really cool about what David says is that there are no mixing words. He's clear. I will conquer. You will die. I'll have your head. And God will get the glory. Yep. David knew who was in charge God.

David's Story cont.

"The battle is the LORD'S, and He will give you into our hands" (1 Sam. 17:47). Perfect, don't you think? Sweating on the inside, cool on the outside. Those don't sound like the words of someone who's chicken, right? Then David made his move. He loaded his leather-and-string sling with the first stone and prepared to swing. What might have been Goliath's response? "Tee hee hee. I'll let him get a few tosses in, then I'll take his head off and go bench-press some cows. Get this over with, squirt. Ho hum." David began swinging his sling. Swing. No sword. Swing. No armor. Swing. No army willing to stand anywhere near him. Release. Can you imagine how surprised Goliath's people must have been when David took him out in the valley that day with just one stone?

It took David just one stone to slay his giant. How many stones does it take us to slay our giants? Most of our enemies are even more curious than a Philistine giant. They have an imposing nature. They have the ability to hurt, maim, or destroy us. They're bullies. They set out to bring us down. That's what Goliath did. That's what ours do. Ever had an enemy you needed courage for? Maybe a habit you couldn't shake. Maybe a friend who was trying to get you involved in stuff that you didn't want to get into. Whatever your enemy was or is, take a lesson from David. You can hurt it. You can even kill it as long as you know what David knew.

David Knew who He Was David had a clear understanding of his ability. Can't you see him in his backyard with that sling and a few rough stones? He's a young boy, outside on

a hot summer day. A cup of juice sitting on a rock behind him. Shirt off. Breeze tossing his hair around. About sixty feet away there's a scarecrow he's made out of some old clothes. The scarecrow stands ready with a fake sword and a sinister scowl. And David's just swinging away. He's practicing. Getting ready for the day he'll have to use this ability to compete in a contest or to defend himself. David practiced. He knew his ability with the sling. He was an adept sling-er, toss-er dude. Give him a rock and he could split an apple. Or a head. Do you know who you are? Have any idea about what ability you could use when facing a giant? That's what gave David his courage. Well, at least part of his courage. He trusted what he was able to do. Do you?

David Knew whose He Was In David's speech to Goliath, he willingly gave Goliath and us an understanding of his knowledge of God and of his relationship with Him. What's really cool about what David says is that there's no mixing words. He's clear. I will conquer. You will die. I'll have your head. And God will get the glory. Yep. David knew who was in charge. God. He orchestrated the fight. He gave David the ability with the sling. And (and this is muy importante) He never let David forget that he was connected. David was God's child, and God didn't let that go. Know whose you are? Really? How does that affect your ability with seemingly impossible tasks? There's a difference, you know, between knowing whose you are and having confidence in whose you are. David had both. Do you? David Acted on Those Two Factors Alone You won't read that, after removing Goliath's head, David laid, "Man, I never thought that would happen. What a freaky day I'm having!" Not a chance. When I read this story, I get the feeling that David felt secure in who God was and what he himself was able to do. Was David scared? Maybe. Did he, just for 1 blip of a moment, shake a bit? Possibly. But he acted. He wound up. He tossed. He conquered. Winding up . . . trusting our ability. Tossing . . . trusting God (He directed the stone, you know). Conquering . . . the result of trusting our ability and whose We are.



Take a moment to think about the concept of extreme Courage. Use these questions to help you apply what you've Just heard to your life.

What giant problems do you face in your life?

What has been your response to these problems?

What should your response be to these problems?

Courage is doing what's right in the face of fear. What are your fears about the giants in your life?

What's the right thing to do in spite of the fear?

How can God help you have courage?

In what ways do other people notice your courage?

How can your courage change the world around you?

STEP ONE:

Know who God is.

STEP TWO:

Know who you are in relation to God.

STEP THREE:

Put those two together and know that God has your back and you can face your Giants with confidence and courage!

MODERN EXTREMES

Living with Courage and Vision

Barely eighteen. A junior in high school. Unless you asked her, Hieu would look and sound like any other young Asian girl living in the United States. And she's very honest about growing up in Vietnam. Hieu's story certainly isn't a secret. Her amazing confidence and courage grow out of conditions that seem almost unbelievable. Hers is a story that's made for a movie. Hieu and her entire family grew up in Vietnam where they faced a lot of opposition. Her father fought in the war against Communist Vietnam. And in the wartime disputes, he was captured by Communist Vietnam and imprisoned. He stayed in prison for three years. Then he was released, and he ran to Thailand. He stayed there for two years, certain he'd be recaptured if he returned to Vietnam. Eventually Hieu's father began to fear being captured for being a Communist in Thailand, so he ran back to Vietnam. When it appeared he wouldn't be safe, he returned to Thailand and stayed for three years. In Thailand, just as he had feared, he was imprisoned by officials who thought he was a Communist. Hieu's father finally made his way out of prison and returned to his family. They had missed their dad, and they were ready for a change. About two years ago, Hieu and her family moved to the United States. You'd think they had contacts, right? Nope. Hieu and her family lived in the basement of a church for almost a month before finding a place to live. Her parents got jobs, and eventually Hieu began school in

America. Because of certain Vietnamese restrictions, not all of the family was able to come to the U.S. with them. Some had to stay in Vietnam. Got your scorecard out? Half the family moves to the U.S. No place to live. No jobs. An uncertain future. Half the family remains in Vietnam. Guess what. Hieu faces each day with unbelievable confidence. That confidence spills over into a radiant joy that infects people around her. Hieu also has courage found only from walking where she's walked. A father unjustly imprisoned. A strange, new life in a strange, new country. Convinced she's courageous? There's more. Ask Hieu what she wants to do when she graduates from college and medical school. Someone with her smarts and tenacity could make a lot of money in the States. Especially in the medical field. Not Hieu. When she graduates, she's heading back to Vietnam. Not to seek revenge. Not to work in a hospital and make big bucks. She's going there to serve people caught in a system that serves the rich and ignores the poor. She's going back to the country that unjustly imprisoned her father and left her family stranded. That's extreme courage.



Living life with
Extreme faith
and
Extreme vision

**EXTREME FAITH
MAGAZINE**

A product of XGT and CCAspen

Look it over, read the story again, dig into the questions and write out your thoughts...

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.