

(Hebrews 12:1) Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

For when you feel defeated by life's circumstances...

“ _____ ”

(1 Samuel 17:4-8,10,11 NLT) Then Goliath, a Philistine champion from Gath, came out of the Philistine ranks to face the forces of Israel. He was over nine feet tall! He wore a bronze helmet, and his bronze coat of mail weighed 125 pounds. He also wore bronze leg armor, and he carried a bronze javelin on his shoulder. The shaft of his spear was as heavy and thick as a weaver's beam, tipped with an iron spearhead that weighed 15 pounds. His armor bearer walked ahead of him carrying a shield. Goliath stood and shouted a taunt across to the Israelites.... I defy the armies of Israel today! Send me a man who will fight me!" When Saul and the Israelites heard this, they were terrified and deeply shaken.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT DEFEAT...

1. Even if the enemy says you aren't _____.

(1 Samuel 17:33) Saul replied, "You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a young man, and he has been a warrior from his youth."

(1 Samuel 17:34-37) But David said to Saul, "Your servant has been keeping his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defiled the armies of the living God. The Lord who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine."

2. Even if the enemy says you aren't _____.

(1 Samuel 17:40, 43) Then he took his staff in his hand, chose five smooth stones from the stream, put them in the pouch of his shepherd's bag and, with his sling in his hand, approached the Philistine...He said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come at me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods.

3. Even if you don't have the "right" _____.

(1 Samuel 16:7) But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height... The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

FINAL WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

✓ "You don't need a _____ to make a difference."

(1 Samuel 22:2) All those who were in distress or in debt or discontented gathered around him, and he became their commander. About four hundred men were with him.

(Colossians 2:10 NASB) and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority;

✓ "Don't let your _____ define you."

(Psalm 51:7-12) Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity. Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

(Psalm 30:11,12) You turned my wailing into dancing; you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, that my heart may sing your praises and not be silent. Lord my God, I will praise you forever.

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"Trust that God is fighting for you."

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