

1. We are going to continue this morning with our series. **"This is Your Year of Jubilee."**
2. Before the children of Israel entered the promised land, God gave specific direction about how the land was to be divided among the people.
3. The lands that were given were to be permanent. Meaning, they were to stay in the family and tribe they had been allotted to.
4. But because of difficulties and hardships, lands would be sold and traded and even people who were in trouble would sell themselves as servants.
5. So, God gave the command that ever 50 years, they were to proclaim a year of Jubilee.
6. In the year of jubilee, all lands were to revert back to their original owner, and those who had sold themselves were to be given their freedom.
7. **Jubilee means liberty or freedom.** In the year of Jubilee (my words) everything and everyone was to be restored back to God's original intent for them.
8. What I believe the Lord is speaking to all of us is that it is his desire in 2023 to restore back for us the things God originally intended for our lives, and to restore us back to his original intended purpose for our lives.
9. So, I declare, by faith, that this is your year of jubilee.
10. What do you need God to restore in your life? In the struggle of daily life over a period of years, what inside of you do you need and want God to restore in you?
11. Joy? Hope? Peace? Strength? Purpose?
12. In the struggle of daily life over a period of years, do you need relationships restored? Family harmony restored. Finances restored? Or anything else restored.
13. God's desire is to do just that. So, I've been asking you to believe for God to do what he longs to do.
14. Last week we said that the only way it is possible for those things to happen is through faith in God almighty.

15. In the book of Leviticus 25, the children of Israel were to count off six years, then every seventh year was to be a sabbath year. Where they didn't plant and harvest and engage in all the things they would normally do, but instead trusted in the lord to provide for the,
16. Then in the 50th year, the year of jubilee, they were to do the same.
17. For 2 straight years their source of provision was God and God alone. They were not trusting in what they could do, instead they trusted in what the Lord would do.
18. If God is going to restore for you and in you what he desires, it will not come about because of your own strength or ability, it will only come about as a result of God's work and strength and ability in your life. And that requires faith.
19. I love the statement Jesus made in John chapter 6. He had just told the people that he was the bread of life.
20. In other words, the only way for them to have life was through him. He is the source and portion that is required in order to live a victorious life.
21. But being a doing people, like us, they wanted to know what they had to do to get this bread of life. And this is how Jesus responded.
22. **John 6:28-29** Then they asked him, "What must we do to do the works God requires?" 29 Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent."
23. What is the work that you and I must do to see God restore and bring freedom? We must believe in the Lord and his power to do what he has promised. Faith.
24. We are going to continue talking about faith this morning. And as an illustration of what that faith looks like we are going to look at what I hope is a familiar story to many.
25. By a show of hands, how many have ever heard the story of David and Goliath?
26. Goliath was the greatest military champion of the Philistines.
27. As best we can tell he stood about 9 feet 9 inches tall.
28. He was an imposing figure. For 40 days he taunted the army of Israel, and he cursed their God and he challenged anyone with enough courage to come out and fight him.

29. And for 40 days Israel's army ran in fear.
30. But that wasn't even the half of it. Remember we said earlier that God had designated where the tribes and families were supposed to live. To put it mildly, they were not living in God's promised land. They were living in bondage.
31. **1 Samuel 13:6-7** When the Israelites saw that their situation was critical and that their army was hard pressed, they hid in caves and thickets, among the rocks, and in pits and cisterns. **7** Some Hebrews even crossed the Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead. Saul remained at Gilgal, and all the troops with him were quaking with fear.
32. You talk about a bad situation. Things were bad.
33. But one day David arrives at the battle front.
34. More than likely, David was about 16 or 17 years old. And after hearing this big ugly giant curse the God of Israel, David decided he couldn't just stand there, he had to do something.
35. In 1 Samuel chapter 17 we see it all come to a head.

TEXT: **1 Samuel 17:45-50** David said to the Philistine, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. **46** This day the LORD will deliver you into my hands, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head. This very day I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds and the wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. **47** All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD's, and he will give all of you into our hands." **48** As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him. **49** Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell facedown on the ground. **50** So David triumphed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone; without a sword in his hand he struck down the Philistine and killed him.

TITLE: **How Giants Fall.**

INTRO:

1. God wants each and every one of us to experience a year of jubilee. He longs to restore in us and for us what he intends for our lives.
2. And the only way that will happen is when we put our faith and our trust in the Lord.
3. And that sounds really good and right, and in the safety of a group of believers it just might seem possible.

4. But one of the things that can rattle our faith is when the size of the mess, the size of the things that have gotten off track, when the size of the restoration that needs to occur is the size of a giant.
5. I have a list of some things I believe the Lord wants to restore in my life. But I have to tell you. The stuff on my list resemble giants.
6. They are huge. They are bigger than me. They are bigger than my ability to make happen. And I'm just going to be transparent when I say most of those things scare me.
7. Maybe you can relate to those feelings. If so, then let's tackle this thing together.
8. If the size of our situation is the size of a giant, then how is it possible for those giants to fall.
9. I believe the story of David and Goliath is a perfect example of how that happens.
10. David didn't approach Goliath the giant and compare the size of the giant to himself, instead, he compared the size of the giant to his God.
11. 1 Samuel 17:45 David said to the Philistine, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied."
12. For 40 days Goliath had been taunting the soldiers and calling them every name in the book.
13. For 40 days he bellowed and barked and strutted around like a big ole rooster.
14. But one of the first things David did is he put things in perspective, not only for himself, but for the giant.
15. Look here giant. You haven't defied me. You have defied the Lord God almighty.
16. God is the one you are fighting against, and God is the one who is fighting for me.
17. We will never be able to have faith and believe God for the impossible when we get stuck in a pattern of comparing our circumstances to ourselves.
18. It is only when we begin to compare our circumstances to the size of our God that faith is possible.
19. Comparing the size of our problems to ourselves borders on

madness. I should know. I have failed in that area many times.

20. Comparing the size of our problems to ourselves leaves us where the nation of Israel was, hiding where they weren't supposed to be, quaking in fear.
21. This aspect of comparing the size of our difficulty to the size of our God rather than ourselves is so vital that David doesn't do it just once, he does it multiple times in just a few sentences.
22. Let me read this passage again and see if you can spot it.
23. **1 Samuel 17:45-47** David said to the Philistine, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. **46** This day the LORD will deliver you into my hands, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head. This very day I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds and the wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. **47** All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD's, and he will give all of you into our hands."
24. David reminds us of something extremely powerful in this last verse.
25. When it comes to giants, when it comes to facing things that are obviously more than we can handle on our own, it's our job to believe and it's the Lord's job to do the impossible.
26. The battle is the Lord's.
27. Faith. This is your year of jubilee. This is your year where you trust God to do what only God can do.
28. But to be clear. The purpose of this year of jubilee is not just so you can trust him now for these things, it is so that we will develop...

A lifestyle of faith in God.

1. Victorious faith is not an occasional faith, victorious faith is a continual faith. Not perfection. But continual.
2. I made the statement last week, but it bears repeating. As a nation we don't live in an atmosphere and environment of faith in God. We live in an environment of putting faith in everything and everyone besides God.
3. That means that on a daily basis we have to be mindful of where we are putting our faith, and if we find ourselves putting faith in the wrong places, with the help of the Holy Spirit we have to be willing to correct

this flaw in our faith.

4. King Saul was a man who didn't practice a lifestyle of faith. That is evidenced by his response to David.
5. 1 Samuel 17:32-33 David said to Saul, "Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him." 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."
6. I'm not implying that Saul never put faith in God because he did. But what we find from examining his life is that he didn't consistently put his faith in God.
7. When faced with the giant all Saul could think of was no you can't, no you can't.
8. But in comparison, David's consistent walk of faith said yes, I can, yes, I can.
9. 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, 35 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. 36 Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. 37 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."
10. Verse 37 makes it clear that David wasn't bragging on himself, he was simply identifying time after time where he had put his trust in the Lord and the Lord had supplied.
11. I believe one of the tendencies we can have is to read this story and forget that the slaying of Goliath wasn't an isolated event.
12. It wasn't an anomaly or abnormality. It was consistent with the kind of faith that David expressed in God on a daily basis.
13. Saul thought this whole thing was a bid deal, and David saw it is a continuation of what God had already been doing in his life.
14. The purpose of our believing in God that this is our year of jubilee.
15. The purpose of trusting in the Lord for him to do amazing things with the giants in our lives is not just so we can experience one year of victory, it is so we can experience a lifetime of victory.
16. In this year of jubilee, God wants to instill in us a lifestyle of faith in him.

17. My last point this morning, while spiritual, is also very practical. And that is this.

Faith is not a feeling; faith is an action.

1. If the Lord is going to instill in us a lifestyle of faith, we have to know that sometimes we feel faith, but more times than not, faith is something we express before we feel.
2. I want to read to you again verse 46. We know this is a statement of faith because David is declaring what God will do but hasn't done yet.
3. But David says something in this verse that is interesting.
4. **1 Samuel 17:46** This day the LORD will deliver you into my hands, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head. This very day I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds and the wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel.
5. In this verse David tells Goliath that he is going to do two things. Not one, but two.
6. David says, I will strike you down, and cut off your head. And I will cut off your head. But guess what. David didn't have a sword with which to cut off Goliath's head.
7. **1 Samuel 17:50** So David triumphed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone; without a sword in his hand he struck down the Philistine and killed him.
8. At the time when David said I will cut off your head, David wasn't in possession of a sword.
9. In fact, according to 1 Samuel chapter 13 verse 22, the only two people among the entire Israelite army who had a sword was king Saul and his son Jonathan.
10. But David said back in chapter 17 verse 46, I will strike you down and cut off your head.
11. I'm going to ask you to give me the benefit of the doubt for a moment. The very last thing I want to do is try and stretch the Word to mean something it doesn't, or try and apply the word in a way it wasn't meant to be applied.
12. But before I point this out, I want to humbly say that I felt freedom from the Lord to present this illustration this way.
13. We know that David struck Goliath down with the sling and the stone. So, when he told Goliath in verse 46 that he was going to strike

him down, David could physically feel the sling in his hand.

14. But when he told Goliath he was going to cut off his head, he could not physically feel the sword because he didn't possess a sword.
15. In reality, David had never used a sword. The sword he used was Goliath's sword after he knocked him down.
16. The application I want to make is this. Sometimes we do feel faith first and then we express faith.
17. But in my life, I have found that a lot of the time God asks me to express my faith long before I feel the faith.
18. Developing a lifestyle of faith doesn't mean that we always feel faith or are encouraged by faith.
19. Developing a lifestyle of faith means that often times we have to express it first and then the feelings come later.

Conclusion:

1. I must tell you; I love it when I can feel faith. I love it when faith just wells up inside me and I can feel it, so I express it.
2. But most of the time that is the exception and not the rule.
3. Last week I shared a verse from 2 Corinthians.
4. Remember Paul had what he called a thorn in his flesh. He described this thorn in the flesh as a messenger of Satan that tormented him.
5. So, what did he do? Three times he pleaded with the Lord to take it away from him. And this is what the Lord said in return.
6. 2 Corinthians 12:9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.
7. What did Paul feel? According to verse 7 what he felt was torment. To the point that he begged God to take the torment away.
8. But what was the Lord asking Paul to do? He was asking Paul to believe that His Grace was enough, even when what Paul felt was weakness.
9. And what was Paul's response? He said I will boast all the more gladly about my weakness. He expressed faith with his mouth even though what he physically felt was weakness and torment.
10. I believe it is that kind of faith that God is calling us to in 2023 and

beyond.

11. We may be staring in the face of giants, but we are putting our faith in the Lord Jesus.
12. This morning as we stand and close, I am going to ask you to join me in doing two things.
13. The first thing I will ask you to do is to express faith, verbally, to God, that you believe this is your year of jubilee.
14. Lord, I believe this is my year of restoration and freedom.
15. The second thing I am going to ask you to do is to ask the Lord to develop a lifestyle of faith inside you.
16. Help me move past my feelings and express faith whether I feel it or not.