

The Life Of David, Part 1: Clarity of Hope

1 Samuel 17:1–4, 7–11

Now the Philistines gathered their forces for war and assembled at Sokoh in Judah . . . Saul and the Israelites assembled and camped in the Valley of Elah and drew up their battle line to meet the Philistines. The Philistines occupied one hill and the Israelites another, with the valley between them.

A champion named **Goliath**, who was from Gath, came out of the Philistine camp. His height was six cubits and a span.

His spear shaft was like a weaver's rod, and its iron point weighed **six hundred shekels**.

Goliath stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, "Why do you come out and line up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not the **servants of Saul**? Choose a man and have him come down to me.

If he is able to fight and kill me, we will become your subjects; but if I overcome him and kill him, you will become our subjects and serve us."

Then the Philistine said, "This day I **defy** the **armies of Israel**! Give me a man and let us fight each other."

On hearing the Philistine's words, **Saul** and all the Israelites were **dismayed** and **terrified**.

We Place Our Hope In What We Depend On

1 Samuel 8:1, 3–7, 9

When Samuel grew old, he appointed his sons as Israel's **judges**.

But his sons did not follow his ways. They turned aside after **dishonest** gain and accepted **bribes** and perverted **justice**.

So all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah.

They said to him, "You are **old**, and your sons do not follow your ways; now appoint a **king to lead us**, such as **all the other nations** have."

But when they said, "Give us a king to lead us," this displeased Samuel; so he prayed to the Lord.

And the Lord told him: "Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not **you** they have rejected, but they have rejected **me** as their **king**."

"Now listen to them; but warn them solemnly and let them know what the king who will **reign over** them will **claim** as his rights."

1 Samuel 17:11, 26

On hearing the Philistine's words, Saul and all the Israelites were **dismayed** and **terrified**.

David asked the men standing near him, "What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and removes this **disgrace** from Israel? Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should **defy** the armies of the **living God**?"

1 Samuel 17:36–37

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**.

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.”

The Person Who's Hope Is In The LORD, Need Not Fear

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.

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.

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.”

Those whose **hope** is in the Lord . . .

See **Clearly**.

Act **Confidently**.

Walk **Humbly**.

Psalm 25:1,5

“In You, Lord **my God**, I put **my trust**.”

“**Guide** me in Your truth and **teach** me, for You are God **my Savior**, and my **hope** is in You **all day long**.”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Talk about a time when you faced a seemingly insurmountable obstacle or unachievable goal. What did you do? What happened?
2. In what people and things are we tempted to place our hope? What are some of the dangers of trusting those people or things?
3. Read Psalm 25:1–5. What are some things that make it difficult for you to trust God?

4. A point in the message was, *“Those whose hope is in the Lord see clearly, act confidently, and walk humbly.”* To what extent do you need to increase the clarity, confidence, and humility in your life? Why did you answer the way you did?
5. What is one thing you can do this week to grow your trust in God? How can those around you help?

MOVING FORWARD

We place our hope in whatever or whomever we trust. People whose hope is in the Lord need not fear. They see clearly, act confidently, and walk humbly.

Each day this week, consider praying the word of the psalm that follows.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

In You, Lord my God, I put my trust . . . My hope is in You all day long.

Psalm 25:1, 5