

Introduction: The biggest problem people have had from the beginning is the tendency to see only the physical and material components of life on this earth. This neglect of our souls and spirits will result in harm to our souls and spirits. *** When the pace of life was slow and most people spent most of their time laboring for food and shelter in the place they were born, their souls and spirits received some nurture. This was because they were surrounded and encouraged by family and a stable community. *** But, some two hundred years ago, the technology based Industrial Revolution resulted in a mass migration of people from the land they farmed to factories in cities. This began a breakdown in extended families and communities. *** In my lifetime the Information Revolution displaced factory workers and created a new elite class of people with different skills. Job hopping for higher pay, often with a cross-country move, led to further damage to souls and spirits of people all over the developed world. *** In the last twenty years the Digital Age has resulted in more and more people living isolated lives. Most of their relationships are 'virtual', taking place on a screen from their homes. This is destroying most of what it is to be fully human. It is not good for people to be alone (Gensis 2:18). *** We see an early example of this truth both in the battle between David and Goliath and in the spiritual battles of the early church. *** The Philistines had the most advanced weapons of warfare in their time; but David had only a slingshot, a pebble and a strong faith in the God who was commander of a spiritual army of soldiers (Joshua 5:13-15). *** The early church was in danger from both the political power of Rome and the oppression caused by demons behind the multiple 'gods' of their religion. *** Let's now look at what God's Word tells us about the weapons of the God who is unseen and His army of warrior angels, all of which are far superior to the physical weapons of men used by human armies with tens of thousands of soldiers.

I. David fights the Philistine with his shepherd's sling, the Philistine boasts he will kill David; David says he comes in the name of the God of heaven's army; when Goliath initiates the battle, Yahweh directs the stone to victory. (1 Samuel 17:38-50)

A. David refuses Saul's armor because he has not tested it, then he approaches the Philistine with his shepherd's sling. (Verses 38-40)

1. Saul clothed David (in) his armor: bronze helmet, scale-plated chest armor, his sword in a belt over the armor; then David tried to walk; but he had not proven them so he said I will not go with these, and he put them away. (Verses 38-39)

Saul clothes David: Saul put his armor on David. Since his armor fit David, he must have been as tall as Saul (1 Samuel 9:1-2).

Untested: David would not use Saul's armor because he did not know if he could move in it.

2. Then he took his (shepherd's) staff and chose five smooth stones from the stream, put them in his shepherd's receptacle, and sling in hand, he drew near the Philistine. (Verse 40)

Sling: All he had were his shepherd's tools. His only weapon was a sling for hurling small stones.

B. The Philistine arrogantly boasts of his superior weapons, certain that he will kill David; but, David says he comes in the name of the God of the heavenly hosts, who will kill them so the earth will know God. (Verses 41-47)

1. Then the Philistine came, approaching David, the man bearing his shield in front of him; then he regarded David and disdained him, because he was a youth, reddish and handsome. (Verses 41-42)

Shield: He had a uniquely huge full-body shield for his huge nine-foot body.

More disdain: He disdained David for his youthful handsome appearance. The word for handsome was used to describe Joseph in Egypt (Genesis 39:1-10) and the feminine form of the word described his mother Rachel (Genesis 29:16-28).

2. The Philistine said to David: Am I a dog that thou come to me with a (shepherd's) staff? Then he cursed David by his 'gods' and said: Thou must come to me and I will give thy flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field. (Verses 43-44)

Arrogance: The Author can not use the Philistine's name. The giant is full of himself and certain he can kill this young shepherd he is cursing. With his size and heavy top-flight armor, he can't lose!

3. Then David said to the Philistine: Thou (are) coming to me with a sword, spear, and javelin; and I have come to thee in the name of Yahweh of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel. (Verse 45)

Name: Yahweh Sabaoth (of hosts) is the name of God that describes His awesome spiritual army. Elisha's servant was given a vision of these forces at Dothan (2 Kings 6:8-17). And David says Israel's human army is empowered by Israel's Covenant God. So, however powerful heavily armed human armies may be, by His spirit warriors and human army He will always overpower mere men.

God's weapons are greater than man's

4. [David continues:] This day Yahweh will enclose thee in my hand and I will strike thee down, cut off thy head, and give the dead bodies from the Philistine camp to the birds of the air and living things of the earth that all the earth will know God is in Israel. (Verse 46)

All will die: This is an all-encompassing declaration of faith in Yahweh by David. Through David and His armies, Yahweh will destroy both the giant and the whole camp of Philistines.

5. [David continues:] And all this assembly will know that not by sword and spear will Yahweh save, because the battle is Yahweh's, and He will give you all into our hand. (Verse 47)

Yahweh: This is all about Yahweh and His awesome power on behalf of His people. He will not use human weapons as the men of Philistia have; but, because it is His battle against idolatry, He will prevail using the weapons of His choice.

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C. When Goliath initiates the encounter, David runs forward and Yahweh directs the slung stone to secure victory. (Verses 48-50)

1. When the Philistine rose and came near to encounter David, David quickly ran to the battle to encounter the Philistine. (Verse 48)

Goliath initiates: The giant thought he increased his advantage by initiating the fight, but David counters by hastening to run right at him!

- David put his hand in his shepherd's receptacle, took out a stone, slung (it) and (it) struck the Philistine on his forehead, the stone sank down in his forehead and he fell on his face to the ground. (*Verse 49*)
- Yahweh directed:*** David was surely a 'good shot' who had practiced much. But still, it was Yahweh who perfectly directed the smooth stone to halt the Philistine and bring him to the ground!

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- Then David was strengthened over the Philistine, with sling and stone he struck and killed the Philistine; and sword not in his hand. (*Verse 50*)

Sling greater than sword: Against all human logic that says a sword and body-shield is superior to a sling and a smooth stone from a stream, Yahweh acted with His supernatural spiritual weapons so that all the people in the world knew He is the greatest!

Application: We must pray that like David, we will receive faith strong enough to courageously fight the enemy in our culture so that people who are trapped by seductive technology will encounter the Lord's powerful spiritual weapons through us, one day at a time, a little more each day.

God's weapons are greater than man's

II. The apostle Paul commands the church to be strong in the Lord to win the battle with evil spirits; the church must use six spiritual weapons while always praying in the Spirit. (*Ephesians 6:10-18*)

- Paul says the church must be strong IN the Lord and clothed with His full armor to win in the spiritual battle against demons. (*Verses 10-13*)

- Furthermore, you all must be strong in Lord and in the might of His power; You all must clothe (yourselves) in God's panoply, (so) you all be (made) able to stand against the schemes of the devil. (*Verses 10-11*)

Strong IN Lord: Paul commands the church to be strong the only way people can be strong: when they are 'all-out' IN the Lord, that is Jesus is always acknowledged in all they say and do.

Full armor: Panoply is Greek for 'all-armor'. Only those clothed in God's spiritual armor will be given the ability to stand strong against all the methods of the accuser to make them sin.

- For, our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers and authorities, the powers of the darkness of this world, and the evil spirits in the heavens. (*Verse 12*)

Not wrestle people: Paul identifies with the church and says the wrestling (the only time this word occurs in the New Testament) they are doing is not with human bodies.

Demons influence people: Rather, they are spiritually wrestling with all their energy to the point of exhaustion with the evil spirits influencing the oppressive human power structures.

- Therefore, you all must put on the panoply of God, so that when the day of evil comes you all may be made able to stand, and having been (enabled) to work against everything, to stand. (*Verse 13*)

Full armor of God: Once again the church is commanded to put on the full (spiritual) armor of God for the purpose of being made able by God's power to stand and work against the evil of their day.

Application: We must know God's awesome character of love and truth, mercy and justice, so we will love Him enough ask for Spirit guided insight in our daily living, and to have faith in Him so we will do His good works He has given us (*Ephesians 2:10*).

- The church is commanded to use six weapons and cover everything with continual prayer in the Spirit. (*Verses 14-18*)

- You all must stand firm then: having buckled around your waist: truth (*Isaiah 11:5*); and having put (in place) the breastplate of righteousness (*Isaiah 59:17*); and had been shod the feet (of you all) in the readiness of the gospel of peace (*Isaiah 52:7*); in all having taken up the shield of the faith, in which you all will be able to all the flaming arrows of the evil (one) to quench. (*Verses 14-16*)

One command: The church is commanded to stand firm. Paul gives them four practical ways this can be done, three from the prophet Isaiah: wear a belt of the truth of God, cover the chest with Christ's righteousness, tell people the gospel of the 'Prince of Peace', use the faith as a shield against evil.

- And the helmet of salvation you all must take; and (also) the sword of the Spirit, which is the (prophetic) Word of God. (*Verse 17*)

One command: This time the one command for the church is to take two supernatural, gracious gifts of God. The first is salvation IN Jesus Christ to protect what they think and give them godly discernment. The second is 'sword of (the) Spirit', (the Word He inspired through prophets), an offensive weapon.

- Through all prayer and supplication, praying in season in Spirit, being made watchful in everything, persevering and interceding concerning all the saints. (*Verse 18*)

Bottom line: The last way the church stands firm is by persevering intercessory prayer for all the saints, that is for one another. This must be done in the Holy Spirit (*Romans 8:26-27*).

Application: We must obey together the command to put on the full armor of God, especially the spiritual discipline of continuous intercessory prayer in the Spirit for one another, both individually and with others.

The adversary is overcome by faith through the Word and prayer

Conclusion: David will fight the Philistine with his shepherd's sling as Goliath boasts he will kill David. David declares he comes in the name of the God of heaven's army. When Goliath initiates the battle, Yahweh directs the stone David slung at him to victory over the Philistines. The apostle Paul commands the church to be strong IN the Lord to win the battle with evil spirits.

The church must use six spiritual weapons while always praying in the Spirit, the seventh spiritual weapon of God.

God's weapons are greater than man's.