

Prayer List

Gene
Veda
Wallace
Sheila
Ophelia

Services:

Sunday

Bible Class 9:00 a.m.
Assembly 9:50 a.m.
Assembly 1:30 p.m.

Wednesday

Bible Class 7:00 p.m.

Pinole Tidings

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Elders:

Brad Behrens - bradbehrens@pinolechurchofchrist.com
Michael Odom - MichaelOdom@pinolechurchofchrist.com
Ernie Sprinkel - preacher@pinolechurchofchrist.com

This Week's Question:

Which book says that children will not be put to death for their parents' sins?

Answer To Last Week's Question:

The rich woman of Shunem - 2 Kings 4:10

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David: A Giant Of Faith

Tony Ripley

Life is filled with principles and precepts. When a child of God observes biblical precepts, he simply evaluates himself and brings his life into a conforming status with those precepts. It is my conviction that David was that kind of person. He loved God with all of his soul and might. It was this kind of love that made David who he was. A giant of faith.

The Battle Of The Two Giants (1 Samuel 17):

Since childhood, most of us have tried to picture the scene caught in the valley of Elah as the giant of stature (Goliath) faced off with a giant of faith (David, the forthcoming anointed). However, cosmetic pictures of the mind vary greatly with imagination. The significant portrait of faith drawn by Jehovah is so clear and detailed it cannot be avoided. Who is it that can read the story of David and Goliath and not be impressed with the undying faith of the servant of God?

Prior to his meeting the giant, David was simply tending sheep. This was his role in the family chores and he carried it out well. Being charged by his father to deliver refreshments to his brothers, upon his arrival the record of David's

perspective is by implication something similar to the perspectives of young people today who are being nurtured by godly parents. They merely assume and expect what always is and always has been. Its better known as consistency. Personally, as a child, the thought never crossed my mind that we would miss “goin’ to services.” It was our life, it was natural to us, and besides, the only thing that could have hindered us was a flood or a blizzard and even they had to be pretty deep!

David’s response to his brethren was that of shock primarily. It was scandalous that no man of Israel was prepared mentally or spiritually to battle the adversary of God’s people. It just wasn’t natural with his upbringing or his spiritual convictions which he attained by the influence of his father Jesse. David was a young man with a giant faith. It was his own faith and he clearly expressed it by questioning the “armies of God,” “who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?” and in his rebuke of his own brother who knew better and had been raised better. David was convinced that the God of Israel must be defended and glorified even under the most seemingly crucial odds.

David’s faith was a lesson to the Philistine camp and even more to his own brethren who had somewhere along the way lost their faith and zeal. He showed them who they were and what they could be and expressed it vocally, “all of this assembly shall know ...” (verse 47). It is interesting to note that after David’s victory (with God’s help), that Israel arose, began to shout, and chased the enemy. That’s the effect of a giant faith!

The Faith Of A Refugee:

As selfish ambition and arrogance go, David quickly becomes the hunted instead of the hunter. Saul’s wrath and jealousy are more than David can avoid and he runs to find safety in the caves. His faith is once again tested and once

again it is manifested. Only this time it is through supplications (Psalm 142) and in his respect for the anointed king of Israel. Remember, he had the opportunity to end his plight by taking the life of Saul. Nevertheless, he chose rather to bow before him with a piece of the king’s cloak clinched in his fist. David loved Jehovah and his prostrate body before the king was a declaration of it.

Recapturing The Ark:

During Saul’s forty year reign he did very little to strengthen Israel as the people of God. He neglected things which were the focus of his job description. When David took the throne he was again shocked by the shape God’s people were in. They were missing important pieces of their spiritual welfare. Morale was down, their faith was at its lowest ebb, compromise was courting God’s people. And the Ark was gone! In fact, the enemy had it! Israel’s epicenter of worship was missing and the servant of God was determined to go and get it. It was faith that compelled him to march toward the adversarial camp and demand the property of Israel. And that he did! No task was too great for one who embraced such a giant faith.

To label David as a giant of faith is no accident. There are many giants of faith who are recorded in the inspired book of God. Men like Philemon, Barnabas, Priscilla and Aquilla, Paul, Philip, and Stephen to name a few. Hebrews chapter eleven is filled with many more. Life can get rigorous at times even down right discouraging. But the crown awaits the faithful, the determined, the converted. Besides, with men like David and others who are recorded and who also expressed such faithful obedience, we are in pretty good company as we also fight the giants, seek for refuge, and work to keep the purity of worship in its proper place.