

January 14, 2019 - David Sullivan
David and Goliath
Samuel 17:3

I recently saw a picture of a valley with a caption stating that it was the valley between the Philistine and the Israelite armies where David slew Goliath. Until seeing that picture I never realized there was an actual valley between them, even though I had read that story a hundred times. We all know the story; the two armies faced each other, and for forty days Goliath came out and challenged the Israelite army but no one would accept the challenge. Then David enters the picture. He comes along and understands that it was as much a spiritual battle as a physical battle. Gathering five smooth stones, he went out and killed the giant, Goliath, while the rest of the army stood shaking in their boots.

What if David had never stepped foot into the valley? Would he have still gone on to become king of Israel? One thing is for certain – we wouldn't have this great story if he hadn't! David was willing to step into the valley because he had experienced victory before. He had learned to trust God in the little things as a shepherd tending his sheep. 1 Samuel 17: 36-37 says, *"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."*

David knew what to expect because he understood that the LORD had provided for him in the past and would continue to provide for him. He also knew that he wasn't going to win the victory by standing where he was - he had to first move into the valley and then the LORD would provide the victory. It is interesting that David entered a valley to achieve victory. Fourteen generations later, John 18 says "Jesus crossed the Kidron Valley with his disciples to a grove of olive trees." David entered a valley to conquer a giant - Jesus entered a valley to conquer death for you and me.

If you and I are to experience victory, we must be willing to fight the battle on our knees in prayer, trusting the Lord in what he has done and will do. Then, we must be willing to take the first step into the valley before us. The LORD will provide the victory – we just have fight like men on our knees and take the first step.



Journey On