

## The Perception of David

Sometimes, it's just a matter of perspective. Israel was involved with a struggle against the Philistines (*I Sam. 17*). Twice a day for forty days, a giant named Goliath came out to Israel and challenged them. His challenge was simple: if he won, the Israelites would become their servants; if he lost, then the Philistines would become the servants of the Israelites.

One of the interesting things about this challenge was the words that Goliath used. He called the Israelites "*the servants of Saul*" (*17:8*). He also referred to them as "*the armies of Israel*" (*17:10*). Goliath was referring to their earthly king and their earthly nation. He had taken the focus of Israel off of God. Because of this, Israel allowed him to challenge them for forty days. Not only did they not answer him, but they were afraid of him and ran from him (*17:24*). It is also important to note that Israel never prayed to God, or asked for His help in this matter. They had lost their perspective.

But then along came David. His purpose for showing up at the battle was to check on his brothers. While he was there, he observed the challenge that Goliath had set for Israel. David became angry. He wanted to know who it was that would "*defy the armies of the living God*" (*17:26*). As David talked with Saul, he says that he would kill Goliath because "*he has defied the armies of the living God*" (*17:36*).

The difference between the perception of David and the perception of the rest of Israel is clear. Israel considered themselves to be servants of King Saul; David considered himself to be a servant of God. Israel was looking at their earthly kingdom; David was looking to the God of that kingdom. Because David had the proper focus, he was able to defeat Goliath and deliver Israel from the hand of the Philistines.

Sometimes we have a tendency to lose our perspective. We see the things of this world and we forget that we belong to God. We see the sin around us and we think there is no way out. We begin to listen to those around us and we take our focus off of God. From time to time, we will lose our perspective.

We need to be more like David. When it seems like there is no hope for us, we need to put our trust in God. David knew that his power was not in himself; it was in God. As Paul says, "*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me*" (*Phil. 4:13*). May we always keep our focus on God.