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# The Giant Slayers, Part III (Is There Not A Cause?)

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## Vision in The Land of Giants

Pastor Wil Nichols

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**Victorious Praise Fellowship Church of God in Christ**

2116 Page Rd. Durham NC 27703

WEBSITE: [www.VictoriousPraise.org](http://www.VictoriousPraise.org)

EMAIL: [PastorWil@VictoriousPraise.org](mailto:PastorWil@VictoriousPraise.org), [Info@VictoriousPraise.org](mailto:Info@VictoriousPraise.org)

PHONE: (919) 957-7500

***Sermon: Vision in The Land of Giants: The Giant Slayers, Part III (Is There Not A Cause?)***

***Lesson Text***

1 Samuel 17:25–29 (AV) <sup>25</sup> And the men of Israel said, Have ye seen this man that is come up? surely to defy Israel is he come up: and it shall be, *that* the man who killeth him, the king will enrich him with great riches, and will give him his daughter, and make his father's house free in Israel. <sup>26</sup> And David spake to the men that stood by him, saying, What shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine, and taketh away the reproach from Israel? for who *is* this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God? <sup>27</sup> And the people answered him after this manner, saying, So shall it be done to the man that killeth him. <sup>28</sup> And Eliab his eldest brother heard when he spake unto the men; and Eliab's anger was kindled against David, and he said, Why camest thou down hither? and with whom hast thou left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know thy pride, and the naughtiness of thine heart; for thou art come down that thou mightest see the battle. <sup>29</sup> And David said, What have I now done? *Is there not a cause?*

***Introduction***

Three weeks ago, we began to look at Giants from the perspective of their size and the perspective of their numbers.

- Giant Slayers I, Spiritual Warfare: Spirits of Intimidation, Fear, and Defiance
- Giants Slayers II, These Giants Ain't Normal: Principalities, Powers, Rulers, Wickedness
  - Territorial, Personal Attacks, Temptations, and Religious Spirits

Today, we want to look at the question of why we must fight these giants.

In our previous messages, we learned from Apostle Paul that these Giants are Spiritual and therefore we must fight using Spiritual Weapons (Ephesians 6:12, 2 Corinthians 10:3-4).

In our lesson text, David has a discourse filled with several questions concerning the giant.

- And the men of Israel said, Have ye seen this man that is come up?
- What shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine, and taketh away the reproach from Israel?
- And Eliab his eldest brother heard when he spake unto the men; and Eliab's anger was kindled against David, and he said, Why camest thou down hither? and with whom hast thou left those few sheep in the wilderness?

But David asks perhaps the most poignant and consequential questions of all.

- For who *is* this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God? A question we dealt with in our first message (Intimidation, Fear, and Defiance).
- And then he asks the question for our Message Today: ***“Is There not a cause?”***

Why do we do what we do? What are the causes behind our actions? Why do we go to school, get a job, get married, join a church, get saved, leave a marriage, quit church, and so on?

What are your causes? What are you willing to live, fight, and if necessary, die for?

For some people they will fight tooth and nail to win a battle but will ultimately lose the war. They may win the small conflict, but ultimately lose the larger one that really matters.

We see this in marriages, jobs, among friendships, on social media, and even in churches; fighting to the death over something that in the grand scheme of things doesn't even matter.

God gave us this territory, but we allow the little battles to cause us to lose the war! Why? Because we are fighting for the wrong cause.

When you don't have a good cause for what you are doing, you can very easily give up on it! If you don't have a cause to stand for something, you will fall for anything.

Do you have a cause when it comes to your Spiritual Giants? A Cause to Live, to Fight, and if necessary, to Die For?

***Series and Sermon: Vision in The Land of Giants: The Giant Slayers, Part III (Is There Not A Cause?)***

“A Cause To Live For, A Cause To Fight For, and a Cause to Die For”

### ***I. Is There Not A Cause to Live For? (Christ)***

1 Samuel 17: <sup>25</sup> And the men of Israel said, Have ye seen this man that is come up? surely to defy Israel is he come up: and it shall be, *that* the man who killeth him, the king will enrich him with great riches, and will give him his daughter, and make his father's house free in Israel.

Most people live for the wrong reasons. They live to satisfy their needs. Their need for love, for happiness, importance, purpose, money and wealth, people, desires, recognitions, and more.

They will spend a lifetime living for the next lover, the next spouse, the next promotion, next increase, next friend, next house, next car, next opportunity, and even next church or ministry

I had a vision once about “Jacob's Ladder.” But in my vision it was about people spending a lifetime climbing this ladder, going higher and higher; only to realize at the end of their journey, they have been on the wrong ladder.

- Matthew 16: <sup>26</sup> **For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?**
- Mark 4: <sup>19</sup> **And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.**

Although we may experience and even enjoy these things while we live, in and of themselves, they are all the wrong reasons to live.

But I believe that David had the higher cause for living when he asked his first questions.

1 Samuel 17: <sup>26</sup> And David spake to the men that stood by him, saying, What shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine, **and taketh away the reproach from Israel?** for who *is* this uncircumcised Philistine, that **he should defy the armies of the living God?**

The people were still thinking about the stuff, “the king will enrich him with great riches, and will give him his daughter, and make his father’s house free in Israel.”

This explains why no one was fighting. **“The Juice wasn’t worth the squeeze”**

But David had a cause of the reproach of Israel and defying the army of the living God.

### **The Cause to Live For is Christ**

John 10:11–13 (AV)<sup>11</sup> **I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.**  
<sup>12</sup> **But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep.**  
<sup>13</sup> **The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep.**

Acts 17:28 (AV)<sup>28</sup> For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.

Living for people, things, wealth, recognition, or promotion is no reason to live, because the juice isn’t worth the squeeze.

“You may build great cathedrals large or small, you can build skyscrapers grand and tall, you may conquer all the failures of the past, but only what you do for Christ will last.”

“Without Him I could do nothing, Without Him I’d surely fail, Without Him I would be drifting, Like a ship without a sail”

“Is There Not A Cause? Yes, Live for Christ”

### ***II. Is There Not A Cause to Fight For? (Faith)***

1 Samuel 17:28 (AV)<sup>28</sup> And Eliab his eldest brother heard when he spake unto the men; and Eliab’s anger was kindled against David, and he said, Why camest thou down hither? and with whom hast thou left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know thy pride, and the naughtiness of thine heart; for thou art come down that thou mightest see the battle.

David’s brother assumed that David was there for the wrong reason. He assumed that David was there for the cause of being Nosy, Proudful, and Deceitful. Why? Because that was their cause!

Not only do we live for the wrong reasons (needs), but we fight for the wrong reasons (flesh).

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James 4:1–2 (AV)<sup>1</sup> From whence *come* wars and fightings among you? *come they* not hence, *even* of your lusts that war in your members? <sup>2</sup> Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.

People fight for the things that their flesh desires. The problem is this fight only leads to death!

1 John 2:16 (AV)<sup>16</sup> For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

James 1:15 (AV)<sup>15</sup> Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

### **The Cause to Fight For is Faith**

We are not here to fight for the lust of the flesh, the lust of eyes, or the pride of life, but to contend or fight for the faith!

Jude 1:3 (AV)<sup>3</sup> ... and exhort *you* that ye should **earnestly contend** for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

To contend means to run, to struggle, to resist, to fight. To fight for what? Our Faith.

Romans 1:17 (AV)<sup>17</sup> For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by Faith. (The Just shall Contend, Struggle, Resist, Fight by faith)

Luke 22:<sup>31</sup> And the Lord said, **Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat:** <sup>32</sup> **But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.**

James 4:<sup>7</sup> Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

1 Timothy 6:12 (AV)<sup>12</sup> Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

“Is There Not A Cause? Yes, Fight For Your Faith”

### **III. Is There Not A Cause to Die For? (The Cross)**

1 Samuel 17:<sup>29</sup> And David said, What have I now done? *Is there* not a cause?

- Is there not a cause to live for? Yes, Live for Christ
- Is there not a cause to fight for? Yes, Fight for Faith
- Finally, is there not a cause to die for? Yes, Die for the Cross

Too many people are dying for the wrong thing, wrong person, wrong cause.

They fight tooth and nail to win and battle but will ultimately lose the war.

Learn to pick your battles, but be willing to die for the war.

What hill are you willing to die on?

David asked his brothers and Israel, and now asks the Church, “Is There Not A Cause?”

Romans 5:7 (AV)<sup>7</sup> For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.

John 15: <sup>13</sup> Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

**The Cause to Die For is The Cross**

Mark 8: <sup>35</sup> For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it.

Matthew 16: <sup>24</sup> Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

Romans 14: <sup>8</sup> For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's.

Job 13:<sup>5</sup> Though he slay me yet will I trust in him but I will maintain mine own ways before him

2 Corinthians 5: <sup>8</sup> We are confident, *I say*, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.

*“On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross, The emblem of suff’ring and shame, And I love that old cross where the Dearest and Best. For a world of lost sinners was slain.*

*In the old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine, A wondrous beauty I see; For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died, To pardon and sanctify me.”*

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## Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: The Giant Slayers, Part III (Is There Not A Cause?))

### Lesson Text

- 1 Samuel 17:25–29

### Sermon Outline (Notes)

#### I. *Is There Not A Cause to Live For? (Christ)*

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#### II. *Is There Not A Cause to Fight For? (Faith)*

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#### III. *Is There Not A Cause to Die For? (The Cross)*

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### Questions (What was your main takeaway from Sunday's Sermon?)

#### I. Getting to Know "Me"

1. Which of the following might you eat for a mid-night snack? (a) Cookies (b) Popcorn (c) Carrot Sticks (d) Chips (e) Fruit (f) I don't eat late at night.
2. Describe what you would do to make a day off from school or work a perfect day.

#### II. Into the Bible

1. According to Jude 1:3, the verb, "to contend," is translated from the Greek word, *agonizomai*, which means to strive, fight, labor fervently as in an athletic contest. The verb tense is to show that the Christian struggle is continuous. Why did Jude feel compelled to encourage his readers (us) to contend for the faith? What are we contending for?
2. Read 1 Sam 17:17-30. During biblical times the families of the soldiers provided sustenance for them while they were on the battlefield. Eliab's angry response to David's bold words reflected his feelings towards David. What does Eliab's response indicate to us how he felt about David and his assignment? What does this teach us when people question our assignment?

#### III. Life Application

1. A cause to live for can be expressed in the question, "What is your BIG WHY?". Think about WHY you DO ministry and write your vision and mission statement. Share with your group if you desire.
2. As we are fighting for our faith, the Bible says, "Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.", Hebrew 4:11. Give a practical strategy of laboring to enter into God's rest when fighting for our faith.