

ORTHODOX or UNORTHODOX

TEXT: *1 Samuel 17:33: And Saul said to David, Thou art not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him: for thou art but a youth, and he a man of war from his youth.*

Goliath . . . a giant that comes in the form of doubt, fear, and/or sinful habits.

David came with a little lunch for his brothers, only to find them hidden behind rocks and trees, afraid of this God-defying giant who was blaspheming the Lord with curses. They ran over the hillside as Goliath challenged: *“Send me a warrior”*. David confronted the giant in a rather unorthodox way — with a little slingshot, but with God by his side.



Some criticize us. They say *‘our Pastor is not orthodox’*. Well, thank God I am not. I have nothing against the man who is, if he is doing a job for the Lord. I am going to tell you something today, and I have said it and mean it. If I could button my collar backwards, wear stripped britches and long tails, stand dignified, and sing nothing but anthems while seeing more people won to Jesus Christ, that is what I would be doing.

Folks look at some of the unorthodox things we might do — buffets, bookstores, vacations with inspiration, and Bible College. But let me tell you, I am seeing souls saved on the right and left. So if we do it with a sling shot, leave us alone. Let’s see that giant of sinful habits come down. Let’s give the Lord a hand for what He is doing.



It is not the method we use in approaching things, but the motive with which we approach it. It was not the program of a little boy who had been watching sheep and killed the lion and bear. It was his dependance upon God. He didn’t do it in his own power, but in the power of God. We can never do what we are doing without the backing from the Lord.

Today, you can knock the ordinary Christian off the Christmas tree by looking at them crosseyed. Talk about going out and fighting giants, or killing lions, or challenging what is impossible with your own ability; they can't even go to a worship service without being critical. It is time for Christians to get the chip off their shoulder. Remember, you are enlisted in the army of the Lord. Get endued with the power from on High. Put on the whole Armour of God and stand against the wiles of the devil, not against your brother. Fear and indifference of the Christian today is robbing the world of the story it needs to hear — how Christ died for our sins.

I believe a great revival and moral awakening is coming, for God has been preparing His Davids who, with a little sling shot and the Lord with him, went down and killed the giant. Then all the soldiers came out of hiding and began to rejoice. *Oh, look what we have done!*



Yes, but look who God used. This giant of worldliness will challenge us. Now you think I am talking about smoking, drinking, chewing tobacco, gambling, and robbing. Oh no, worldliness is anything that is between you and God, anything that is keeping you away from God, His house, from reading your Bible, and from winning souls. You can be so busy making the almighty dollar that you have no time for spiritual things. That is worldliness. It can be sports, athletics, vacationing, you name it.

... worldliness is anything that is between you and God ...

I throw this in for what it's worth. The other day I was in some real cold weather. The wind was blowing and I saw some women coming down the street without a coat on, and I tell you, their dresses were clean up here to the middle. Do you know why? Because some stylist said to wear it up there. I think Christians ought to dress decent. I want to say to you women that if you keep on advertising, you are going to get business.

I believe there needs to be sanctifying power to touch the people of the Lord. You don't belong to the old crowd and the old life. You are supposed to talk like and act like Christ, not like the world.

Worldliness is challenging the people of God, and the reason why so many have lost their power is right here. I want to say something else. Your evil spirit of jealousy, arguing, or criticizing is just as bad as your outward sin. I have seen people who don't smoke, steal, or drink liquor — none of these things; but they have a spirit that is so bad that I could get along better with someone blowing smoke in my face than I can with that nasty, mean spirit.

Pride challenges the church as a giant. We have to lay aside pride and how big

we think we are, how big our denomination is, and rely on the Lord's power and might.

Self-righteousness, which is a form of pride, is another giant. They feel their holiness will save them, but our self-righteousness is as filthy rags in the eyes of the Lord.

Isaiah 64:6: But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

David did not go to fight Goliath in his own power and strength. He went taking the Lord's power and armour. He had faith that God could deliver.

Jealousy was the giant that got hold of Saul when he heard the songs: *"David hath slain his 10,000 and Saul his 1,000"*. How often you see this among preachers and professed Gospel workers: *"I am a better Christian than they are."* *"Why do they get to teach the Sunday School class?"* *"I am a better singer."* *"I have a big church and the best church."* We suddenly get jealousy in the heart, and the devil will turn us against our fellow man. Then we are done for it as far as God is concerned.



God cannot work through this kind of a spirit. We need to ask the Lord to deliver us from these giants. There is sin, defeat, habits, sickness, and discouragement on every hand. I am here to tell you that the God of Abraham and the God of that little shepherd boy, David, is alive now. There is nothing too hard for the Lord.

I am challenging the devil on every one of his strongholds, and our methods are a little unorthodox. However, I assure you we are not doing it to be unorthodox just for the sake of being that, but because we feel that the Lord wants it done that way. We are reaching thousands of people through television. Sure that's unorthodox, just like flying all over the U.S. and Canada to T.V. rallies may appear to be unorthodox. But who cares whether we use a sling shot or a spear? If God is behind it, He will give the victory, and souls will be saved. That is all we want — victory, forgiveness of sin, and peace with God for lost souls.

Akron Shalom Bible Learning Center

www.AkronShalomMinistries.org