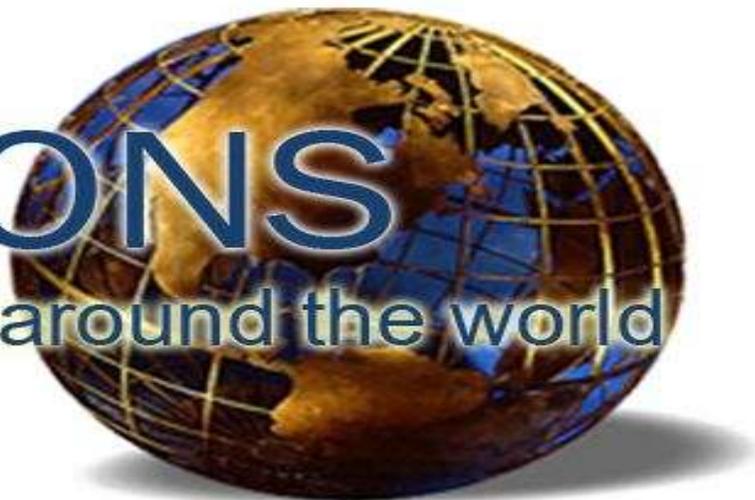


MISSIONS

...at home and around the world



Faith to Face the Giants in my Life

God is always at work around us and it is up to us to get engaged in his work. We learned this to be the first truth when we studied Henry Blackaby's Experiencing God. That said, we tend to be apprehensive about how God wants us engaged when we have not been to seminary school or have the experience necessary to be part of His work. We let the enemy quickly convince us that to be the case. We forget that we serve a great and all-knowing powerful God. God in His infinite wisdom knew that we would face these dilemmas (giants) in our Christian walk and to that end gave us the account of David and Goliath. This story is a classic illustration to us (especially me) on how David did not trust himself to access the situation correctly but rather put his faith in God who was his strength and shield.

David did not waste time and energy in doubting himself about how in the world he was going to fight a Philistine, 9-foot giant gladiator, who had all the right equipment and experience for battle. After all, he was a sheep herder with only a sling and 5 smooth stones. So what did David do? David put his trust in God. In 1st Samuel 17:45-47, *David said to the Philistine, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the Lord will hand you over to me, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head. Today I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the Lord saves; for the battle is the Lord's, and he will give all of you into our hands."* The bible goes on to say that David ran to meet the giant in battle. He ran. That illustrates to me the strength of his faith. David already knew the end result, that he had won the battle, before he even got started. That is faith.

We all have these personal giants that we have to face and with faith in God we defeat and conquer. I was facing a monumental giant when asked to lead the Missions Team. I asked myself, who am I to do this? I am not qualified and know nothing about it. This is a huge responsibility not only for me but for our church. My takeaway from the David and Goliath story is that I need to be more like David. To have that kind of faith and trust God to prevail and make the impossible possible. The same is true for another giant we are facing as a church in Engage Ecuador 2019. With our obedience, faith, prayer and God's help, this will be a success. God is faithful. So what do you say, if like David, we start running?

God Bless You,

Carlos