

FAILURE OF FAITH-REST

“Then David arose and fled *that day* from Saul, and went to Achish king of Gath.” (21:10) This verse speaks volumes about David’s faith-rest failure.

Gath was the hometown of Goliath – “*A champion named Goliath, who was from Gath.*” (17:4)
Goliath was to the Philistines and Gath what Michael Jordan was to the Bulls and Chicago.

Why would David run to Gath for refuge? Why would David choose the enemy of Israel and the defier of the God of Israel? “*Goliath, the Philistine champion from Gath, stepped out from his lines and shouted his usual defiance and David heard it.*” (17:23)

This lesson will study FIVE aspects of David’s FAILURE OF FAITH-REST.
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1. When David fought Goliath, he believed with confidence that God would faithfully deliver him.

(1Sam.17:44-48/ read and pay special attention to “this day”and contrast it to “that day” 21:10).

David understood that the battle was the Lord and understood how the faith cycle works to win the fight (2 Tim.4:7).

“And David said, “The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the *lion* and from the paw of the *bear*, He will deliver me from the hand of *this Philistine.*” (17:37)

David understood that God is no respecter of persons or circumstances or incidences (lion, bear, Goliath, Saul/ life is full of incidences) when it comes to completing faith (James 2:22; Rom.4:20-21).

- What has happened to this spiritual mature believer?
- What has caused the tired and tested and triumph faith to become inoperative in the life of David?

2. David came to Gath pretending to be insane rather than a man of faith (21:13-15).

When David challenged Goliath, he was viewed with disdain by the Philistines but he was a man of faith in the eyes of God (17:42-45).

When this battle was over, David was viewed by both the Philistines and God as a man of faith. It was all very simple – “This day the Lord will deliver you up into my hands.” And “that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.” (17:46)

David made believers of the Philistine nation regarding this truth. This is the same Philistine nation to whom David has appeared as some insane loser of God.

“Is this not David the king of the land? Did they not sing of this one as they danced, saying, ‘Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands?’” (21:11)

What has happened, since Goliath that David’s heart is unable to believe confidently in the sovereign will and omnipotent power of God?

3. Cosmos fear turned into panic has caused failure of faith-rest in David.

Fear has replaced faith in the life of David. Cosmos fear has produced the grasshopper complex in David (Num.13:33)

Fear is a sign of cosmos diabolicus thinking, instead of the faith cycle of new man thinking (Eph.4:22-24).

- doubt (NV) +
 - anxiety-stress (carnality) +
 - fear +
 - panic (flight - ERS/ Black-out) +
 - hardness of heart +
 - evil.
 - RETROGRESSION.
- “The fear of man brings a snare, but he who trusts in the Lord will be exalted.” (Prov.29:25)
 - “Do not fear, for I am with you.” (Isa.41:10)
 - “Cast all your anxiety upon Him, because He cares for you.” (1 Pet.5:7)
 - “Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him.” Psa.37:7) (Read Psa.37:1-11)

What caused David to leave the promises of Deut.31:6-8 _____?
What about you (Heb.13:5)_____?

4. Cosmos fear attaches itself to an object of sight (whether real or imagined) that appears greater than one's human ability to conquer (2 Cor.5:7; Heb.11:1).

Fear makes a mountain out of a molehill (Num.13:32-33; 1 Sam.27:1; Esther 4:16).

“When all the men of Israel *saw* the man (Goliath), they *fled from* him and were *greatly afraid*.” (17:24/ note the pattern)

What did the men of Israel see? (a man bigger than themselves) (fear and flight)
What did David see? (a man smaller than God) WHAT WAS THE DIFFERENCE? (faith and fight)

“And David took *these words to heart*, and greatly feared Achish the king of Gath.” (21:12 –what words? 21:11)

Peter walking on water incident is another example of this principle (Matt.14:22-33)/ 30-31) There was little faith because there was a lot of doubt and fear.

Our lives are filled with incidences, how we SEE them determines how we deal with them (James 1:6-8).

5. This episode in the life of David reminds us that no stage of spiritual growth is immune to faith-rest failure (Col.2:6-7).

The faith cycle takes us outside our natural human strengths and weakness to God's supernatural and omnipotent power (Rom.4:20-21).

“That your faith should not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.” (1 Cor.2:5)

Past faith victories are no guarantee of future victories. No matter how many victories each new experience must stand on its own faith (lion, bear, Goliath, Saul, Gath).