

27 August 2017 – 12th Sunday after Pentecost.

Readings: 1 Samuel 17; Psalm 138; Eph. 6:10-20; Matthew 16:13-20.



INTRO: It fascinates me that when taking a census of Israel, the criteria was, “*able to go to war.*” (Numbers 1:2-3). Imagine this as a criteria for church membership today. **1 Sam. 17:10**, “The Philistine said, ‘This day I defy the armies of Israel! *Give me a man* and let us fight each other.’” It’s part of our identity. **1 John 3:8**, “The reason the Son of God appeared was to **destroy the works of the devil.**”



I. God calls and fights with and for you.

Judges 6:12, 16, “When the angel of the LORD appeared to Gideon, he said, ‘The LORD is with you, **mighty warrior.**’ (‘Who, me?’)... The LORD answered, ‘I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites, leaving none alive.’”

1 Samuel 17:45, “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.**”

Psalm 144:1-2, “Blessed be the LORD, my rock, who trains my hands for war, and my fingers for battle; he is my steadfast love and my fortress, my stronghold and my deliverer, my shield and he in whom I take refuge, who subdues peoples under me.”

Matthew 16:18, “And I tell you, **you are Peter** (New identity: *Rock*), and on this rock **I will build** my church.”

Ephesians 6:1, “Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.”

Luther: “Were not the right man on my side, all my striving would be losing.”



II. God equips you for battle.

2 Corinthians 10:4, “The weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds.”

1 Samuel 17:38-39, 49, “Then Saul dressed David in his own tunic. He put a coat of armour on him and a bronze helmet on his head. David fastened on his sword over the tunic and tried walking around, because he was not used to them. ‘I cannot go in these,’ he said to Saul, ‘because I am not used to them.’ So he took them off... Reaching into his bag and taking out **a stone**, he slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell face-down on the ground.”

Ephesians 6:11, 17, “Put on **the full armour of God**, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes... Take the helmet of salvation **and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.**”

*“And tho this world, with devils filled, Should threaten to undo us, We will not fear, for God hath willed, His truth to triumph thru us. The prince of darkness grim, We tremble not for him – His rage we can endure, For lo, his doom is sure: **One little word shall fell him.**”*

Ephesians 6:18, “And **pray in the Spirit** on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.”

Cf. “Fight like a real man; Get on your knees and pray.”



III. God teaches you to fight with others.

1 Samuel 14:6, 13, “Jonathan said to his young armor-bearer, ‘Come, let’s go over to the outpost of those uncircumcised men. Perhaps the Lord will act in our behalf. Nothing can hinder the Lord from saving, whether by many or by few.’... The Philistines fell before Jonathan, and his armour-bearer followed and killed behind him.”

2 Tim. 2:3, “**Join with me...** like a good soldier of Christ Jesus.”

CONCLUSION: 1 Timothy 6:12, “**Fight the good fight** of the faith.” What’s a good fight? One that you win! **Matthew 16:18**, “And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and **the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.**” **1 Samuel 17:58**, “‘Whose son are you, young man?’ Saul asked him. David said, ‘I am the son of your servant Jesse of Bethlehem.’” May we witness to the same. ☺