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Spiritual Weapons to Defeat the Enemy: Overcoming the Wiles, Devices, and Deception of the Devil

7. Cutting Off the Giant's Head

Uses the story of David and Goliath (1 Samuel 17) as the clearest picture of how the devil works: wiles, devices, and deceptions. The point is that Goliath defeated Israel with words and intimidation, not weapons, and the devil attacks believers the same way. David shows how to answer him.

Key takeaways

- Goliath was terrifying — 9 feet 9 inches tall, wearing an estimated 700+ pounds of armor and weaponry.
- But it was his daily threats, not his size, that paralyzed Israel's army for 40 days. He immobilized them with words alone, never lifting a sword.
- The devil does the same to believers: repeated lying accusations meant to fill the mind with fear until you stop obeying God's call.
- The rules of that battle — winner rules, loser serves — are still the rules of spiritual warfare. Conquer the enemy's lies and you keep him subordinate for life; listen to them and he dominates you.

- The answer is to speak God's truth to yourself rather than listen to the enemy's lies.
- David had already killed a lion and a bear by God's power, so Goliath was just one more. Past victories built present courage.
- David refused Saul's armor — fleshly, natural weapons — because 'the flesh counts for nothing' in supernatural warfare. He ran at the giant with only a sling and God's name.
- He answered the threats with a declaration of faith before fear could take root, then finished the job by cutting off Goliath's head.
- We must do likewise: refuse the enemy's claim on our family, finances, and ministry, and 'go out after' him in Jesus' authority.

Passages worth keeping

“Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield; but I come to thee in the name of the Lord of hosts... for the battle is the Lord's.”

David's declaration of war — the model for answering the enemy with God's word instead of fear.

“The devil is one who strikes repeatedly, again and again, until he finally breaks down a person's mental resistance.”

The meaning of 'diabolos' (dia + ballo) defines the enemy's whole method: wear down, then penetrate.

How it connects

The name 'devil' (diabolos, 'to throw through') itself describes the strategy: repeated blows to wear down mental resistance, then break through. Ephesians 6:11 answers it — the spiritual armor is what lets you stand where natural weapons and education cannot.

Scripture referenced

- **1 Samuel 17** -- The whole David and Goliath account the chapter is built on.
- **1 Samuel 17:11** -- Israel 'dismayed and greatly afraid' — defeated by words, not battle.
- **1 Samuel 17:16** -- Goliath came 'morning and evening' 40 days — the enemy's repeated assault.
- **1 Samuel 17:45-47** -- David's faith declaration — 'the battle is the Lord's.'
- **Ephesians 6:11** -- 'Put on the whole armour of God' to stand against the wiles of the devil — the chapter's application.