

FAR

ABOVE RUBIES



Breakthrough

As my husband and I were flying home from England, the announcement from the flight deck, *“This is your captain speaking”*, caused a little stir among some of the passengers. Why? Because the captain was a woman! A couple of men behind us were clearly uneasy and, after a superb take-off and landing, I heard one of them comment that *“She didn’t do too bad.”* Perhaps he didn’t realise that women had been flying planes for over 100 years!

The history of aviation has always been one of breakthrough. After many failed attempts, aeronautic experts thought it was impossible for an aircraft to break the sound barrier. Many pilots were frightened out of the effort and many more died in the process. The problem was that, as the pilot approached the speed of sound, the aircraft shook violently to such an extent that many pilots gave in to it, lost control and crashed. Others simply backed off. Those who persevered, and fought through the violence railing against their aircraft, were the ones who saw the sound barrier broken. When we face tough situations in our lives, we too can be tempted to give up instead of persevering on until we achieve our breakthrough.

In the story of David and Goliath in 1 Sam 17 we see that the Israelites were hindered from defeating the Philistines because they were **listening to the enemy**. As both armies were lined up for battle, Goliath the giant came out from the ranks shouting *“Why have you come out to draw up for battle? Am I not a Philistine and you servants of Saul?”* (v8) Here Goliath was saying that we Philistines have more might and power than you mere servants of Saul. He continued to undermine them for 40 days, morning and evening. Things went from bad to worse when he issued the challenge, *“I defy the ranks of Israel this day: give me a man that we may fight together.”* (v10). When Saul and all Israel **heard these words**, they were dismayed and greatly afraid. By persistence the enemy had succeeded in instilling fear into their minds. As Christians we are always in a spiritual battle and the devil will use any

means he can to undermine and control us. We know that the devil “*has nothing to do with the truth... for he is a liar and the father of lies*” (John 8:44) and yet there are times when we listen to him. When he tries to tell you that your situation is hopeless and that no one cares, remind him of Luke 1:37, “*With God nothing shall be impossible.*”

If we are to experience breakthrough we need to stop **believing the lies of the enemy**. When David was talking to his brothers, Goliath came out of the ranks speaking as before, and “*All the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him and were much afraid*” (v 24). When they saw Goliath and heard him, fear gripped them and by fleeing they were admitting defeat. They had no one who could match this champion – or so they thought! We can so often be on the brink of breakthrough, but because we believe the enemy’s lies we give up. We must ensure that we don’t find ourselves agreeing with the enemy by losing hope and not trusting God to deliver us. Remember our God is “*able to do exceeding abundantly above all we can ask or think*” (Eph. 3:20) and “*His ears are open unto [our] cry*” (Ps. 34:15).

If we are to achieve breakthrough we must **destroy the obstacles that are hindering us**. When David arrived at the battlefield, Goliath didn’t frighten him, because he trusted God to deliver him. As a shepherd boy David had already proved God, who had saved him from the paw of the lion and the bear, so he could confidently ask the question, “*Who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?*” (v26). If you are going through a difficult time and are feeling fearful, remind yourself of God’s faithfulness, His promises and what Jesus has brought you through.

In verse 48 we see that David ran quickly to face Goliath, armed with only a sling and five stones. He took a stone, slung it, struck the Philistine on the forehead and killed him. To make doubly sure he was dead, David then took Goliath’s sword and cut off his head. David wasted no time in utterly destroying the enemy. David was victorious, not because he was trusting in his own strength or natural resources, but, by his own confession, was trusting in the Lord of hosts (vs 45-46).

We will still have battles to fight and victories to win, but we must never forget that the evil one has already been defeated at Calvary. We need to remind the enemy that when Jesus died on the cross and rose again He “*disarmed the principalities and powers and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in him*” (Col. 2:15).