**Your Faith is Your Key to Your Victory (1 Samuel 17:31-37)**

 Your faith, which grows through your spiritual walk, is your key to your every single victory in battle. With today’s reading, our hope is that an awakening take place in each of us about our God-given identity and work. Today, as we study one of the most well-known events of the Old Testament, our prayer is that each of us see the ability that God has put in them, and that they may put it into practice for the Glory of the Lord. In truth, this battle (between David and Goliath) was won on the spiritual battlefield long before there was any war between Israel and the Philistines.

 David had been sent to inquire of his brothers’ well-being in the army, and then to return home. He was not expecting that his nation’s army would be trembling in terror from one human being. Today we are going to speak about the key to David’s victory, which was his God-built faith. Once again, we want to stress that we can understand the Word of the Lord to each of us today as “Your faith, which grows through your spiritual walk, is your key to your every single victory in battle.” Let us speak, therefore, about faith…

 ***In every battle, your key to victory is the same – using the faith that the Lord has grown within you.*** David was making his decision to go up against Goliath on solid foundations. The things that David said, in other words that he had freed his sheep from wild animals, reminds us of God’s work (in him). God had begun training David even from his youth for his future endeavors. He got David used to responsibility from very early on; from his early days, David began getting used to the reality of shepherding. It was not by chance that David, with all of his personality flaws, would be considered in history as one of the most faithful kings to God. He was a man according to God’s heart. He was a man trained for dangerous situations. He was a man who was trained not only for Goliath, but to be a king. God had brought forth a trust in David thru the dangerous encounters he had with bears and lions…

 There was once an important leader of an important Christian organization that had declared the following:

“Faith and works should travel side by side, step answering to step, like the legs of men walking. First faith, and then works; and then faith again, and then works again -- until they can scarcely distinguish which is the one and which is the other.”

Our life is also called to progress in the same manner. When we walk in faith, our works get us both used to and trained up for the endeavors that we will do in the future. Every victory strengthens our faith; strong faith causes us to do the work better and in a greater capacity. That constant training in life prepares us for each and every Goliath that will stand in our way. The latter may be sickness, poverty, tragedy, or some other difficulty. Our task is to trust God as David did, Who has walked with us and trained us for each and every battle, war, Goliath or impossible-seeming situation. Our faith has been matured (cooked, if you will,) thru hardships and our spiritual walk (with the Lord).

Therefore, let us today (come together and decide to) use our faith against whatever our difficulty is. Come and let us find our peace and victory in our faith in Christ. That faith has already been trained because you have already encountered bears and lions and God is calling you to put into practice that which you have learned from those experiences.

In every battle, your key to victory is the same – using the faith that the Lord has grown within you. Your faith, which grows through your spiritual walk, is your key to your every single victory in battle. May we realize the truth of that key and may we trust God in our battles. The Lord Bless You All. Amen.