

How God Fills Us Up at Low Points of Life: Session 6

By Jill Briscoe

Speaker 1:

Good morning. We're going to start off by. [audio abruptly stops]

Jill Briscoe:

Thank you for praying for my voice. I still have some voice, so I really appreciate that. I'd also appreciate your prayer as I travel back and also specifically, I would like to ask selfishly for prayer for my husband, who's in South Africa for this next three weeks and just for his safety, and that God would use him. The morning that I came away, I got a very unusual phone call. I've never had an experience quite like this before, but I lifted the phone and a gentleman I'd never met but happens to be in our church said to me, I really feel very stupid doing this, but I've been up all night with a great sense of dread. And I really feel that God has spoken to me and given me a prophecy for Brother Briscoe. And I said, oh, yes, what's that? He said he mustn't leave the country.

And I've never quite had an experience like that before. As it happened, my prayer group was walking in the door. We just meet three times a year. And this little group of ladies is my own prayer team. And so we took it to God in prayer, and I have no idea. We talked about it. We prayed about it, and I have no idea. But he's gone. I would just value prayer for him, whether it was to do with me coming to California, hearing about an earthquake on the way or what.

Obviously, I'm all right. I'm here in Los Angeles. Whether it is to do with my daughter in law who's expecting twins and has got some medical complications out in the Boondocks up in the Upper Peninsula. I don't know, why if, God sent that message.

But I really would value prayer and those of you that think of us in this next week, I would certainly not ask you to take anything on further than that. Perhaps I'd like to pray for his ministry in South Africa. I think God is going to do some special things. Maybe it was from the evil one? Who knows? To prevent him going. It was a typical response to my husband. He happened to ring me from the airport. Going to Minneapolis on the way to Nebraska. From there, Nebraska, he went to South Africa. Don't ask me why I did that way, but he did. And I told him this. I didn't know whether to tell him that. And I told him what had happened and his typical response if you know, my husband was Darling, he said, Well, I'm really sorry. This is unnerved you Jill. And I said, Stuart, it should unnerve you.

His main concern was what my reaction was. And so anyway, there we are. Now then, today I would like to turn you to someone running on full. I thought this would be a good place to finish. Seeing I've been talking about people running on empty, I thought a great place to finish this series would be to look at somebody who was running on full. And that's David. Now I could have used an example of David running on empty, which is obvious and got into Psalm 51, which I would love to have done. But instead I want to focus on David when he was your age. Because when David was your age, he was a giant killer. And he was running on full. And so I want to come from the positive this morning as I leave you and try and do a little study together on how you can become a giant killer by the time you're 20 because he was sure running on full when he killed Goliath.

And that really excites me. And I tell you something he had a whole lot against him. He had a whole lot against him by the time he was 20. And we're going to look at some of those things

today. So let's turn to 1 Samuel chapter 17 and look at some of these things together. Let me read a few choice verses. I'm sure you know this familiar passage well enough not to have to read too much of it. Let's read 1 Samuel 17:14. Start there. Jesse's three oldest sons had followed Saul to the war. The first one was Eliab, the second Abinadab and the third Shammah, and David was the youngest. The three oldest followed Saul. But David went back and forth from Saul to tend his father's sheep at Bethlehem. So before he went to visit Eliab for the event of killing Goliath, he had been back and forth with messages with presence from his father, et cetera.

For 40 days the Philistines came forward every morning. You know the story, how that goes and then go to 38. Then Saul dressed David in his own tunic, put a coat of armor on him and a bronze helmet on his head. David fastened the sword over the tunic, tried walking around because he wasn't used to them. I can't go in these, he said to Saul, I'm not used to them. So he took them off. Then he took a staff in his hand. Five smooth stones, put them in the pouch of his shepherd's bag and with a sling in his hand, approached the Philistine. You know what happened. Just moved forward to 30. So David triumphed. 50. David triumphed over the Philistine with a sling with a stone without a sword in his hand. He struck down the Philistine and killed him.

Just peeking a few of those points in the story to refresh our mind. I think this was the only story in the Bible incidentally that I had ever heard of the age of 19 before I came to Christ. I had heard of David and Goliath, but it was very exciting to me as a new Christian to go and read the whole thing because of course, I never heard of Solomon or anything else in the Bible. Nothing. I didn't know whether an apostle was the wife of an epistle. So it was very exciting to read the story of Goliath. And I remember doing that as a young person of 19 and being very impressed.

Five times it says about David at this point of his life, he was only a boy. Five times. He was only a boy. He was only a boy.

He was only a boy in the eyes of the giant. He was only a boy in the eyes of Eliab. He was only a boy in the eyes of Samuel. He was only the boy in the eyes of his father. He was only a boy. He was only a boy in the eyes of the giant. But he was a giant in the eyes of God. And that's what made a difference. He was a giant in the eyes of God. So David met Goliath when he was only a boy. Now he was the youngest of a big family. We know a lot of things about him. He was certainly not generic. He was bigger. All the things we've been talking about. But why? How come? What were the things that had made him a giant killer? How come he was running on full, unable to kill his giant at this point?

The first thing I came up with was that he learned solitude. He learned solitude. He learned what to do with solitude. He had had a very lonely childhood. He had been keeping sheep all his life. In Eliab's words, a few sheep. Now that was just Eliab being Eliab. But there probably were only a few sheep that he'd been keeping. A few scraggy sheep. David had been alone with the sheep. Very lonely little boy. Very lonely little boy. Lonely childhood. But he learned, I believe, to be alone and like it. And that's something I think we don't know how to do. We don't know how to be alone. I remember my father, bless his heart, when we got television. This shows how old we are. But we were the first in our town to get it. So we sat there. It was in the days of the radio and all that stuff. And suddenly we were one of the houses that had a television thing on our roof. And this was a status symbol.

And we sat. And I remember the television was the picture was in four pieces and they didn't match. But we watched it anyway. We were so delighted that until they got it all sorted out and the picture came together. But I remember my dad. He couldn't bear to be alone. He never could bear to be alone with himself. He was a troubled man. And he would find that the television filled that gap. That when he had to be alone, the television could stop him being alone. And we always used to tease him that he used to watch the television till a dot faded. You know there's a dot when it sort of fades off and he'd still be watching the dot as it faded. And I think there's a lot of people like that. They can't bear to be alone. They have to have noise. They have to have something happening. A lot of Christians like that. They haven't learnt solitude.

And if we don't know what it is to be at peace with ourselves, we'll never like solitude. It's something that we run away from, even as Christian people. I believe that David had been forced into learning solitude. In 1 Samuel 36. We have the incident of David being a leader of his men. He's on the run and he takes his men on a raiding party somewhere and he leaves the wives and the kids and the camp at home. Somebody comes in and takes it all away. And when they come back, they find that their wives and their children have gone. And it says that David's mighty men were about to stone him. And it says David encouraged himself in the Lord. Now, if you don't learn solitude when people are ready to stone you in the ministry, you'll never know what it is to encourage yourself in the Lord. It's in solitude you learn to encourage yourself in the Lord.

You don't learn that in a seminar. You don't learn that at Torrey Memorial. You learn that alone. The greatest transactions take place alone. The greatest lessons you'll learn are alone. And so the obvious question comes up, how you're doing with learning solitude? Moffat has it their souls

were sore at David, and that's a very. I mean when people are sore at you, then what you do, it's what you've learned in solitude that helps you then. When your best friends are not encouraging you but want to stone you and that will happen in the ministry. It will happen over and over again. And there is nothing worse than being hit below the belt by people on your board or on your mission or in your church or your best friend lifting his heel against you, et cetera, et cetera. Then can you encourage yourself in the Lord? Do you need someone to encourage you?

Have you grown yet into being able to encourage yourself in the Lord? That's a question you need to ask yourself. If you're going to be equipped for ministry. I've just written down a few things and you can work on this yourself, maybe in groups. But if you put the word solitude, I did this for myself just this morning. I thought, what do I do with solitude? Can I help the kids really put some things together? How do I use solitude? And I just thought of some things on the acrostic of solitude. S I schedule it. I've scheduled it today. It was easy to schedule. I have 9 hours before between here and getting home tonight. And so I've scheduled my solitude on a plane. And when I schedule it, O, I organize it. I have a plan. I have a system. I know what I'm going to do with my solitude today. Now it might get interrupted. And I must be flexible. But basically speaking, I have a plan.

Now, if you don't want a plan for your solitude, that's a plan as well. If you have no system, that's a plan. And that's all right. You say no, I like to be mystical. I like to worship. I like, fine, that's your plan. But have a plan. Either have no plan or have a plan. Know what you're going to do with solitude. Do you get what I'm saying? S, O, organize. What am I going to do in the solitude this day? Now I know exactly what I'm going to do with it. Do you know exactly what you're

going to do with your solitude today? L, look and listen. If you're having your solitude out in the world in a walk. David had his solitude times looking up at the sky, counting stars. You know, when I behold the heavens and the work of thy fingers, what is man that thou art mindful of me? What was he doing? He was looking. He was looking at nature. Solitude is a wonderful. It's wonderful to go walk and smell the flowers.

My husband runs and late at night he runs with a dear friend of his who is a surgeon. That's the only time either of them ever get to run. Sometimes they go a long, long run at twelve at night. And not too long ago. Last year, it was in the month of the blossom, they were running through the back subdivisions together, and Stuart suddenly stopped and he said, Jim, come back here. And Jim said, Why, why have we stopped? And Stewart said, we ran this whole length of this block and neither one of us realized what we've just run through. This incredible scent, this incredible fragrance. So they stopped and they ran back and forward through the fragrance and they smelt it. And Stuart said, Isn't that something you could run right and just miss it?

And you need to stop and smell the flowers. So look and listen, whether it's in the word or whether it's in the world. You've got to do something about looking and listening. I, intercession. In my solitude, I always have a plan for my intercession. Have you got a plan? Are you growing? Are you getting bigger where intercession is concerned? Use a photo album. Pictures are very, very helpful. Have a plan. Be specific. I remember being a young Christian going to a prayer meeting and praying, Bless Africa, Lord, and some wise Christian came up after me said, Well, I'm sure Africa is very pleased with your prayer. But which part of Africa? Which mission in

Africa? Which family in Africa? Which children of the family? And I got the point we've got to get specific.

OM. Operation Mobilization has a book called Operation World. Every Christian should have one. If you're going to learn to intercede for the world, there's your plan. Work your way through that in a year. They bring it out every two years, I believe. But it will give you the specifics for praying for the world. If anybody knows how to do that, it's George Fervor. Let him teach you. Let him be your teacher. Intercession. T, talk. In my solitude, there is talk time and I use symbols a lot to help me. Symbolism is fine and I'm very visual, as you've probably guessed. And sometime and I might do this tomorrow when I get home. I've got a nice block of time. I've scheduled for solitude tomorrow, and what I do is I go into my kitchen, which overlooks a little area in the condominium area over a little lake. It's very pretty.

And I make myself an English cup of tea and I get two cups out and I put them on the table, one for me and one for Jesus. And I pull his chair out and I pull mine out and I sit there and I fill his cup. And we talk and it helps me. I visualize him there. We're going to have a cup of tea together and just little things like that. I often do that in a prayer meeting when I pull the women together. I take an empty chair and pull it up to the table and I say, that's the Lord's chair and you know, it transforms your prayer, takes away all the phrases and everything else and everything that happens that's bad in a prayer meeting because you're thinking he's actually sitting there and suddenly you start and talk. You just talk, you chat. And you know the talk time is so important in solitude, we need to become junior high age at this point.

When my daughter was junior high age, she would run around with a phone hanging out of her ear. That's what junior high kids do. They have a phone growing out of their ear, and it always amazed me because she just left her best friend. And as soon as she comes in from school and she's just been chatting. They've just been all day. She picks up the phone and there they are till tea time. And then afterwards she's up with the phone again. And that's what we need to do. And if we haven't learned to talk to God like that, then we haven't learnt solitude. I believe David knew about that. I really do. U, unwind. What did David do to unwind in his solitude? Well, maybe he played chicken with bears and lions and maybe he played a mean guitar or whatever hopping harp.

He unwound his own way with what he had at his disposal. Unwinding is very important. I'm very spiritually intense. I don't have fun very easily. In fact, I have to schedule that. Have fun Thursday, because if I don't, I just never do. And if you are a spiritually intense person, if you're an Elijah, if you're an A type, you know then you have to possibly schedule U, unwind in that solitude time and whatever it takes to relax, then do it. D, dream. Solitude is for dreaming. Do you dream? You must dream. If you're going to be a David, if you're going to be a giant killer, you must dream, and you say, well, some people are dreamers and some aren't. I think an awful lot more people are dreamers than you realize. Creativity is very, very important in the ministry. I mean, look at any church program and ask me how important creativity is.

I used to believe that I was the most uncreative person on the Earth. So what I did was borrow everybody else's creativity. And I made files of it because I'm very organized. I'm one of these. Check, check, tick, tick, tick people. As you walk past them, you hear them? Check, check,

check, tick, tick, tick. They have a list of what they have to do, and they're checking it off. Are you one of those people? And so the creativity part of me, which I have but didn't know I had. I just didn't know it then. I put to work borrowing, stealing, using other people's creativity. And I had it filed. Check check check tick tick tick. Under. It was a beautiful filing system. What I did was borrow my husband's sermons. He was away all over the world, and I felt poor old England, they don't have them, so what I could do is get my street kids together, get preaching teams, get the Methodist circuit, teach them how to do it. And off we went.

And there was one of his sermons that I particularly loved that I borrowed that I got down that I practiced. It was on Lazarus. Lazarus was dead. Lazarus was defeated. Lazarus was dangerous, and I got to preach it a lot better than he did because I did it for about 100 times. All over England. And he was over all over the world preaching 3000 other sermons he had. I just borrowed one of his and practiced it very hard because I knew I had no creativity. One day he came home and he was home for a short time. And he took off on a Sunday. I remember I was getting the kids ready for Sunday school. And as he whizzed out into the car and off, I thought, he's going to that church down in Preston, and I was there last month with the team. Surely, Lord, surely he wouldn't preach on Lazarus, would he Lord? Please, Lord blot it out of his mind. You know, I had a miserable day.

I prayed and prayed and prayed. I thought, surely out of all the sermons he's got, Lord, he wouldn't do that. Well, he walked back in at about 06:00 at night and I took one look at his face and I said, Lazarus? And he said, Lazarus. He said, Jill, when I had preached my sermon on Lazarus at the end, this woman comes barreling up to me and says, oh, you stole your wife's

sermon. He said, Go find your own. I said, Stuart, I can't do that. I don't have any creativity. I can use yours. I can use their ideas. He says, everybody is creative up to a point. For example, all of us are artists. Everyone here is an artist, and you say, no Jill. Every one of us can draw a stick figure. That much we can do. And then on a continuum from there to Michelangelo, we all fit somewhere.

But the thing is, a lot of you that can draw stick figures could do a lot better than that, if you're trained and taught. Okay, because we're made in the image of God, and if there's anyone creative, it's him. He's made of the stuff. And he can help us to be creative. And I believe that solitude is a time to learn creativity. And I believe David used it for such. E for enjoy. And I've spent too much time on that. But anyway, that's what I believe. You need to do some of those things with solitude. But you say I live at Biola. When am I going to get a little bit of solitude? Well, let me tell you something. You're not going to get it for the rest of your life, either. You think that it's hard to find solitude here. You have to seek solitude.

If it's not going to come to you like it came to David, he had no option, then you have to seek it. I remember as a young mum with three kids under school age and no husband around the place and a little tiny house and a lot of drug kids around me and a lot to do. I was running a nursery school for 200 kids and doing the things I had to do up at the youth center. And I was very, very busy. And I remember thinking you said, Come into your closet. Where's my closet? There is nowhere in this house that I can find solitude. With three small children under school age, how can I do this? I had a wonderful talk on quiet time till I had three kids, and then I threw it out the

window and thought, Well, I'll have to think of something else because I could never beat them up in the morning. I don't mean beat them up in the morning. I mean beat them up.

And so I thought, I have to be creative. I have to find my closet. And the only closet I could find was the play pin. So I got in and put the kids out. And that was my closet. And I remember the children rattling the bars. In those days, we had bars for the playpen and not these modern things because it was the only time they wanted to get in instead of out. And I remember sitting there all safe. You know when you've got little children and they're clutching and pulling and pushing and biting. And, you know, it's wonderful just to be safe from all those little hands.

And I'd sit there with my English cup of tea and my Bible. And I remember the kids would all be there. And I remember David saying to Judy, What's mummy doing? And Judy saying, what you're doing, mummy? And I said, Jesus and I are having solitude. And David says, Where's Jesus? I can't see Jesus. Where's Jesus? Judy? Where's Jesus? But, you know, I think that had an impression on the kids. I really do. Because I find my children modeling after it. You can find somewhere even in the middle of chaos, you have to seek solitude. And I believe that that's what David did. He used it. He learned it. And later in his life, because of the habits that he'd made by the age of 20, I believe it was part of his existence. It was part of his life. I think the reason he went wrong with Bathsheba was he got up in the evening. He had forgotten to seek his solitude in the morning.

Anyway, that's one of the things that I think David did well. Secondly, he learned self-confidence. He had a good self-image in the right sense of the word. When you're alone, you get

to know yourself. And that's one reason some of us don't want to get alone. We have to find out how God has made us. I've talked to a lot of you since I've been here that are really very unsure about that. Some of you don't feel good about yourselves in the right sense at all. Somebody said to me, I just feel I have no value whatsoever. I'm absolutely valueless. Now, this will happen sometimes because of what's happened in your past. David was continually put down. He continually got negative messages in his childhood. But, boy, he was a young man that was absolutely self-confident in the right way by the time we see him facing Goliath.

Now, how had he learnt self-confidence when everyone was putting him down? How did he let God put him up? Because when people put you down, you've got to let God put you up. And only God can do that. Only God can do that. Children are very different. David sits at the back of his classroom until it's safe to come out. He sort of takes his time. He's a little unself-confident. Takes time. Judy is my A type and our exit mindset type child. She needs a lot of affirmation. Pete. Well, everybody has a Pete in the family. When he was 14, he did a self-analysis test. Pete first question, what do you like about yourself? He wrote everything. Well, the family had some input on what they didn't like about him, but he didn't seem to be much different. Pete is six foot six. And while he was in college, he went to Hong Kong and to China, and he worked with sports ministry there.

He came back and he said, oh, it was terrific. It was terrific. It was terrific. And I said to him, Pete, what happened when you'd walk down the streets? Because I know when I've been in Asia with people being so small, when they see a giant, and he was working with athletes who are a lot taller, I mean, he's six foot six, a midget to the people that he was walking down the street

with who are nearly seven foot, the basketball players. And I said, how do you feel about that with everybody turning around, which they do? And he said, Fine. Fine. And I thought, how neat. He felt fine. He felt fine being six foot six when everybody was five foot. No problem, because that's how God had made him. And that's how David felt. Fine. And you see, you're not too tall and you're not too small and you're not too thin and you're not too fat. Well, maybe.

That we can control a little. But you're not too bright and you're not too dumb. You're just right for what God has in mind to match you up for, for what God has in mind for you. And there's only one of you. Therefore, there's only some things that only you can do. And God is before ordained that you should walk or find or do those things. He's waiting for you to discover the things he's matched you up to do and that'll give you self-confidence. And I believe that David was there. He had a good self-image. He used his present to develop his talents and his gifts. He was uniquely gifted, uniquely gifted. He was faithful out of sight. Can you imagine if he hadn't learned to sling us down well? What would have happened when he faced Goliath?

And I tell you something, there was no one there taking pictures, and there was no one there giving him a grade. And I believe it's what you do out of sight when there's no grade to be one that will be used by God in your future as well as the things you're doing well with and the grades that you're getting for things that you're training for? Are you faithful out of sight? Are you becoming a good slingshot? What are the things that you are being faithful to bring to fruition that God has gifted you to do? Are you practicing the skills that God has given you? If you're into teaching, be the best teacher that you can be because gifts transfer, talents transfer in

the ministry. David had never used a sword, but very shortly afterwards, he got into Saul service. He went out and killed 1000 of the enemy with the sword.

His skill, his manual dexterity with that sling transferred into ministry gifts. And so what you do with the to you may be very ordinary talents that God has given you. Consecrate the talents, hone the talents. And incidentally, don't specialize too much. Because if God picks you up and puts you in a corner of the world where there is nobody else, you're going to have to do everything. And what I don't like about the American scene, the American Christian scene is we specialize, specialize, specialize. And you're useless. When you get out there be a Jack of all trades and a master of one. Okay? Be a Jack of all trades and a master of one. You are here at Biola. Get it all. Sure you're not going to do anything with kids. How do you know? How do you know you're not going to go to somewhere where you're going to have to do something with women, for example, a Muslim area where the only way you're going to get into the community is to reach the women.

You say, well, I'm a man. How am I going to learn that? I don't know how you're going to learn it. Go and learn it. Go and sit in on some of the women's things. Learn how to reach women. Learn how to train women to reach women. Be a Jack of all trades and a master of one, which will be the spiritual gift or the specific calling that you are training for. Certainly be a master of that. That goes without saying. But be a Jack of all trades. And that's what David was when you start to make a list as I did, and I don't have time to get into them. Of all his skills. Of all his talents boy, this man was multi-gifted and so are you. You don't realize how multi-talented and gifted you are, and God will use everything. I think back to what he has used in my life. There's

only one talent I think that hasn't been used and transferred into gospel. And that's my skating. I was going to be a professional skater.

And that's the only talent he hasn't used. And I've still got some ideas for it because of these inside ice rinks. And I write plays and dramas. And I would like to do one of my dramas on ice. They're a wonderful gospel presentation. I can just see. Have you ever seen a gospel presentation on ice? Nor have I yet. But it's one of those talents I gave to God. And maybe we'll transfer into the ministry. And that's what's so exciting. To take all your talents and all your gifts and lay them out before God, just as if it's a great big dentist train all these instruments are there. And God is the doctor of the dentist. And he's going to pick up this instrument and use it here. And this instrument use it here. And this instrument and use it there. Sometimes he won't use an instrument for years. And suddenly there it will be. It will be that one thing you learned 20 years ago how to do.

So be a Jack of all trades and a master of one. And that's fun. That'll keep you occupied and then learn to survive the bears and lions, the personal struggles in your life. I mean, it's a bear to be the youngest. I don't know if you're the youngest, but it's really a bear to be the youngest. He learned to cope with paternalism. I think of his father. Well, he's only the youngest, and he's out with a sheep. You get that sort of negative message. If it's not because you're the youngest, it's because you're the something else est. And if you're going to survive that, you've got to survive it, then you'll need to do some certain things. And incidentally, let me reverse the coin. Here. Be a true father to David. If you're in that situation, if you're dealing with boys, with children, with teenagers, remember that there's a King in the shepherd boy.

Boys will be boys. But one day boys will be men. Learn to see the King and the boy. Okay? Learn to see the King in the boy. Learn to see the potential of that child of that teenager. And that's what his father wasn't able to do. He didn't know there was a King in David. He was just a kid out with the sheep. He wasn't even invited to the party when Samuel came. What a put down. But of course, David had learned to let God put him up when others put him down. True father to David. And if you're a David, you've got to learn to deal with paternalism sometime. Let no man despise your youth, said Paul to Timothy. Obviously somebody was. And Timothy had to learn to let no man despise his youth. And perhaps you're going to have to fight some of that. And maybe you're going to have to fight a paternalism that tries to put you in Saul's armor.

Saul showed a paternalism when he said, Well, if you've got to go out and fight, Goliath do it my way. There's only one way to fight giants. You need armor. You need to do it like I would do it if I had the guts to do it. So here's my armor. I'll put it on you and what parents do and what church leaders do and what we do to other people, if we're not careful is we hang our own expectations all over them like that armor, and they can't move in it. Don't put David in Saul's armor. Now, when you become a parent, you'll have to learn that all over again. I remember Judy struggling through that because she perceived and possibly rightly, that we wanted her to be a certain person and train a certain way. And we hung our expectations over that little girl in college, and she had to do what David did. She had to come to us and say, I can't do this. I'm not used to this. This isn't my armor, and this isn't my way.

And I don't want to do this, major. And as David, he put them off him. He said, I got to do this my way. And we had that own experience of trying to put one of our children in David's armor.

Actually, David is the name of our oldest child. And that's a very, very typical thing that parents do. They hang the armor of the oldest child all over the youngest one. And what we have to do is let David tell us. And maybe if you're in this situation, you have to say to your parents, I can't do this. This isn't my armor. This isn't how God's made me. I really believe that God is calling me to do this or to do that. So, paternalism. That can be a bear that can hug you to death. And then look at Eliab. What putdowns. 1 Samuel 17. You can look at all this when you have time. He said to David, I know how conceited and wicked your heart is. Living Bible. I know what a cocky brat you are. You just wanted to see the battle. Have you ever had somebody talk to you like that?

I know what a cocky brat you are. You just wanted to see the battle. The pecking order wasn't right there. Remember our three children struggling with this with Pete? The youngest Pete was getting to grow all that height and had suddenly come on level with Dave and Judy, and their turf was threatened. And I remember Judy and David marching Pete into me and David saying, I don't know what's the matter with him. And Judy complaining bitterly about something, and Judy said he's changed. He's changed overnight. He went to bed one person, he's got up another. It was typical Judy in those days. So I said, Well, what's the matter? And David said, in all seriousness, he thinks he's as important as we are.

They both looked at him in horror. I mean, this was absolutely true. This was their complaint. Peter looked very guilty but nodded his head wisely. I do. I really believe I'm as important as the oldest and the second, even though I'm number three, I'm as important. It was hard for our children to move over for number three and believe he was as important as they were. And sometimes it's very difficult for Eliab to do that. And David experienced this. How did he handle

Eliab? You can get into this and discover it for yourself. And I'm just going to tease you with it. One thing he did. One thing he did was to turn away. He refused to fight that. He refused to vindicate himself. He answered Eliab, and he said, Can I even speak? And then it says he turned away.

He had a focus. He had a goal. He had come to fight Goliath. He had not come to fight Eliab. And if you want to waste your energy, fight Eliab. But just keep your focus if you can. And when you're put down in any situation, keep your focus. Refuse to fight the saints. You're there to fight the snake, not the saints, and get on with the job. So David coped with paternalism in those ways he handled Eliab, which was just as much, I think, a bear in his life as the real thing. Then he fought externalism. Samuel. God had to say to Samuel, don't look at his height. Look at his heart. Don't look at his height. Look at his heart. We are so caught up in the Christian church with externalism, with looking on the outside of people.

I am appalled how people are hired for ministry. And it worries me greatly because I think so often people are looking on the outside and not on the heart. And when we are in ministry, remember that. Don't be. Even Samuel fell into it. He looked at Eliab's height. He looked at the outside and God said to him, Samuel, don't look at his height. Look at his heart. That must have been hard for David. I think David knew he was the last resort. I think David knew that Samuel really didn't believe in him, that Samuel really wanted Eliab. You know, those things. That was hard. So he had to deal with people looking on the outside of him and saying, Well, he's not as big as Eliab. He's not as good as Eliab. But of course, God had anointed him in his heart. He was living in his call. Goliath was guilty of that too.

He was only a boy. Eliab said he's only a boy. Goliath said he's only a boy. His father had said he's only a boy. Samuel said he's only a boy. Well, Goliath learnt his lesson. He shouldn't have said it. He lost his head under pressure and David kept his and Goliath's. But I tell you something. Goliath made a big mistake. He roared across the valley. How dare you send me? He's only a boy. I mean, that was a big insult to him. Big insult. Don't look on the outside. We all do this. Don't look on their height. Look on their heart. When you get into ministry and you're choosing your team, look on the heart, not on their height.

And then David had to cope with fraternalism. 1 Samuel 16, he had to deal with externalism, paternalism, fraternalism. 1 Samuel 16:18, talks about a servant of Saul. And when Saul was going out of his mind and needed a harpist to calm him, this servant who is not named, gave a list of reasons, a resume for David, a recommendation. And this is what he said. He's a talented harpist. He's handsome, he's brave, he's strong, he has good, solid judgment. And above all, the Lord is with him. Now, that was pretty good. Don't know who this guy was. Actually he said he's only a boy. And there's two ways of saying he's only a boy. And this man, whoever he was, saw all the right things in David. He saw the King in the boy. He saw the King in the boy. He said, Well, boys will be boys. But one day this boy will be a man and what a man he'll be.

So I don't know who Mr. Seeing I was, but he was showing true fraternalism. A definition of fraternity is people that are banded together for mutual benefit towards a common goal. In this case, it was serving the King. They were looking for a servant, for Saul. He's only a boy, but he can do it. And David had to cope with success. So you come from the negative. How do you cope with failure? How do you cope with being put down in the ministry? How are you equipped

for all these things? Solitude will learn will give you a chance to learn how to cope with all those things. God will help you. But what to do if you're a success? What you do if you get the job? What you do if when Saul goes crazy, you play your harp and it calms him down? Boy, feel a part. Feel like control here. Everybody begin to say Saul has killed his thousands, but David is ten thousands. How did you cope with that?

And I think that can be more of a lion or a bear than any of the negatives. And I believe that's why a lot of people have come and stuck in the church of Jesus Christ. They haven't learned to cope with success. That's a bear. And I think David did very well with this. And I don't have time to develop how I think he coped with it. Only on one occasion did he not cope with it. But you've got to learn how to cope with success because the devil really doesn't care whether he gets you at the low points or the high points. Remember, he'll get you one way or the other. And if he can't get you when you're low, he'll get you when you're successful, watch it. And when you get a Mr. Seeing eye on your side and you begin to get accolades or you write a book and it's a bestseller, or you go to a conference and you preach the gospel and somebody comes to Christ or many people come to Christ. How do you deal with that? That can be a lion or a bear.

God is going to help you with those things in the measure of the time you give him. Of the time you give him to do it. One of the ways you can help yourself is never take yourself too seriously. Never take yourself too seriously. Over and over again in the little tiny successes, perhaps in the world since that have come to Stuart and I, he's always said to me, we must never, ever take ourselves too seriously. And that has been a great way to cope with it. I don't know whether it's biblical. I'm sure it is. Maybe you can give me some verses afterwards that underline that. But I

think it's because people take themselves too seriously. I've met women authors that have had a book that's done very well. And Stuart has said to me after a conversation, I'm worried about that person. They're taking themselves far too seriously.

It's sort of gone to their head in a sort of scriptural way, and it's couched in the right language, but they're taking themselves too seriously. We're really very funny. We really are. I like looking up at the English architecture. I like to go to the big churches and cathedrals because the spire points me to heaven. But as I look to heaven under the spire, there's the gargoyles and the gargoyles are laughing down at men. And that keeps you in perspective, because we're really very funny. And so yes, we can aspire and look up to God. But remember, God is looking down at us and saying, they're really rather pathetic when you think about it.

Keep yourself in perspective. Never take yourself too seriously. Have someone to be accountable to. Have someone to be accountable to always. Especially if you're at the top of something, make sure you're accountable to somebody somewhere. Be accountable. Those are the sort of things you can do to help yourself. And so why was David a giant killer? Because in the end, he learned solitude. And I come back to the whole thing with Elijah. It was God's touch upon him in his desert, in his solitude, in his aloneness, that put him back together again. And it'll be the solitude that you learn to use wisely, the gifting that you learn to hone and the searching for your anointing, your calling and living within your call in the power of the spirit, all of that that will help you to be equipped for service.

And then God will work with you. As David went out and took his little stones and put them in a sling. It was a miracle. I mean, David did everything he needed to do, and God matched it with a miracle. God matched it. He came in the name of God. God's power was upon him. It said, full of the spirit of the Lord. He went out and God came into action with David. And the giant fell. And you know, the difference will be between Saul and David when you face your giant, whatever it is. Saul looked at the giant and he said, He's too big to hit. David looked at him and said, He's too big to miss. And when you're a David, when you're a giant killer at the age of 20, which you can be, you look at that big old giant, whoever he is, and you'll say it's just too big to miss. And in the next name of the Lord, you'll go out against it.