

Prayer Requests & Announcements

- David and Catherine are Traveling in Georgia
- Tim, Angie, and Hannah will be traveling back to Reno this week.
- Ross and Debbie will be traveling to AR for the Christmas break and to move their belongings to Idaho. They plan to start the drive back on 1/10.
- The Christians in the Philippines.

For prayer requests, call or text
Chad @ (208) 221-2587 or Ross @ (208) 680-6590

Assignments

Today Bible Study – Tom Mitchell Song Leader – Chad Mitchell Lord's Table – David Porter Sermon – Tim Woodside	Wednesday Bible Study – TBD Song Leader – David Porter Invitation – TBD
Next Sunday Bible Study – Tom Mitchell Song Leader – Tom Mitchell Lord's Table – Chad Mitchell Sermon – Tim Woodside	Next Wednesday Bible Study – TBD Song Leader – Tom Mitchell Invitation – TBD

Blackfoot Church of Christ
370 North Shilling Ave.
Blackfoot, Idaho 83221

Meeting Times:

Sunday Morning Classes 10:00AM
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00AM
Wednesday Evening 7:30PM



[www.facebook.com @blackfootchurch](https://www.facebook.com/blackfootchurch)
www.blackfootchurch.com



Blackfoot Church of Christ

Published by Blackfoot Church of Christ
Blackfoot, ID

Volume 5 Number 54

December 31, 2017

God Only Needs One Stone

William J. Stewart

Goliath, the Philistine giant, challenged Israel to produce a champion to fight him one on one. The loser's people would serve the victor's nation (1 Samuel 17:8-10). Israel did not send out a man, rather they were dismayed and greatly afraid" (1 Samuel 17:11).

David was too young to be in the army, but his oldest three brothers were there. Jesse sent David to his brothers and the captains of the men with provisions (1 Samuel 17:13-18). The giant issued his challenge again after David arrived in the camp, and the young man heard it. He was enraged that this "uncircumcised Philistine ... should defy the armies of the living God" (1 Samuel 17:26). Not long after, he was before the king, and confidently declared,

"Let no man's heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine" (1 Samuel 17:32).

Saul tried to discourage him. You're too small. You're too young. You're too inexperienced. But as David explained to Saul why he believed he could take the giant down, it had nothing to do with his size, his age or his experience.

The LORD, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine. (1 Samuel 17:37)

The king tried giving David his armor, but he refused. Since Saul was head and shoulders above all others in Israel (1 Samuel 9:2), the armor would have been

more of a hindrance than a help. Plus, David's confidence wasn't in the tools of warfare, but in the God of Israel. Notice what he said to the giant before he slew him:

You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand ... then all this assembly shall know that the LORD does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the LORD's, and He will give you into our hands. (1 Samuel 17:45-47)

He was able to stand before this monster of a man because he trusted in the LORD, not himself. What an exceptional example for us when the Goliaths of life stand in our way and challenge our faith.. The battle is the LORD's, and He will give us victory if we stand in faith and not shy away in fear (Psalm 44:6-7).

As great as David's faith was, I want you to notice something. In verse 40, he took his staff, his sling, and count them, 1-2-3-4-5 smooth stones. David felt that 5 stones would be sufficient. Some of us may have grabbed up every stone from the brook and still felt as though we didn't have enough. But God only needed one stone.

The apostle Paul wrote about the LORD and his ability:

[He] is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us... (Ephesians 3:20)

The LORD is more than able. He is able, whether we take 1 stone or 5, to give victory. David's faith was in God's ability, not his own. He brought the stones and the sling, but God gave the victory. Let us pick up our stones and confront the giants we face in life, confident in the LORD God. All He needs is one stone.

Who We Are

Joe R. Price

"Watch your thoughts, for they become your words,
Choose your words, for they become your actions,
Understand your actions, for they become your habits,
Study your habits, for they become your character,
Develop your character for it becomes your destiny."

This anonymous verse outlines the essence of developing our character into the image of Christ (Col. 3:10).

Thoughts. We are created in the image of God, with the ability to think, to analyze and formulate concepts, and then to verbalize them. "For as he thinks in his heart, so is he" acknowledges that we are who we are because of what and how we think (Prov. 23:7).

Words. Thoughts become words that express what is in our hearts. The combining of thoughts and words forms our communication with others. "For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks" (Matt. 12:34). We cannot avoid this fundamental truth: Our speech identifies our character. So, "let your speech always be with grace" (Col. 4:6).

Actions. Our conduct does not occur in a vacuum. Our deeds give definition to what we say: "My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and truth" (1 Jno. 3:18). Our actions give life to our words and demonstrate whether our words are genuine.

Habits. Any action regularly performed as one's normal routine is a habit. The gospel calls us to change our habits by arming ourselves with the mind of Christ and living "for the will of God" (1 Pet. 4:1-2). Let us set habits of faithfulness each day by maintaining holy thoughts, truthful words and obedient conduct.

Character. The essential qualities and attributes that define who we are (such things as our values, motives, goals, etc.) shape our choices throughout life. Our thoughts, words, actions and habits combine to mold us into who we are in the sight of men and in the sight of God. Our aim is summed up by Paul: "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me" (Gal. 2:20).

Destiny. The result of a life lived by faith is eternal salvation (1 Pet. 1:4-9). Whatever we sow in life shall be reaped in eternity (Gal. 6:7-8). Therefore, choose godly thoughts, words, actions and habits. By doing so you will bear the image of Christ and prepare for the day when the Lord says to you, "well done, good and faithful servant...enter into the joy of your Lord" (Matt. 25:21).