



THE SWORD OF OBEDIENCE

In 1 Sam 17 we read that David's father Jesse sent David, the shepherd boy, to give some food to his brothers in the army of Saul. When he went there he saw that the whole Israelite army stood in great fear of one man who was blaspheming their God and challenging the whole army to send one man to fight against him. Not one man from Saul's army responded to the challenge. But David could not bear anyone blaspheming the God of Israel!

The anger of David's elder brother Eliab was kindled against him for coming to them. He said, "Why did you come here? With whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your presumption and evilness of heart; for you came down that you might see the battle" (1 Sam 17:28). Though David had brought them food, he was misunderstood. They said that he had come to see his brothers cower in battle. And David said, "What have I now done? Is there not a cause?" (1Sa 17:29).

David's brothers could not understand why he had come. They were part of a backslidden order that had lost its anointing. David's brethren could not see why the Lord had brought David to their midst. This is very true even today. There is a system, an order that is not



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able to see the real purpose of the days in which we live. It does not know that the enemy is really challenging the testimony of the Lord despite all the tall claims of great evangelistic endeavours! Though David's brethren made allegations against him, David realized that God had brought him there for a higher purpose and Divine cause. **Many of the Davids of this day face similar allegations from an insensitive religious system and order!**

Finally, after much insistence and persistence David was brought before Saul, the king of Israel. Saul said to David, "Thou art not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him: for thou art but a youth, and he a man of war from his youth" (1Sa 17:33). Look at what David had to say!

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Even after hearing David's wonderful testimony of a miracle wrought by God, Saul still depended upon his own wisdom for the battle against the Philistines! As far as natural man is concerned the need of the hour was for armour; man needs armour to go to battle. The mention of a battle reminds me of the battledress worn by soldiers in battle. The wisdom of man demands body armour, shields, helmets, swords, and battledress to fight the enemy. Man's wisdom finds its own solutions in every situation we face. It is not uncommon for us to always succumb to the pressure of using man's wisdom to fight spiritual battles. We cannot think of a battle without using a weapon. But God's wisdom is so different; it is so superior! But we fail to trust God in the situations we face. The battle is the Lord's and therefore it is always best to trust His wisdom.

Saul eventually persuaded David to put on the armour of

Saul.

“And David girded his sword upon his armour, and he assayed to go; for he had not proved it. And David said unto Saul, I cannot go with these; for I have not proved them. And David put them off him.” (1 Sa 17:39)

We have to carefully note David's response here. He said, “I cannot go with these for I have not proved them and David put them off him”. David knew very well that Saul had lost his anointing and that the weapons of Saul had no power against the enemy. **No doubt, his weapons were powerful at one time and there was no dearth of weapons and armour in Israel. But they had lost their power and effectiveness against the enemy.**

The Scripture says that God's Word is the sword in the armour of God (Eph 6:17). **It is the word or truth that one has obeyed that is powerful and sharp against the enemy.** The Lord used the sharp edge of the sword of the Spirit which is the word of God when He was tempted by the enemy in the desert. **People often quote Scripture without obeying it and therefore that Scripture loses its sharpness and is ineffective against the enemy in the day of battle. It is the word that is obeyed and lived that gives us victory.** Yes, Saul's sword was sharp against the enemy and he slaughtered the Philistines at one time. However, the same sword had lost its sharpness through disobedience and rebellion! It was not the lack of swords in Israel that brought defeat. No never! There were so many weapons hanging in the tents of Israel, but they had lost their sharpness! Even so today, it is not the lack of truth and doctrine that brings us to places of defeat. We have plenty of truth and doctrine, but where are the warriors who walk in them and who are utterly obedient to the word of the Lord? That is the only weapon that can be used effectively against the enemy. He that hath an ear let him hear what the Spirit says!

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