

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 10: The Holy Spirit, the Indwelling

Unit 10 Big Question and Answer:

What Does the Holy Spirit Do In God's People?

He Changes Their Hearts to Be Like Jesus!

PFI ESV Songs 10, Tracks 3,4

Unit 10 Bible Verse: Ezekiel 36:26, ESV

"I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you."
PFI ESV Songs 10, Track 5

BIBLE TRUTH

We're learning... Bible Truth 2:

The Holy Spirit Gives God's People Courage

God gives His people many good things to enjoy, but He also calls them to do difficult things. God does not expect His people to do these things on their own. He gives them His Holy Spirit, to live inside of them and help them do everything He calls them to do.

God's Holy Spirit helps God's people do things they would never have the courage to do on their own. He gives them the courage to tell others the good news of salvation. He gives them the courage to obey Him, even when they are tempted not to. He gives them courage to keep trusting in God and to joyfully endure any hard things God may have them go through. He even gives them courage to boldly face their enemies who want to hurt or kill them.

Not only does God's Holy Spirit give them the courage to do whatever God calls them to, but He also reminds them of God's promises to use everything that happens to them for their good and God's glory. And, He reminds them that one day God will bring them home to live with Him in heaven, where there will be only joy and happiness in God's presence forever.

God's Holy Spirit can give us courage to live for God, too, when we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

BIBLE VERSE

How do I know this is true? The Bible tells me so!

Bible Truth 2 Bible Verse: Acts 4:29,31, ESV

"And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness...And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness."

CASE STORY

1 Samuel 17

Our story is: The Case of the Small Man with the Big, Secret Weapon. As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:

1. Who was the Small Man? Who thought he was too small to fight?
2. What was the Small Man's big, secret weapon? What difference did this make?

On the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came and filled the disciples' hearts powerfully and gave them new hearts, filled with courage to share the good news about Jesus and live for God.

But even before Pentecost, the Holy Spirit was at work in God's people. He has always been at work, doing the Father's will in the lives of His people.

This story is about David. It takes place about 1000 years before Jesus lived on earth and that Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came to fill the hearts of the disciples. And it takes place in the hills of Judah, not too far from Bethlehem.

David was the shepherd-on-duty for the family flocks. All his brothers were off at war with the Philistines, Israel's hated enemies. That left him at home sheep-watching, for any time the sheep were out, a shepherd must guard them from wild animals.

David knew this well. How many times had he been watching the flock when suddenly there was the loud, panicked bleating of a sheep caught in a lion's mouth. Quickly David would spring to his feet, load his sling with a stone, then hurl it towards the fleeing beast.

"ROOOOAAAARRRR!" The lion would shriek as the rock struck him, forcing him to drop the sheep. Sometimes the lion would run, but sometimes the lion would turn and attack David. David would seize it with his bare hands, strike it and kill it.

Who gave David the courage to fight a ferocious lion like this? David knew. it was God! As he returned the poor, terrified sheep to the flock, David would thank God for rescuing the sheep and for delivering him from the paw—and teeth!—of the lion once more!

Many times David had been the sheep's champion, but he knew that God was His champion every time. God made him quick and strong. He gave him courage to fight, and the victory over lions or any other enemy he might

face. So David stayed alert, watching the sheep. But he rested in God, not himself, to give him the courage he needed to protect the sheep.

While David guarded the flocks near Bethlehem, King Saul, David's three oldest brothers and the other men of Israel stood on guard about fourteen miles away against an even more powerful enemy: the great Philistine Army! The Philistines were the fierce enemies of the Israelites. They lived nearby, in the dry flatlands next to Judah. For years they had attacked the Israelites again and again, hoping to steal some of Israel's green, hilly land.

Now both armies faced each other across the Valley of Elah: the Israelite army stood armed on one hill and the Philistines stood armed on another nearby hill. For a month and a half now, no one had moved. No one would lead the attack against the other army. So, the Philistines had decided to settle the war by a fight to the death of champions. They challenged the Israelites to choose their one, best warrior to fight their one, best warrior...to the death! Whichever warrior won, would win the whole war for their army without anyone else having to fight.

That might sound like a good plan, until you saw the size of the Philistine champion, Goliath of Gath. He was 9 ½ feet tall...taller than two of you put together! He had a thick, bronze helmet on his head and thick, bronze armor for his body. The armor alone weighed about 125 pounds, the weight of a small woman! On his legs he wore bronze leggings and on his back was slung a large, curved, bronze sword called a javelin. He carried a long spear with a heavy, sharp, iron tip in his hand and a shield bearer carried Goliath's shield in front of him as protection.

Each morning and evening of that month and a half Goliath faced the Israelites and shouted to them, "Why do you come out and line up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not the servants of King Saul? Choose a champion and have him come down to me. If he is able to fight and kill me, we will become your subjects; but if I overcome him and kill him, you will become our subjects and serve us," he said. "This day, I defy the ranks of Israel! Give me a man and let us fight each other!" Goliath challenged.

But who had the courage to face Goliath? He was almost twice as tall as any of the Israelites, not to mention far more powerful. Who would be that crazy?

"How can we fight this giant of a man!" the Israelites said

to each other. "We have no warrior to match Goliath. Surely we will lose our land and be forced to serve the Philistines," they worried. And so the two armies stood day after day. Facing each other and doing nothing.

One day, David was sent by his father to take grain, bread and cheese to his brothers on the battle front. As he arrived in camp, he heard the sounds of marching feet and war cries as the Israelite army got into battle positions. David left his supplies and ran to his brothers on the battle lines.

Once more Goliath stepped out from his lines and shouted his challenge, "I defy you, Israelites! Give me a man and let us fight each other!" Once more, the Israelites heard it and ran away, terrified.

David was shocked! "What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and removes this disgrace from Israel? Why should he be allowed to defy the armies of the living God?" he asked.

"That is Goliath, the champion of the Philistines," they answered. "Look at the size of him! The king promises a great reward to any man who is willing to be our champion, but no one dares step forward. Surely no one could match the strength of that giant!"

"Why have you come down here, David? Who did you leave those few sheep in the desert with? You came down here to watch the battle, didn't you?" accused David's brother Eliab, angrily. Eliab thought David was all talk. He was too little to fight.

But there was more than talk to David. He knew that it was never just one man against another when you believed in the LORD, the living God. The Holy Spirit gave him faith and courage to believe he defeat even Goliath with the LORD's help.

David's brave words reach the ears of King Saul and Saul sent for him. "What's this talk, boy?" Saul asked.

"I will fight Goliath," David replied.

"You are only a boy. What makes you think you could defeat this giant?" Saul asked.

But David didn't think he could defeat this giant on his own. God, the Holy Spirit, was at work in his heart, giving him faith and courage to believe that God would help him, just as He had before. "I have killed both lions and bears while protecting my father's sheep," David told King Saul. "Goliath will be no different. The LORD who delivered me from the lion and bear will deliver me from Goliath."

“Then go, and the LORD be with you,” Saul replied.

Saul armed David with armor, helmet, and sword, but they were too much for him.

He took them off and picked up his shepherd’s staff, and five smooth stones from the stream. With his sling in hand, David faced Goliath on the battle field.

Goliath, with his shield bearer in front of him, came towards David. He looked David over and saw that he was only a shepherd boy. “Am I a dog that you come at me with sticks?” he said, looking at David’s wooden shepherd’s staff. Then he cursed David by his gods.

Goliath was right, David was no match for him by himself. But David wasn’t alone. God’s Holy Spirit was working inside him, giving him faith and courage to trust God to deliver him.

“David said to Goliath, “You come against me with sword, spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, whom you have defied. The LORD will hand you over to me. I’ll strike you down and cut off your head. He will help us defeat your whole army and the world will know of the living God of Israel.”

All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD’s, and he will give all of you into our hands.”

As Goliath moved in to attack, David ran to meet him. Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell face-down on the ground, dead. David picked up Goliath’s huge sword and cut off his head. When the Philistines saw Goliath dead they turned and ran. The Israelites surged forward with a shout and chased the Philistines to their cities of Gath and Ekron.

What no man could have done on his own, the Holy Spirit gave David courage to trust God to do these great things, that day.

Our Bible Truth is:

The Holy Spirit Gives God’s People Courage

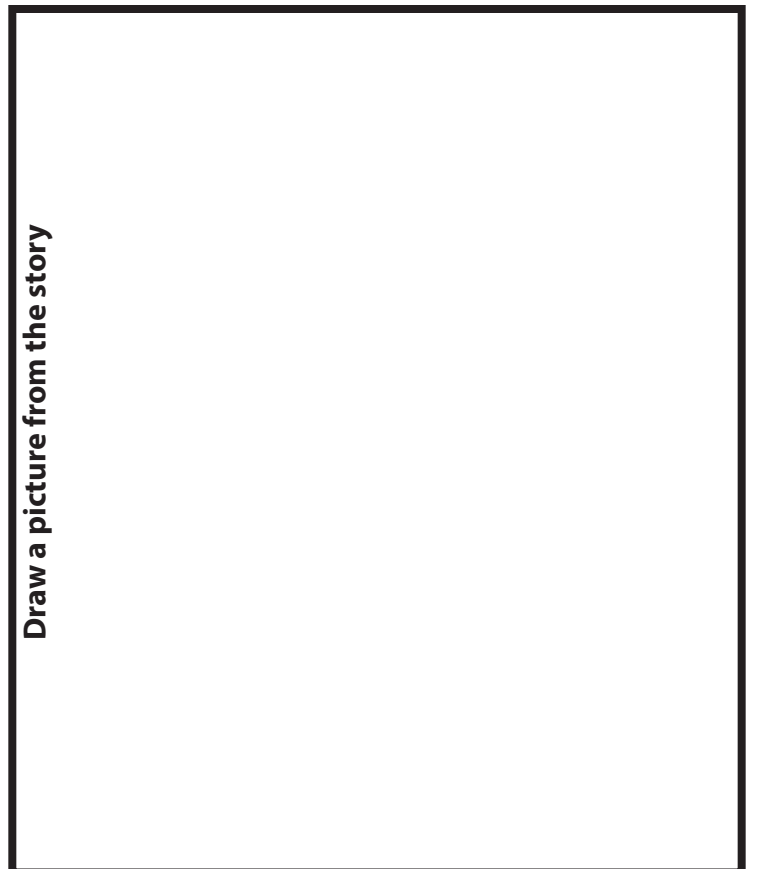
Our Bible Verse is: Acts 4:29,31

“And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness...And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.”

The Holy Spirit also made David brave to fight this enemy who dishonored the LORD’s name. Through David, the LORD showed both the Israelites and the Philistines that He really was the mighty, living God. Yes, the mighty living God who could, by His Holy Spirit, put faith and courage in a young man’s heart to trust God to help him defeat a huge 9 ½ foot giant, swinging a massive spear and sword with just a sling, some stones and a shepherd’s staff! How amazing is our God!

But what about us today? If we are God’s people, will the Holy Spirit give us courage? Yes, He will. God promises to give the Holy Spirit to all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their own Savior. ...and to do so in even a far greater way than even David knew. For it wasn’t until after Jesus came and died on the cross for God’s people that the Holy Spirit would come to live and stay forever in the hearts of God’s people. From in their hearts, the Holy Spirit helps God’s people do even more incredible things in God’s name and bravely tell others about Jesus. He can make them brave and bold like David....and even more!

Let’s praise God for sending His people the Holy Spirit to give them courage to do whatever He wants them to do. Let’s ask Him to work in our hearts, that we might trust Jesus as our own Savior and have the Holy Spirit live in us, making us brave to do whatever God would have us do.



Draw a picture from the story

SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU

1. A Question about the Bible Truth, True or False:

God's Holy Spirit reminds God's people of His promises to use everything that happens in their lives for His glory, but not necessarily for their good.

Answer: False! God's Holy Spirit reminds them that everything that happens in their lives is for their good and God's glory.

2. Crack the Case Questions

a. Who was the Small Man? Who thought he was too small to fight?

Answer: David was the Small Man. Everyone! Goliath, his brothers, King Saul.

b. What was the Small Man's big, secret weapon? What difference did this make?

Answer: The Holy Spirit working in David's heart, helping him have faith in the LORD to speak out against Goliath and to proclaim Him as the one, true, God, full of greatness and power. It made all the difference! He might have been too small to defeat giant Goliath alone, but the LORD gave him courage to stand up to Goliath and He helped David defeat him. Everyone could see how great the LORD was!

3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse: Acts 4:29,31

"And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your ___ with all boldness...And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was ___, and they were all ___ with the ___ and continued to speak the word of God with boldness."

Answers: word; shaken; Holy Spirit.

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY

A=Adoration, C=Confession, T=Thanksgiving, S=Supplication

A God, we praise You for being the Giver of the Holy Spirit to Your people, to make them courageous to tell others about You to do great things for the glory of Your name.

C God, we confess that many times, like the Israelites and the Philistines that we look at our own strength and do not think about You and having faith in You to act. We need a Savior! We need the Holy Spirit working in our hearts!

T God, we thank You for working so powerfully in Your people, by Your Holy Spirit. Even though they are so weak and small against their enemies, Your Spirit works powerfully inside of them, giving them courage say and do great things in Your name, for Your glory.

S God, work in our hearts! Help us to turn away from our sins and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Send Your Holy Spirit to work in our hearts, making us courageous to live and to speak and even to suffer for You. Make us like David, with a desire to show how great is Your name is when others dishonor You.

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

PFI ESV Songs 10, Tracks 15,16

Verse 3

And though this world with devils filled,
Should threaten to undo us.
We will not fear for God has willed,
His truth to triumph through us.
The Prince of Darkness grim, We tremble not for him.
His rage we can endure, For lo' his doom is sure,
One little word shall fell him.

Verse 4

That word above all earthly powers,
No thanks to them abideth,
The Spirit and the gifts are ours,
Through Him who with us sideth,
Let goods and kindred go, This mortal life also,
The body they may kill, God's truth abideth still.
His kingdom is forever.

Words and Music: Martin Luther

We do not have to look very far to see signs that God's good world and good ways are challenged by a powerful enemy called Satan. He and other angels rebelled against God long ago. No wonder his nickname is the "Prince of Darkness" and these rebel angels are called demons! They love to oppose God. These enemies also want to cause trouble for God's people. This may sound very scary. No one wants to have powerful enemies like these. But the good news is that they are not even close to a match for God. He is so much more powerful than they are. He will always win over any of their wicked plans. And thanks to Jesus, God gives His people powerful gifts to fight these enemies, too. He puts His Holy Spirit in their heart to make them bold. He gives them other abilities that help them fight, too. Yes, with Jesus on the side of God's people, it doesn't matter what Satan might have planned. God will always win. His kingdom is forever.

BIBLE VERSE SONG

And Now, Lord

PFI NIV Songs 10, Track 17

And now, Lord, look upon their threats,
And grant to your servants to continue to speak,
Your word with all boldness, Your word with all boldness, Your word with all boldness,
And when they prayed, they were all filled,
With the Holy Spirit and continued to speak,
The word of God with boldness, the word of God with boldness,
The word with boldness.
Acts Four, twenty-nine and thirty-one.

Words: Acts 4:29,31 NIV 1984 Music: Constance Dever ©2012
These words are a prayer of some of God's people that's in the Bible. There are times when the enemy they face is too powerful for them, on their own. But, they know that they never have to face anything on their own. God has given them His Holy Spirit to work in their hearts and help them be bold to do whatever He wants them to do. He delights to answer this prayer!