

Amen: 40 Days of Prayer
Preparing for a Breakthrough

1 Samuel 17

This is the message from the one who is the Amen—the faithful and true witness. (Revelation 3:14, New Living Translation)

I am the Philistine champion, but you are only the servants of Saul. Choose one man to come down here and fight me! If he kills me, then we will be your slaves. But if I kill him, you will be our slaves! I defy the armies of Israel today! Send me a man who will fight me!
(1 Samuel 17:8–10, NLT)

For forty days the Philistine came out every morning and evening and stood before the Israelite army. (1 Samuel 17:16, New Century Version)

What will a man get for killing this Philistine and ending his defiance of Israel? Who is this pagan Philistine anyway, that he is allowed to defy the armies of the living God?
(1 Samuel 17:26, NLT)

What are you doing around here anyway? . . . What about those few sheep you're supposed to be taking care of? I know about your pride and deceit. You just want to see the battle!
(1 Samuel 17:28, NLT)

HOW DO WE PREPARE FOR A BREAKTHROUGH?

1. Examine your motives.

Don't judge by his appearance or height, for I have rejected him. The Lord doesn't see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart. (1 Samuel 16:7, NLT)

Question to ask: *"Is my heart in the right place? Do I want this breakthrough for my own benefit? Or so that God will be honored?"*

There's no way you can fight this Philistine and possibly win! You're only a boy, and he's been a man of war since his youth.' (1 Samuel 17:33, NLT)

2. Let God use your abilities.

Saul was. . . [a] head and shoulders taller than anyone else in the land. (1 Samuel 9:2, NLT)

'The LORD who rescued me from the claws of the lion and the bear will rescue me from this Philistine!'
(1 Samuel 17:37, NLT)

Question to ask: *"What have I seen God do in my past that gives me confidence for today's challenge?"*

When Goliath looked at David and saw that he was only a boy, tanned and handsome, he looked down on David with disgust. He said, "Do you think I am a dog, that you come at me with a stick?". . . He said to David, "Come here. I'll feed your body to the birds of the air and the wild animals!"
(1 Samuel 17:42–44, NCV)

3. Ignore outward appearances.

You come to me with sword, spear, and javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD of Heaven's Armies—the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. Today the LORD will conquer you, and I will kill you and cut off your head. And then I will give the dead bodies of your men to the birds and wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel! And everyone assembled here will know that the LORD rescues his people, but not with sword and spear. This is the LORD's battle, and he will give you to us!
(1 Samuel 17:45–47, NLT)

You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. . . . let your light shine!
(Matthew 5:14–16, English Standard Version)

Question to ask: *"What is it about the challenge in front of me that appears impossible? Compared to what I've already seen God do, is it really that difficult?"*