

"David said moreover, 'The LORD That Delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, He Will Deliver Me Out Of The Hand Of This Philistine.' And Saul said unto David, 'Go, and the LORD be with thee.'" 1 Samuel 17:37 KJV



Boot camp readies the soldier for battle. Apprenticeship readies the novice for craftsmanship. Childhood readies the child for adulthood. Trials ready the believer for conflict. *"For the Weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty Through God to the pulling down of strong holds."* Lions prey on the strays and weak. Bears eat anything, you included! I don't believe David was unafraid of the lion and the bear, but the sheep were dear to David, because they belonged to his father. The same stars that faithfully shine in our night sky, shone upon David the shepherd boy. I believe that he had grown close to the God of Heaven as he spent hours contemplating the beauties of nature in the day and the star-studded night skies. The lion attacked and David put himself between the lion and the sheep. The LORD Enabled his courage by giving him the strength to smite the lion and the bear when they came. The lion bolstered his faith against the bear, and with these two victories, he merely saw Goliath as an affront to his God. David saw beyond the seeming impossibility of the conflict to the God of Impossibilities! *"For with God, NOTHING shall be impossible!"* He knew that there was no way he had conquered the lion and the bear without the unseen Power of Jehovah and knew who would fight the battle for him against Goliath. He fearlessly faced the armour and weapons of a giant with a stone and sling, because he knew Someone mightier Was Standing with him! He prepared, did what he could, and watched God Topple the giant! The lions and bears in your life today, prepare you for tomorrow's giants. The thoughts and intents of your heart are like David's sheep. The must be constantly nurtured, tended, and protected against Satan and his fiery darts of doubt. We learn to conquer Through Faith. When giants of despair thunder across our valleys, we will have learned that *"the battle Is The LORD'S."* The Word of God, our Stone of Offence Will Be enough to vanquish the greatest foes we encounter. *"Behold, I Lay In Sion a Chief Corner Stone, Elect, Precious: and he that believeth on Him shall not be confounded: A Stone of stumbling, and a Rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the Word, being disobedient."*

The predators of blackest night,
Will flee the Faithfull's Guiding Light,
When evil seems a dreadful sight,
Our LORD will conquer with His might! –CGP

"The Sword of the LORD" is the Word of His Mouth. "It Is Written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every Word That Proceedeth Out Of The Mouth Of God." Our impossibilities are God's Opportunities. His *"Strength Is Made Perfect in weakness."* The blacker our night, the greater His Light! Today's trials foretell tomorrow's victory! You may not be able to withstand the devouring lion of evil, but there stands one beside you Who Will Never Know Defeat; Who, By His Death, Vanquished death and with His Life bestows Immortality to the dying!

"For This Is The Love of God, that we keep His Commandments: And His Commandments Are Not Grievous. For Whatsoever Is Born of God overcometh the world: and This Is The Victory That Overcometh the world, even our Faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus Is The Son of God?" 1 John 5:3-5 KJV