

# chapter one

## *Destroying Inferiority*

*Prayer is the breath of the new creature.*

**-Richard Baxter**

# Chapter One- Destroying Inferiority

Notes

The prophet Zechariah writes: “...*that the feeblest among them will be like David...*” (Zechariah 12:8).

Making declarations prior to prayer is the key to effective prayer.

Declarations remind us that we are highly valued in the eyes of our Heavenly Father.

Our words are the power of life that force out feelings of insecurity, inferiority or of not measuring up.

After we make our daily declarations, we then can receive the confidence we need to pray effectively.

These reactions are rooted in fear. In the Old Testament, the Father spoke directly to our fears. He said, “*Do not be afraid,*” and “*Fear not,*” over and over to His people.

In the New Testament, the Father repeatedly says, “*You are my son (daughter), whom I love, and with whom I am well pleased.*”

Smallness causes even the ordinary things of life to become something to fear and to hide from.

*But my righteous one will live by faith. And I take no pleasure in the one who shrinks back. But we do not belong to those who shrink back and are destroyed, but to those who have faith and are saved.* (Hebrews 10:38-39)

Shrinking comes before destruction. The devil plans to make you feel small so he can seem big.

The world has problems looking for solutions. Christians have the solution and look for problems.

When the Israelites were told to conquer the Promised

Land, they hesitated because they felt small. They cried out to Moses, ***“We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them”*** (Numbers 13:33).

Making declarations daily prepares us to come boldly into the place of prayer where we can receive the answers we need.

Grasshoppers turn into head-crushers through declarations.

These declarations made David into a giant killer. ***“For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb”*** (Psalm 139:13).

Scriptures refer to our inmost beings, it is referring to your kidneys. The ancients viewed the kidneys as the most inward part of a person. Priests who butchered the animal sacrifices would find the kidneys hidden in the deepest place of the animal.

David credited God with creating his kidneys— his deepest part and the seat of his emotion. The word for “kidneys” in Latin is *reins*. Reins are what guides a horse. Our deepest part is what guides and motivates us in life. It is the place of our moral and emotional impulses.

David declared, ***“I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well”*** (Psalm of David 139:14). Some scholars translate the second part of that verse as David declaring, ***“I am wonderful; I know that full well.”***

*Learning to F.L.Y. means learning how to fully love yourself.* You cannot stand in His presence with confidence if you see yourself as a slave. Sons and daughters have assurance before the throne of God because they know who they are.

***Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from him because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him.*** (1 John 3:21-22 ESV)

Declaring “*I am wonderful*” may seem self-centered, but it is actually empowering the person our God created us to be.

In ancient cultures, an oath was often confirmed by repeating the oath or a particular act seven times in a row.

The Hebrew word *sheva* means “seven” and it also means “oath.”

*Sheva* means to seven oneself- confirming something seven times established something in the spiritual realm.

David’s own father failed to even consider him as a remote possibility and labeled him in Hebrew as *hakatan*.

***And he said, “There remains yet the youngest (hakatan), but behold, he is keeping the sheep”*** (1 Samuel 16:11).

*Katan* means to be unworthy, not enough, or small.

David was not just insignificant, he was significantly insignificant. The ones the LORD is using in this season will be labeled as notably unusable— not even considered and purposely excluded.

The Holy Spirit in us transforms us from caterpillars into butterflies, but this happens only in the walls of the cocoon or chrysalis. New creation is experienced in darkness and confinement.

***So he sent for him and had him brought in. He was glowing with health and had an excellent appearance and handsome features.***

***Then the Lord said, “Rise and anoint him; this is the one*** (1 Samuel 16:1-23).

Everyone and everything is created with a purpose

The words of Samuel brought the life of David into alignment with heaven.

The oil Samuel poured on David's head came from a ram's horn that symbolized authority.

*So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David. Samuel then went to Ramah* (1 Samuel 16:1-23).

The Spirit comes on us when we begin walking in our anointed identity. Isaiah 61:1 says, ***“The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me because the LORD has anointed me.”***

The Hebrew word *mashiach* means to anoint, smear, or set apart for a position. Most commonly, *mashiach* is used to indicate anointing in the sense of a unique setting apart for an office or function.

The word *mashiach* is where we get the word Messiah, which is the title given to Jesus. It means anointed one, smeared one. As is true of the verb, *mashiach* implies an anointing for a particular office.

The New Testament title of Christ is derived from the Greek *christos*, which is the exact equivalent to the Hebrew *mashiach*, for it is also rooted in the idea of to smear with oil.

The term Christ emphasizes the special anointing of Jesus of Nazareth for His role as our God's Chosen One. *Mashiach* can also be understood, “...as one singled out or chosen for a task, characteristically one of deliverance.”<sup>2</sup> Jesus is the Anointed One, but we also have been anointed.

Christ’s followers are called Christians or anointed ones or smeared ones. The anointing brings the power of our God upon an individual to complete a task.

Prayer is actual labor in the spiritual realm that will transform the physical realm around us

We often lose out battles in life because we fail to encourage ourselves in the LORD.

<sup>2</sup> Zodhiates, Spiros, and John R. Kohlenberger. *The Hebrew-Greek Key Study Bible: New International Version*. Chattanooga, TN: AMG Pub., 1996. 1530.

What was on the inside of David had to be more powerful than what he faced on the outside. He was not only met with the doubts of his king, but also with the ridicule of his brothers:

*When Eliab, David's oldest brother, heard him speaking with the men, he burned with anger at him and asked, "Why have you come down here? And with whom did you leave those few sheep in the wilderness? I know how conceited you are and how wicked your heart is; you came down only to watch the battle"* (1 Samuel 17:8).

Prayer gives us the confidence to say "Yes" to the plans of God. Often the people around us fear someone else becoming a success because it exposes their own personal insecurity.

Someone once said, "*Mediocrity is always invisible until passion shows up and exposes it.*" Envy and jealousy are often the true motives of why people criticize those who are stepping out in faith.

David showed up to the battle not as a warrior but to deliver bread and cheese. He was the pizza delivery guy, yet God used him to stand up to the giant.

No king and warrior in Israel had enough courage to stand up to their taunting enemy. David was young and inexperienced in battle, yet he was powerful and bold in his faith in Yahweh.

*As he was talking with them, Goliath, the Philistine champion from Gath, stepped out from his lines and shouted his usual defiance, and David heard it.*

(1 Samuel 17:23).

Goliath means "*exile*," and his purpose was to cause God's chosen people to be driven from their land of promise.

Circumcision was a sign of the covenant placed upon every Jewish baby boy on the eighth day of their lives.

The fact that Goliath was not circumcised points to the reality that Goliath was not in covenant with Yahweh.

David's confidence pointed not to his military skill or training, but in the fact that he was in covenant with the God of the universe.

He boldly put Goliath in his place.

*David said to the Philistine, “You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the Lord will deliver you into my hands, and I’ll strike you down and cut off your head. This very day I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds and the wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in 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”*  
(1 Samuel 17:45-47).

Instead of running from the giant, David ran toward him. In prayer, we recognize we have authority over the power of the enemy because we are in agreement with heaven.

Agreement with heaven connects us to heaven's authority. With only five stones and a sling, David ran to the battle.

*As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David sprinted toward the battle line 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 facedown on the ground*  
(1 Samuel 17:48-49).

*David ran and stood over him. He took hold of the Philistine’s sword and drew it from the sheath. After he killed him, he cut off his head with the sword. When the Philistines saw that their hero was dead, they turned and ran. Then the men of Israel and Judah surged forward with a shout and pursued the Philistines to the entrance of Gath and to the gates of Ekron.* (1 Samuel 17:51-52).  
Every one of us has giants that stand in front of the gates of our destiny.

Removing the heads of those giants can be accomplished once we know who we are in Christ.

You and I must not allow the giants of the land to cause us to live in exile.

The most dynamic truth we can discover in life is who Jesus is. The second most dynamic truth we can find in life is who we are in Christ.

*Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me. <sup>9</sup> If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will be your servants.*

*But if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall be our servants and serve us. (1 Samuel 17:8-9)*

**Spiritual principle:** If the man on your side wins, the other side now must serve you.

Our covenant agreement grants us the authority we need to overcome.

*For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

(Ephesians 2:10).