



# SETTLING UNCERTAINTIES

By Dr Cecil Stewart OBE



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Uncertainty can cause stress, fear, anxiety and worry but the good news is that we can be certain about our future because God has already planned it. Often we hear people say life is so uncertain or you never know what the future holds. Perhaps that is true if you live independent of God, but if we discover and walk in God's plan and purpose for our lives we can face the future with calm peace and confidence, even in the storm; knowing that God's plan is already blessed and all we have to do is walk in it.

Paul compared the journey of life to a race that was well planned with clear goals so we could win. He said 'I don't fight as one who is uncertain, not as one that beats the air, but as one who runs to obtain', see

**1 Corinthians chapter 9 v 26.** If we are going to settle uncertainties and win in life we must discipline ourselves and bring our bodies into subjection to the will of God, otherwise we will fail to reach our full potential and live the wonderful life God has planned for us.

One of the first steps we must take in settling uncertainties is to know the will of God for our lives. **Ephesians chapter 5 v 17** says 'do not be unwise but understand what the will of God is'. This brings great assurance, confidence and peace into our lives and we can then pray with faith for the things God has promised. We need to focus on the things we know are in God's will for our future. This certainty comes as we spend time meditating in God's word and waiting daily in His presence to receive His guidance.

**We can be certain** it is God's will for us and our families to receive the gift of salvation and eternal life, see **2 Peter chapter 3 v 9** and **John chapter 3 v 16**.

**We can be certain** it is His will for us to enjoy health, see **3 John chapter 1 v 2**, **1 Peter chapter 2 v 4**, **Romans chapter 8 v 32** and **Acts chapter 10 v 38**.

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**We can be certain** that it is His will for us to live a life free from fear, anxiety, worry and strife, see **2 Timothy chapter 1 v 7, Philippians chapter 4 v 6** and **James chapter 3 v 16**.

**We can be certain** that it is His will for us to walk in love and faith because 'faith works by love and without faith it is impossible to please God', see **Hebrews chapter 11 v 6** and **Galatians chapter 5 v 6**.

You may say 'but how do I live in the reality of His will on a daily basis?' The good news is we can cast our cares on the Lord and leave them there, see **Psalms chapter 55 v 22** and **1 Peter chapter 5 v 6 – 7**. We can renew our mind and refuse to think thoughts that contradict the word of God, **Philippians chapter 4 v 4 – 9** and **Romans chapter 12 v 2**. We must refuse to carry weights that Jesus already carried – **Isaiah chapter 53 v 4 – 5** says 'Surely He hath

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borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed'.

One of the greatest examples of settling uncertainties is found in **1 Samuel chapter 17** when little David, a shepherd boy, faced Goliath. It is a picture of Satan's attempt to intimidate God's people and paralyse them with fear. Little David had been sent by his father to bring food to his brothers who were in the army. As he arrived and saluted his brothers he heard the giant defying the armies of Israel and when the people saw him all the men of Israel fled from him and were afraid. Everyone was talking about how great the giant was and what would be given to the man who would kill him. David said 'what shall be done to the man that kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel, for who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?'

I have found that the key points I am about to share from this portion of God's word are



absolutely life changing. I believe that if you take the time to study carefully and with full attention, you will find faith arising in your heart that will enable you to see and know what to do in your situation.

### 1. **David questioned the Philistine's identity and ability – 1 Samuel chapter 17 v 26**

He knew that Goliath did not have a covenant with God that he and his people did, therefore God was with them. That is why he said 'who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?' Notice how the army of Israel were questioning their own identity and ability to overcome Goliath. For 40 days they had listened to Goliath's threats and challenges as he defied the armies of Israel to give him a man to fight. Their reaction was fear and to back off from the enemy. But David knew his identity

**“... why should we who are in covenant with God let a defeated enemy intimidate us?”**

and ability had been given to him by God Almighty, therefore he disagreed with the majority opinion and refused to let fear into his heart.

**Colossians chapter 2 v 13 – 15** reveals how satan, our enemy, has already been defeated through the death and resurrection of Jesus, who took our place and brought us into covenant with God so that we are heirs of God and joint heirs with Jesus Christ, see **Romans chapter 8 v 17** and **2 Corinthians chapter 5 v 21**. However, unless we believe what Jesus has done on our behalf and exercise our authority over the enemy, we will be like the majority that lived in fear of Goliath.

David's thinking was 'why should we who are in covenant with God let a defeated enemy intimidate us?' David seemed no match for Goliath who looked too tall, too strong and who had been a man of war from his youth. David knew it wasn't about how Goliath looked and therefore he said 'I come to you in the name of the Lord God of Israel'.



### **1 John chapter 4 v 4**

says 'greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world'. It is not about our feelings or how tall we are in the natural, it is about who we are in Christ and how we act on God's living word. David knew who he was and that he was called to fight this battle.

Remember who is in us! We are in a kingdom that cannot be shaken by any financial crisis, health problem, family trouble or any other enemy. If we let the word dwell in us richly and be led of the Holy Spirit we will have ability and authority to overcome in every situation in life. See

**John chapter 16 v 13** – 'But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all truth'.

### **2. He overcame internal strife and false accusation – 1 Samuel chapter 17 v 28 – 31**

When David's own brother falsely accused

*“ Doors will open for us as we keep the cause before us continually, rather than the conflict. ”*

him and sought to humiliate him, he focused on the cause rather than defending himself. He turned from him and spoke faith to those who would listen to what he had to say. **James chapter 3 v 16** shows the deadly nature of strife and what it does to us. Many miss the call and cause in life through getting into strife and letting it take their attention off the big picture. We must refuse the enemy's trap to arrest our progress through petty differences often caused by jealousy, envy and pride.

**2 Corinthians chapter 10 v 5** exhorts us to 'cast down strongholds of false imaginations'. We must re-position ourselves as David did and invest time in those who will unite for the cause of Christ. When David re-positioned himself with a view to furthering the cause, the king heard of him and sent for him. Doors will open for us as we keep the cause before us continually, rather than the conflict.



### 3. He put his life on the line – 1 Samuel chapter 17 v 32

David told the king ‘let no mans heart fail because of him, thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine’. The greatest joy comes to us when we live to serve the Lord and fulfil His call. Satan would like to limit our vision and to isolate us so that we become paralysed and unable to reach out and help others who are lost, broken and confused. Like David, we are here to make a difference to our generation and bring them out of fear into faith, out of selfishness into service so that they can be equipped and empowered to reach their full potential.

**2 Corinthians chapter 5 v 15** reminds us that we are to live unto God and not unto ourselves. If we let self and strife win in our lives we will not be able to fight the giants that stand before us. David knew this and therefore kept his

heart and mind clear to do the will of God in that great hour of conflict.

**2 Timothy chapter 4 v 7** reminds us how Paul fought a good fight of faith. We don’t have to wait for someone else to fight; we must be like David and say ‘thy servant will fight’. That means taking responsibility and positioning ourselves so we are able to fight a good fight and win. **Matthew chapter 10 v 39** tells us that ‘He that finds his life shall lose it: and he that looses his life for my sake shall find it’.

### 4. He testified of past victories and present faith – 1 Samuel chapter 17 v 34 – 36

Our testimony is a powerful weapon against the enemy and an instrument for God to use in every battle of life. Jesus said ‘the words I speak unto you are spirit and life’ – **John chapter 6 v 63**. Few people realise the power of their words. **Proverbs chapter 18 v 21** tells us that ‘death and life are in the power of the tongue’. **James chapter 3 v 3 – 4** likens

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the tongue to bits in a horse's mouth or the helm of a ship which determines its direction, so speak favour over your life and future. Jesus said in **Mark chapter 11 v 24** 'Therefore I say unto you, what things soever you desire, when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you shall have them', so we must never speak negative things over our children, our families or our circumstances.

In **Mark chapter 5** we see how Jairus kept silent when his daughter died because Jesus had said 'fear not, believe only'. Then he saw her raised from the dead.

King Saul said to David 'you are not able to fight this great giant who is a man of war from his youth', but David said 'your servant kept the sheep and when a lion and a bear came out I rose up and slew both of them and this Philistine shall be as one of them seeing he has defied the armies of the living God'. David gave

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God the glory and declared the power of the name of the Lord. When we speak out boldly and give clear testimony of what God has done, who we are and what God has told us to do, then all heaven is behind us and divine ability is released to enable us to overcome the challenges that we face. David honoured King Saul and came under his authority, waiting for him to say 'go'. He constantly referred to himself as a servant. He may have been young but he was faithful.

### **5. He used what he had proven – 1 Samuel chapter 17 v 38**

Saul gave the armour that he had used to David, but after David tried it on he said 'I cannot fight in this because I have not proved it'. David had proven the name of the Lord when he fought the lion and the bear, so he had the wisdom to use what he had proven. We must remember that the name of the Lord is greater than any challenge or circumstance we will ever face. That is why in **Mark chapter 16 v 15**



it states we are to 'go into all the world, and preach the gospel'.

We have been given the word that has been proven against our enemy. We have been given the power of the blood, the power of the Holy Spirit and the power of unity as one in Christ. We must maintain these and realise they have been proven for thousands of years to bring victory. In **Proverbs chapter 14 v 34** it says 'righteousness exalts a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people'. When we insist on righteousness, truthfulness and integrity we are using weapons that have been proven. **Ephesians chapter 6 v 11** tells us to 'put on the whole armour of God'.

## 6. He refused to be influenced by the words of the enemy – 1 Samuel chapter 17 v 41

Goliath cursed David, distained him, threatened him and sought to degrade

him. This is a picture of the enemy's strategy. He wants to portray us as people who have been defeated and have no power; but that is a lie of the devil. As redeemed people, through the blood of Jesus we have authority over all the power of the enemy (see **Luke chapter 10 v 19**). Jesus tells us in **John chapter 8 v 44** that satan is the father of lies. He highlights things that discourage and are part truth so that we will take our focus off who we really are in Christ and meditate on the natural reasoning of how impossible things look.

We must turn away from past hurts, mistakes and offences and talk the talk that God has told us to speak. Everyday words and attitudes are coming against us that seek to weaken us through fear and through lies that contradict what God says about us. Young people at school and university are under constant pressure to compromise their faith. They are tempted to adapt the way of life that ignores God and compromises His word. They can be taken captive to sin, often through alcohol, nightclubs and immoral sexual activities that degrade, devalue and destroy. But we must remember that 'the wages of sin is

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death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord' (see **Romans chapter 6 v 23** and **Galatians chapter 6 v 7**). Every action brings a harvest and whatever we sow we reap.

Thank God there are thousands of young people in many nations today who refuse to surrender to those influences of the enemy that would corrupt their lives and take them to a lost eternity. We must remember to live under the influence of the kingdom of light and build our faith strong everyday so we can refuse the influence of the enemy and be good ambassadors for our Lord and Saviour. **2 Timothy chapter 1 v 7** says 'God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love and a sound mind'.

## 7. He declared the name of the Lord and the outcome of the battle – **1 Samuel chapter 17 v 45**

Then David said to the Philistine 'You come to me

*“ We must declare boldly and with absolute confidence that the name of Jesus is above all other names. ”*

with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied'.

We must declare boldly and with absolute confidence that the name of Jesus is above all other names. Every knee must bow to that name (see **Philippians chapter 2 v 10**). We must also declare the outcome of every battle, struggle or trouble and proclaim that we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us (see **Romans chapter 8 v 37** and **2 Corinthians chapter 2 v 14**).

David settled the argument and said 'today I will take this Philistine captive and take his head from him and all the earth shall know that the battle is the Lord's, and that God does not save by man's ability but the ability that God has given us through His name'.

**Revelation chapter 12 v 11** declares 'they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony'. David didn't just declare the name of the Lord, he continued to walk in faith. He faced the giant in God's strength and delivered his people from the hand of the enemy.



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