

1 Samuel 17:39

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And David girded his sword upon his armour, and he assayed to go; for he had not proved it. And David said unto Saul, I cannot go with these; for I have not proved them. And David put them off him.

Analysis

And David girded his sword upon his armour, and he assayed to go; for he had not proved it. And David said unto Saul, I cannot go with these; for I have not proved them. And David put them off him.

David's rejection of Saul's armor - 'I have not proved them' - demonstrates spiritual self-awareness. The Hebrew *nasah* (to test, prove) indicates David recognized the need for tested equipment. His willingness to appear foolish by facing Goliath with shepherd's implements showed confidence in God's ways over human expectations. Authenticity in spiritual warfare requires using the means God has proven in our own experience.

Historical Context

Military equipment required extensive training for effective use. David's lack of armor training would have made Saul's gear a hindrance in combat. The public removal of armor would have appeared foolish to observers accustomed to conventional warfare.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 – Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. What spiritual resources has God proven in your own experience that you should rely upon?
2. How do you resist pressure to adopt methods that work for others but are not proven for you?

Interlinear Text

לְמַד יְהוָה אֶל יְהוָה מֵעַל מְבוֹא אֶת הַיּוֹם וְיִחְגַּר
girded And David H853 his sword H5921 upon his armour H4055 and he assayed H2974

מְלָאוֹן
לֵבָד

Additional Cross-References

Zechariah 4:6 (Word): Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.

Hosea 1:7 (Word): But I will have mercy upon the house of Judah, and will save them by the LORD their God, and will not save them by bow, nor by sword, nor by battle, by horses, nor by horsemen.

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