

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

וַיַּחַגֵּר	דָּוִד	אֶת	חַרְבּוֹ	לְמַדּוֹ	וַיֶּאֱסֶה		
girded	And David	H853	his sword	H5921	upon his armour	and he assayed	
H2296	H1732		H2719		H4055	H2974	
לְלָכֶת	כִּי	לֹא	נִסַּיְתִי	וַיֹּאמֶר	דָּוִד	אֶל	שָׂאֵל
H1980	H3588	H3808	for he had not proved	said	And David	H413	unto Saul
			H5254	H559	H1732		H7586
אֲנִי	לֹא	כִּי	בָּאִי לָהּ	לְלָכֶת	נִסַּיְתִי	וַיִּסֵּר	
H3808	I cannot	H1980	H428	H3588	H3808	for he had not proved	put
	H3201					H5254	H5493
דָּוִד	מַעֲלִיו:						
And David	H5921						
H1732							

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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