

**Q&A with Max Lucado**  
**Author of *Facing Your Giants***  
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*Max's latest book focuses on a single Biblical character for 19 chapters: David. David resume, which includes stints as a shepherd, giant killer, murderer, king and absentee father, does not boast a perfect record. He flew high and he failed miserably.*

*Yet the Bible calls David a man after God's own heart.*

*Max Lucado helps us discover the secret to one of David's best known success stories: defeating an unbeatable giant.*



**Q. Why did you choose to profile David in your new book?**

A. David's experience mirrors my own life. He had ups and downs, inconsistencies and irregularities. I have had my share of ups and downs. The Bible calls him a man after God's own heart. That God saw him as such gives hope to us all. David's life has little to offer the unstained saint. The rest of us find it reassuring. We ride the same roller coaster. We alternate between swan dives and belly flops, soufflés and burnt toast. In David's good moments, no one was better. In his bad moments, could one be worse? The heart God loved was a checkered one.

David was a great man with a 'she-weakness'. We learn from his successes and his failures. Regarding the family, he teaches us what not to do. David was unfaithful to his wife (and wives!) and neglectful of his children. In this case he teaches us what not to do.

**Q. What do we have to learn from Goliath, David's enemy?**

A. Goliath, while a real giant for David, is symbolic of all our giants. God strengthens us the way he strengthened the young shepherd. Our response is to respond as David did in his best days with courage and conviction.

**Q. David faced his giant on a battlefield, but most of us face our giants closer to home. What "giants" have you encountered in family life?**

A. In 1987 my father died of ALS, Lou Gehrig's disease. The death of my father left me facing giant-sized disappointment. For the two years of his extended illness, I prayed for earthly healing. His heavenly healing taught me to trust God with unanswered prayer. But even with his passing, I saw an amazing display of God's love...in my mother. I remember watching her care for him in his final months. The disease had sucked life from every muscle in his body. She did for him what mothers do for infants. She bathed, fed, and dressed him. She placed a hospital bed in the den of our house and made him her mission. If she complained, I never heard it. If she frowned, I never saw it. I realized from her example that God calls on me to do the same. God gives me daily a huge chance to show my children and my neighbors what real love does.

So it is especially tough, years later, to observe the physical demise of my mom. She is a powerful woman, a living saint, yet she struggles physically as she ages. It is sobering and humbling, walking a parent home to be with the Lord.

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**Q. How have you seen “giants” in your relationships with others?**

A. A friend once made accusations of my integrity and honesty. His attack revealed my pride: my feelings were too hurt.

**Q. Are there “giants” to be faced in the ministry as well?**

A. Certainly, particularly with people who have been critical of our church, Oak Hills Church in San Antonio. I love church life. I love seeing the church grow. I get so much pleasure walking through life with the good people of Oak Hills. And when someone derides what we are doing, it hurts.

Likewise, I daily struggle with feelings of inadequacy regarding church leadership. On the days I ask for help, I'm fine. When I go on my own, I struggle.

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