

Mining Biblical



Truth



Minding Biblical Truth



Ken Requard

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**1 Samuel 16-17**  
**Unstoppable Faith**



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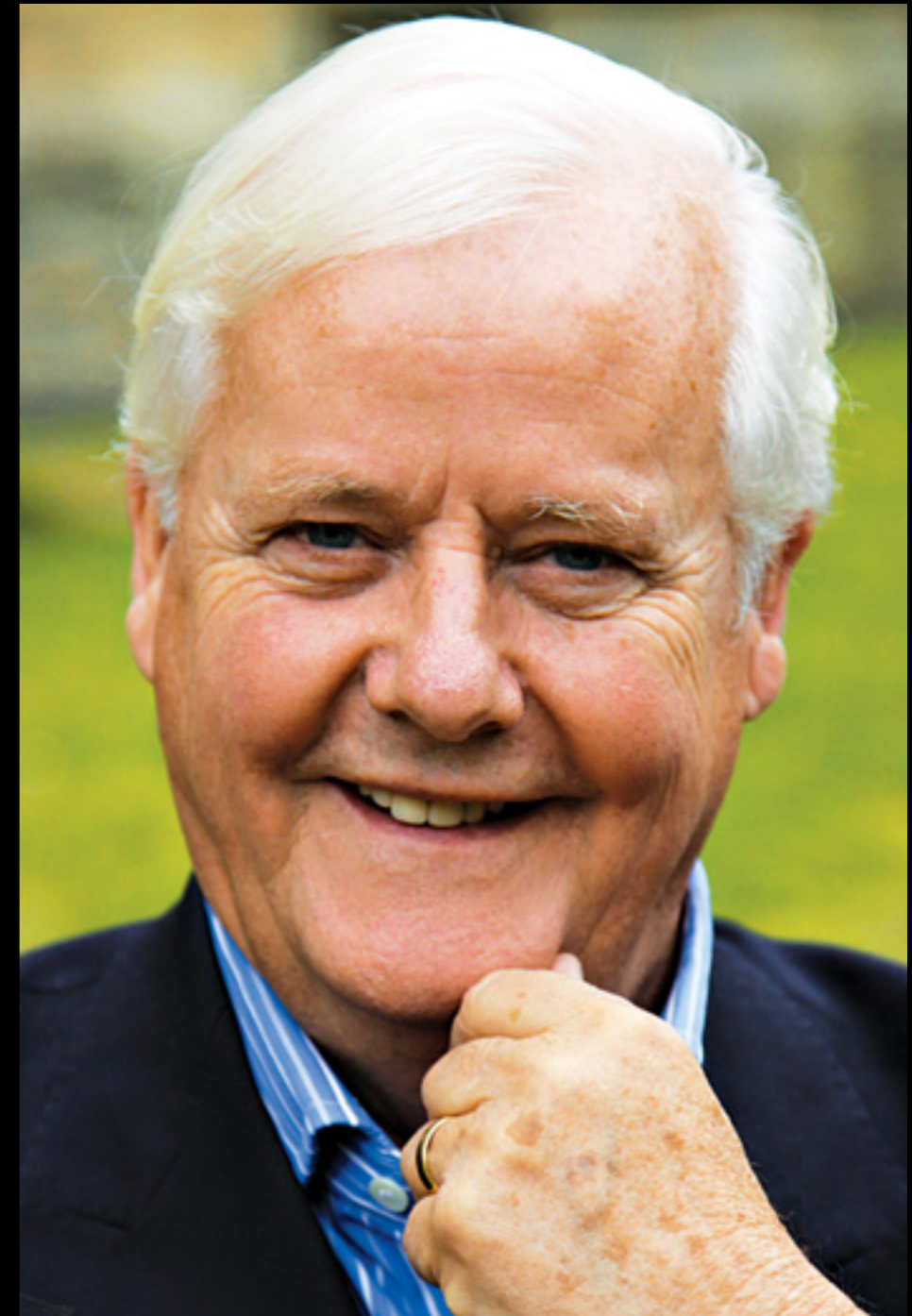


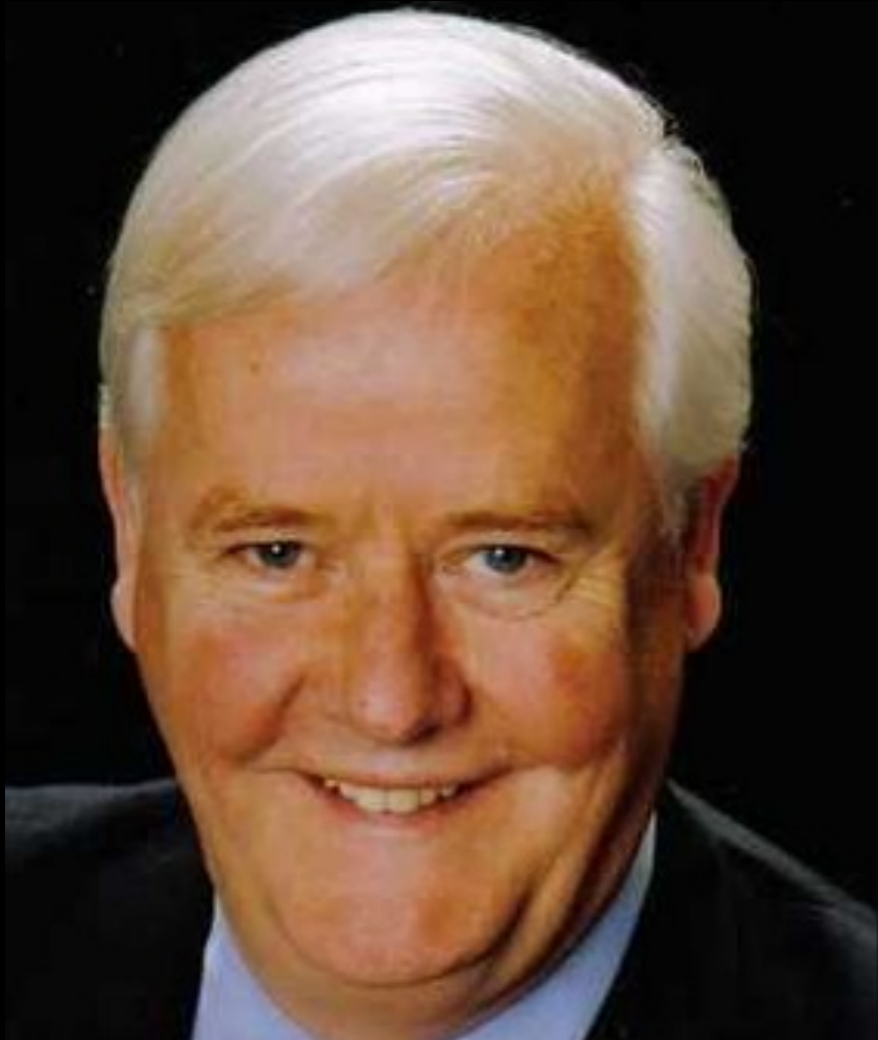
Truth

Have you ever felt strongly led by the Lord to step out in faith?

Os Guinness, a Christian apologist, wrote:

"The Christian life is a two state calling: **first**, we are called to **believe** in Christ as our savior; **second**, we are called to **serve** in his name."





We are not primarily called to do something or go somewhere; we are called to Someone. We are not called first to special work but to God. The key to answering the call is to be devoted to no one and to nothing above God himself.

— *Os Guinness* —



*God calls...*

*Samuel to anoint David.*

*Servants to advise Saul.*

*Jesse to comply with the King's requests.*

*David to play and likely sing to suppress the evil spirit haunting Saul.*

*All the Israelites, especially Saul, to step out in faith to fight Goliath in the Lord's name.*

*Jesse to send David to inquire about his brothers.*

*Saul to allow David to fight.*

*David to trust that the Lord will enable him to slay Goliath.*



## *Why does Samuel mourn Saul?*

*Samuel's sons failed to follow his ways. In a sense, he adopts Saul as the replacement for his failed sons.*

*Samuel did what God ordered. Saul's failure is not Samuel's failure. God says: It's time for the ultimate plan so fill your horn and get on to the next task.*

*But now Samuel fears Saul will find out about the plan but God is merciful, not chastising him for fear but giving him a "cover story."*



# Consecration

Prior to the sacrifice and anointing, there must be consecration. The same process occurred with Jesus - John 17:19 - "for their sake, I consecrate myself."

Notable that the guests are told to consecrate themselves BUT Samuel personally consecrates Jesse and his sons. This is the beginning of honors.




*To Samuel's surprise, God rejects the sons who look good to Samuel for...*

**The Lord does not look  
at the things man looks at,  
Man looks at the outwards  
appearance, but the Lord  
looks at the heart.**

**1 Samuel 16:7**








"The heart is deceitful above  
all things  
and beyond cure.  
Who can understand it?"  
Jeremiah 17:9 (NIV '84)

## God's new covenant

Jeremiah 31:31-34



I will write my law  
on their  
hearts and minds



"I will give you a  
new heart and put  
a new spirit in  
you: I will remove  
from you your  
heart of stone and  
give you a heart of  
flesh."

Ezekiel 36:26 (NIV)



**Imagining you are David: Called from the most menial lowly task of shepherding sheep to the highest task of shepherding God's people and enforcing His covenant.**

**But we will see that God has prepared David via his shepherding experiences.**





## David's first service:



The Spirit of God departs Saul and God allows an evil spirit (demon?) to spiritually attack him (in Hebrew: *NAKAH*). Saul is helpless but God calls servants to provide a cure.



# Illustration: Joan of Arc.





**Principle: God prepares His children to serve others in His name.**

CHILDREN OF GOD

Prepared and Ready

We likely will not be called to dramatic service like David or Joan but every act of service in faith brings glory to God.

Would you rather serve God in faith or be oppressed by demons... either your personal demons (desires of an evil heart) or outward demons?



**1 Samuel 17: The king like all the other nations, given to them to FIGHT for them, refuses to FIGHT!**

The men quake in fear before the giant. They are like their ancestors, the 10 out of 12 spies who feared the giants, causing the majority of the people to fear. Like them, they fail to see the battle as a spiritual war on behalf of cosmic forces. Since they wanted a king "like all the other nations," God gives them Saul who is spiritually clueless. Saul has to be saved by more spiritually oriented servants, so God sends David.

**David has defeated lions and bears in defending his sheep and trust the LORD to defend his people if they will only step out in faith.**



# Why the emphasis on Goliath's armor?

The plates of armor overlap like scales. The word 'bronze (ESV)' (**NEĦK-O-SĦEṬĦ**) appears 4 times. The sound and consonants are similar to **NAĦOSH** (serpent). This is a hint that the battle is the seed of the woman vs the seed of the serpent (Gen. 3:15).



Conflict of the Ages  
Between the  
Woman's Seed  
and Serpent



# The Doubters

WHAT ARE YOU  
DOING HERE?

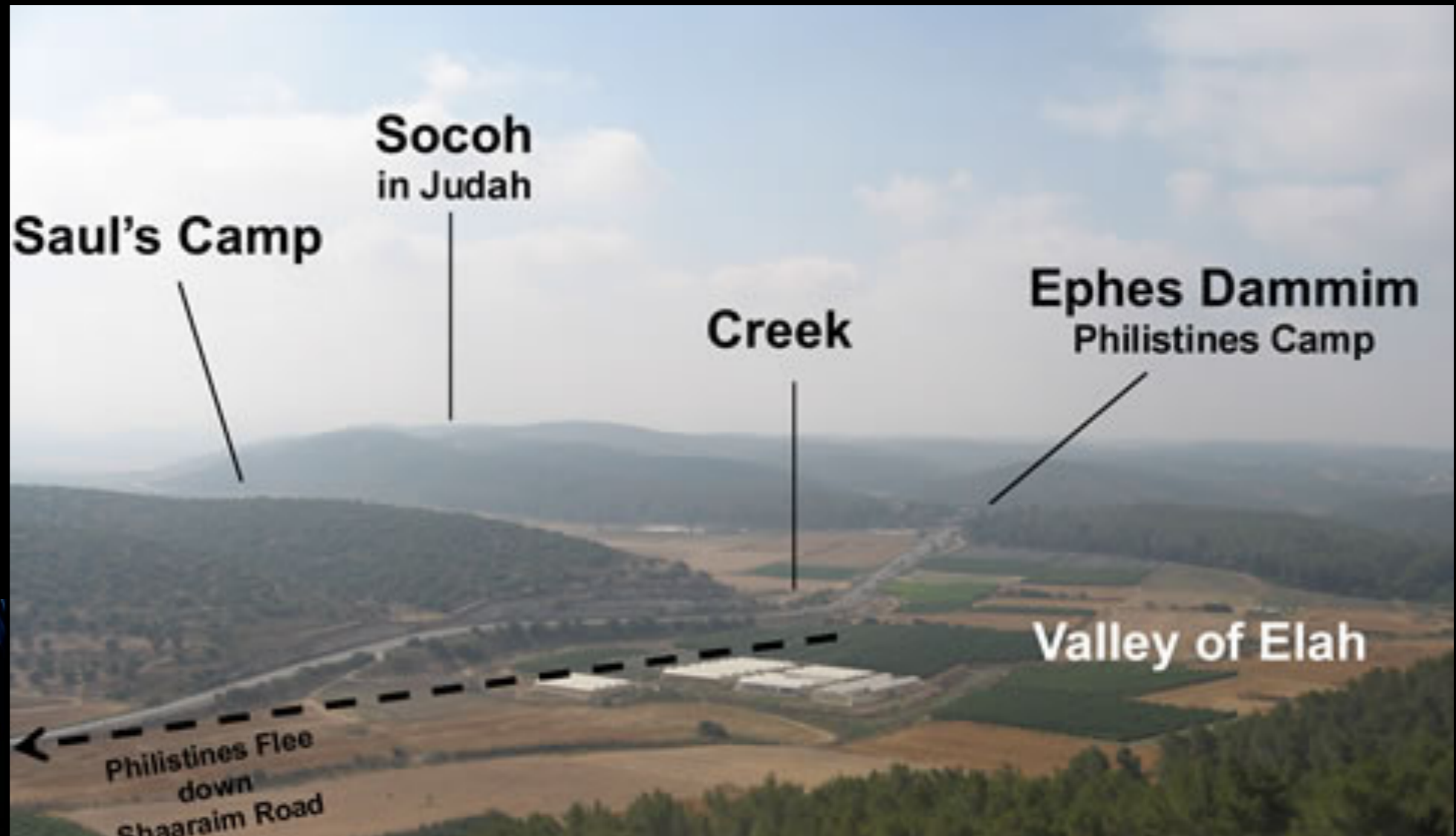
David's brothers and Saul have doubts about David. David rejects Saul's armor because he has not 'tested' it. He has no experience with it. Plus, in faith, David trusts God to be his armor.

Both Goliath and David realize that it is a spiritual battle because Goliath comes in the name of his god, Dagon and David comes in the name of the living God - EL CHAI.





# Valley of Elah



An archaeologist had the foresight to have the rocks in the creek analyzed because he thought they were unusually heavy. They turned out to be very high in Barium content.



## *Why pick up 5 stones?*

*Jewish tradition: Goliath had 4 brothers.*

*Symbolic? In Judges, there are 5 Philistine primary cities with their separate lords. When they send the Ark back to Israel, it goes with the 5 golden 'tumors' and 'rats.'*



# Secular Theories of David's victory: partly based on Goliath's hidden vulnerabilities.

You might read about some medical theories regarding Goliath. These seem to be motivated by a desire to negate God's glory in the victory.

The Acromegalic giant - pituitary tumor - partial blindness explanation.

It is true that our enemies appear stronger than they really are ... if we have God on our side.





## Echoes of Judges:

When the Ark is placed in the temple of Dagon in Gath, the statue of Dagon falls forward and his head breaks off. Goliath is from Gath and comes as a representative of Dagon.

Why place it outside Jerusalem (still in control of Jebusites)? David seems to anticipate the Lord's desire to conquer Jerusalem and make it his home on earth.





## *Side-road excursion: Parallels between David and Joseph:*

Both:

Shepherds.

Sent to check on brothers away from home.

Very young.

'Favored:' Joseph by human father; David by heavenly Father.

Find favor with powerful politicians.

Act as saviors, guided by the Lord.

Face sarcasm, cynicism, and envy from brothers.

Ascend to power and authority at around age 30 (as does Jesus).

Face sexual temptation (Joseph resists, David succumbs).

Resist taking revenge against enemies.

Respect who the Lord appoints over them.



**Principle: God gives his servants power to overcome God's enemies.**





*God anoints David for service and he serves physically and spiritually.*

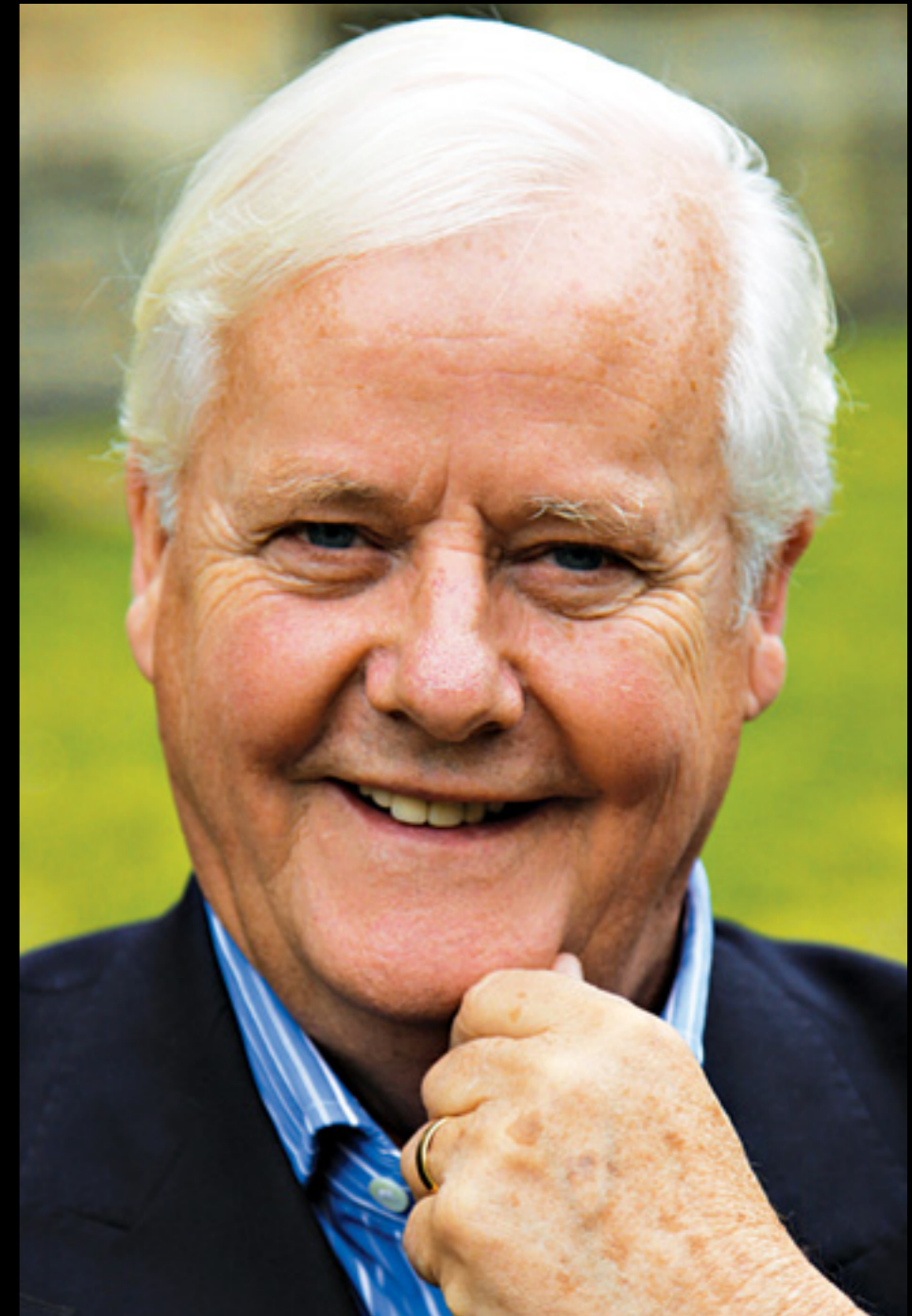
But David's exemplary service galls Saul. Consider going forward: **Who was David's greatest human enemy - Goliath or Saul?**

**Application: How are you submitting to God's plan, trusting him for his desired outcome, and giving him glory if victory achieved?**



# *Os Guinness: Our Problem.*

*"The trouble is that, as modern people, we have too much to live with and too little to live for. Some feel that they have time but not enough money; other feel they have money but not enough time. But for most of us, in the midst of material plenty, we have spiritual poverty."*

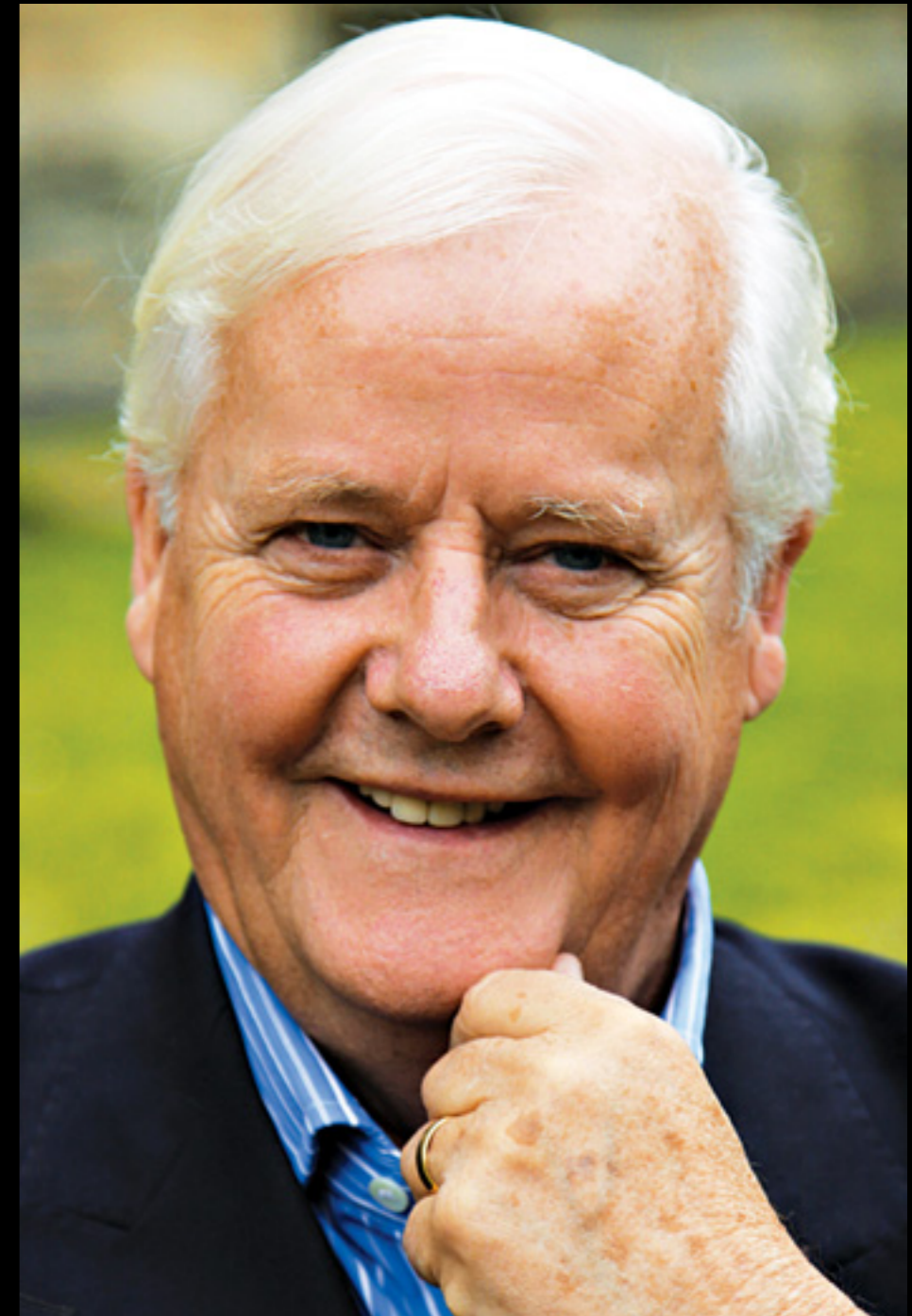






# *Os Guinness: Our Calling.*

*"Calling is the truth that God calls us to himself so decisively that everything we are, everything we do, and everything we have is invested with a special devotion and dynamism lived out as a response to his summons and service."*



*This would be a good summary of David's life and a desirable goal for all of us.*



*Like Joan of Arc and Martin Luther we are to persevere in our calling regardless of the short term results.*

If you are called to follow Christ, then you trust in EL CHAI, the living God, not the "dead" gods that humans invent. You are anointed like David but with the Holy Spirit to resist NAKAH, the spiritual attack.

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**Submit to God.  
Resist the devil and  
he will flee from you.**

James 4:7 (New King James Version)

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If you have not already done so, are you ready to submit to God's calling?  
If you believe that God is unstoppable, are you willing step out in faith when he calls?

**THINK ABOUT IT**



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