

Slaying the Giants in Your Life. By David Jeremiah. Nashville, TN: Word Publishing, 2001, 217 pp., \$19.99, Hardcover.

Popular author, pastor, and radio preacher, David Jeremiah, has written what many consider to be his finest work to date. After reading this book in one sitting, this reviewer would have to agree. *Slaying the Giants in Your Life*, delivers on its promise to equip the believer to win the battle and live victoriously. One of the unique strengths of this book is the concise structure and organization of Jeremiah's writing. Since the book is based on a recent sermon series, it is replete with contemporary illustrations, alliterated expositions, and creative principles and applications. Few Christian living books are as easy to read and retain as this book.

In twelve chapters, Jeremiah marshals a strategy to overcome the battles that Christians face. He mounts his assault in Chapter 1 by using Deuteronomy 1:19-33 to explain how to fight fear by exercising faith. In the following chapter, Jeremiah walks the reader through Nehemiah 4 to destroy discouragement. In Chapter 3, Jeremiah liberates the reader from loneliness by picking out segments of the church (e.g. the lonely single, spouse, the survivor, senior citizen, sufferer, and servant of God). He then cites biblical examples of those who have learned to cope with loneliness (e.g. David, Jeremiah, and Paul). In Chapter 4, Jeremiah explains how to win against worry. The principal text in this chapter is Matthew 6:25-34. This may be Jeremiah's best exposition in the book. In Chapter 5 Jeremiah helps us guard against guilt through insightful expositions of Psalm 32 and 51. He then strikes a cord with the logical follow-up to a discussion on guilt: Temptation (Ch. 6). Jeremiah urges Christians to tame temptation such as idolatry, immorality, and greed by relying on 1 Corinthians 10:13. In Chapter 7, Jeremiah attacks anger by explaining from Ephesians 4 the difference between biblical anger and sinful anger. Jeremiah then helps the reader resist resentment by working through five simple steps: think it through, write it down, work it out, talk it over, and give it up (Ch. 8). In Chapter 9, Jeremiah disarms our doubts through his use of the story of Thomas in John 20. In Chapter 10, Jeremiah advises the reader to postpone procrastination. This chapter is full of motivating quotes, illustrations, and insights from Acts 24. In Chapter 11, the reader is counseled to face failure head-on by meditating on 2 Corinthians 4:7-18. In the final chapter Jeremiah

uses various Scriptures to teach the reader to journey beyond jealousy. His final applications are: Renounce jealousy as sin, remember you rival in prayer, reaffirm God's goodness to you, and rekindle God's love in your heart.

Readers should note that at one point Jeremiah is inconsistent in his understanding of eternal security. In his exposition of Psalm 52:11 ("Do not cast me away from Your presence and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me"), Jeremiah writes "Imagine it: *cast away from the presence of God*. This would be the description of a soul eternally lost—a soul castaway! David prays to avoid such a destiny. He pleads with God not to remove His Holy Spirit from him" (p. 83, author's italics). Note: The heading of the section from which the above quote is found is entitled "Renewing the Fellowship." Unfortunately, Jeremiah never comments on the proper temporal aspect. Rather he delves into eternal consequences.

Pastors and teachers who are looking for a helpful tool for developing a sermon series need look no further. Those looking for a gift to share with a "seeker" will find this book a welcomed resource. Jeremiah wisely targets felt needs that all people have and provides a hopeful remedy. This is an excellent book written by a man who has demonstrated great credibility throughout his life and ministry.