



## THE PRINCIPLE OF REPRODUCTION GROUPWORDS

Think back to the old story of David and the giant Goliath. No other soldier of Israel had the courage to slay Goliath. Why? Probably because King Saul did not infuse his men with courage. He himself was too much of a coward to fight the giant. Here the **Principle of Reproduction** is seen in a negative way: Saul could not produce fortitude in his army because he lacked it himself. As J. Oswald Sanders wrote in his book, **Spiritual Leadership**:

***Many who aspire to leadership  
fail because they have never learned to follow.***

David, on the other hand, not only had the courage, he also reproduced it in others.

### 1 Chronicles 20:4-8

<sup>4</sup> In the course of time, war broke out with the Philistines, at Gezer. At that time **Sibbecai** the Hushathite **killed Sippai**, one of the descendants of the Rephaites, and the Philistines were subjugated. <sup>5</sup> In another battle with the Philistines, **Elhanan** son of Jair **killed Lahmi** the brother of Goliath the Gittite, who had a spear with a shaft like a weaver's rod. <sup>6</sup> In still another battle, which took place at Gath, there was a huge man with six fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot--twenty-four in all. He also was descended from Rapha. <sup>7</sup> When he taunted Israel, **Jonathan** son of Shimea, David's brother, **killed him**. <sup>8</sup> These were descendants of Rapha in Gath, and they fell at the hands of David and his men.

David produced these three giant killers and other warriors because he himself was a giant killer. He illustrates the Principle of Reproduction.

Paul too gives us a positive example of the Principle of Reproduction. He wrote:

### 1 Corinthians 4:16

*Therefore I urge you to imitate me.*

### 1 Corinthians 11:1

*Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.*

### Philippians 4:9

*Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me,  
or seen in me — put it into practice.*

### 2 Timothy 2:2

*And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses  
entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.*

Like David and Paul, for any leader today, to grow and thrive we must understand and find our own way of living the **Principle of Reproduction**.