

## **Five Smooth Stones**

*1 Samuel 17:40 - Then he took his staff in his hand; and he chose for himself five smooth stones from the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag, in a pouch which he had, and his sling was in his hand. And he drew near to the Philistine.*

So many people want God to use their lives. This is great! Young or old, God can use anyone. I am encouraged when I see people, especially the younger generation, hungry for God to use them in some area of ministry. So today, I want to offer you some basic principles on being used of God. To me, a great example is David, and how God used him to kill Goliath. This is arguably one of the most widely told stories in the Old Testament. But more than just a motivational story, it offers us a worthy template of how to be used by God.

The Bible says that when David got ready to destroy the giant, he dipped his hand into the brook, and pulled out five stones for his slingshot. If you know the story, you already know that it only took **ONE** stone to kill Goliath. However I believe that all five stones are symbolic of areas in your life, which qualifies you for God's usage. Let's take a look:

### **Stone # 1 – Have a Heart of Worship**

To me, David's first stone represents his relationship with God. He was a worshipper, a man with a heart after God. When he stepped up to Goliath, he saw a dwarf in comparison to God's vastness and glory. He had spent so much time in God's presence that Goliath's presence did not intimidate him. This is what happens when you are a worshipper and have a steady prayer life. Worship maximizes your view of God and minimizes your view of your problems.

David could approach and defeat Goliath, because to him, this threat wasn't a giant, but a dwarf.

### **Stone # 2 – Take Advantage of Small Opportunities**

When David got the opportunity to head out to the battlefield, he took it. Even though he was only sent to deliver lunch, he took that job serious and was willing to go. Listen, even if your task in ministry starts off small (maybe even delivering lunch!), don't feel cheated or undervalued. That small, ordinary responsibility could be the thing that positions you for something greater. Zechariah 4:10 (NLT) says, *Do not despise these small beginnings, for the LORD rejoices to see the work begin...*

Be willing to do the little things. If you are faithful with a few things, God will make you a ruler over many.

### **Stone # 3 – Stay True to Yourself**

One of the worst things you can do, even if you are not pursuing ministry, is comparing yourself to others. Unhealthy comparisons will stunt your potential and frustrate your faith. When David got to the battlefield, and volunteered to fight, the generals tried to outfit him with King Saul's armor. But David quickly realized that the armor was not

designed for his built, but for Saul's. So, he took it off and stayed in the attire he already had on. With good intentions, people will try to dress you with someone else's anointing, style, ministry or accomplishments. Beware of that!

I could stay on this a while, but just remember to be yourself. Don't try to mimic anyone else. God created you with your own special gifts, talents, anointing and so on. You bring glory to him when you walk in the identity he gave you. Don't be intimidated by others who may be progressing at a different pace than you. Celebrate your uniqueness. Be the best "you" you can be.

#### **Stone # 4 – Keep a Humble Attitude**

Although David was the one standing up to Goliath, never once did he take the credit for defeating him. He made it clear to the giant enemy that it was God who would destroy him and be glorified. David's humility also stemmed from his life of worship. Having a humble attitude is so important when it comes to being used by God. Humility actually qualifies you for service.

If you humble yourself, God will raise you up. Christ had the same attitude. He humbled himself; and even though he was God robed in flesh, he never ceased to glorify God for the wondrous works that were done.

#### **Stone # 5 – Stir Up your Gift**

Aside from everything that David did right, one of the most important things he did was use the gift God gave him. Was it God who ultimately killed Goliath? Yes. But he operated through David's giftedness. Once you realize what your God-given gifts are, utilize them. Paul told Timothy, *Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands*. Be a specialist at what God has given you. Always pursue excellence and settle for nothing less.

As a writer and speaker, I'm always working at my gifts—to improve and maximize my effectiveness. Sometimes it is through study and prayer, other times through experience. But I encourage you to sharpen your skill in ministry, which will bless others and glorify God.

Get your five smooth stones, and run towards your purpose in Christ!

#### **Tools for Growth:**

1. Of the five stones, which one(s) do you feel you need to improve most, and why?
2. Do you find yourself, comparing yourself to others who share common ministries? If so, what do you plan to do to change that?
3. Have you recognized what your gifts are? If so, write them down. And in your daily prayer, ask God to help you develop them. If not, begin to ask God to show you them. (Hint) Sometimes the things we *enjoy* doing are closely related to our gifts.

Blessings,  
Jacob