

I recently received a question asking why David picked up five stones instead of one as he went to battle Goliath. The question was, if David had so much trust in God; why five stones? The account of David and Goliath, the Philistine giant, is most likely one of the best known accounts of the Old Testament. In this account you have a great giant antagonizing the entire army of Israel. The hero of this account is not some great and mighty warrior from the ranks of the Israelite army. It is not some hired mercenary who is skilled and trained in the fine art of warfare. It is a simple shepherd boy.

From our perspective the fight would have been over before it began. I mean, be true to yourself reader, if we witnessed a nine foot giant, armed tooth and nail, against a maybe five foot at best shepherd boy with a rock and sling—what would we have thought? However, when God enters the picture the entire outcome becomes different. The interesting fact is that David chose five smooth stones when only one stone was needed. Why did David do this? There is no reason given in the scripture, so whatever answer given will be pure conjecture. I chose not to use speculation, but allow God's Word to point me in the right direction for the most logical answer. The important aspect of this account is that when it came time to battle Goliath, David only took one stone from his bag and used it to defeat the Philistine giant (1 Samuel 17:49). There in lies the true test of faith. When it came time to fight the giant, according to David's great faith in God, David took only one stone out of his pouch to kill Goliath. Notice the scripture does not say he had more in his hand in case he missed; he only loaded one in the sling to bring the great giant to his knees in death and defeat.

By faith, David knew all he needed was one stone. James tells us that "faith without works is dead" in James 2:17-18. Reader, David showed his great faith in God by using only one stone when he had a bag full of stones. Listen to what David told the Philistine giant moments before he would kill the giant. 1 Samuel 17:46-47, "This day the Lord will deliver you up into my hands, and I will strike you down and remove your head from you. And I will give the dead bodies of the army of the Philistines this day to the birds of the sky and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. And that all this assembly may know that the Lord does not deliver by sword or spear; for the battle is the Lord's and He will give you into our hands."

Yes David had four extra stones. Maybe it was to attack or defend himself against the other Philistine's after the other Israelite's joined the battle. But we can know without a doubt that it was David's immense faith in God that felled the great giant Goliath. What about your faith reader? How is your faith in God this day?

In Christ,

Joe Rhodes