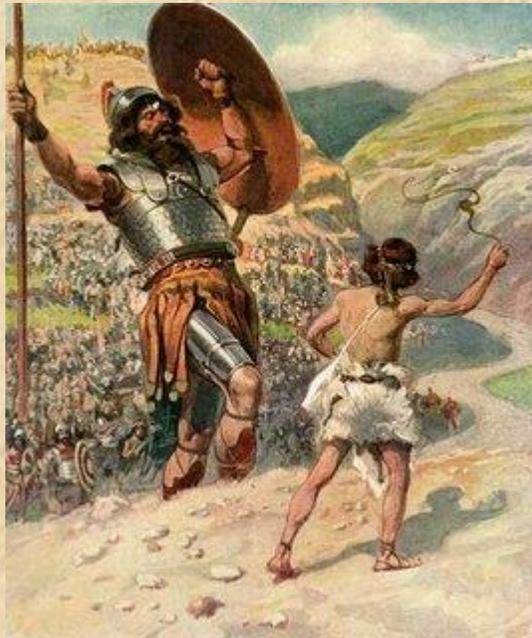


Five Smooth Stones

by
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Those upon whom the fulfillment of the ages has come, have much to learn about faith and obedience as faith and obedience from the Biblical account of David, the giant killer, and, as it is with much of the Old Testament, these events in David's life were not meant for him alone. They were also intended to be a source of revelation and application for us, because there be **GIANTS** greater than Goliath set against the covenant people of the Lord today.



Giants, although never common, were apparently not uncommon in David's day, and we're not talking about NBA seven footers. We're talking about nine feet of muscle and sinew. They would have their own weight class in the WCW or WWF.

In Genesis 6:2-4 we find that the occurrence of giants originated with a strange event in which fallen angels, referred to as "sons of God", mated with women in their rebellion against God

And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, that the sons of God...(angels)... saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose.

And the Lord said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.

There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown.

Genesis 6:1-4 KJV

Mankind, with bloodlines corrupted by fallen angels, was given over to evil in those days, and God determined to cleanse the earth with a flood.

Only Noah, his wife, his sons, and their wives were spared.

However, in Numbers we find that the descendents of the Nephilim still existed in the days when Moses led the Israelites to the promised land.

And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.

Numbers 13:33 KJV

Although scripture does not provide an explanation, it is possible that at least one of the wives of Noah's sons was contaminated by the Nephilim bloodline.

This would seem strange since the very purpose of the flood was to purge sinful mankind, but Noah's sons, their wives, and any children would have been covered or sanctified by Noah's covenant with God, regardless of their individual standing with God and regardless of any contamination of the bloodline.

It also appears that Gath was the stronghold of these descendents of fallen angels and the daughters of men, and Goliath the Gittite was the predominant Nephilim of his day, the champion and hero of the Philistines, who were the sworn enemies of Israel and a type or forerunner of antichrist forces in the latter days of the end times.

Goliath challenged the Israelites to provide a champion of their own to face him in single combat, because, from the Philistine point of view, if the Israelites were foolish enough to take up the challenge, Israel would quickly become subjugated to them.

On the surface of things it seems unlikely that a young man, who was still considered to be too young for military service, would be allowed by Saul to face this giant, since the outcome of this uneven fight could put the entire nation of Israel into the hands of the Philistines.

So why did he allow it?

David was known by Saul because he was one of the young men who served periodically in Saul's court and as his armor-bearer, but Saul did not yet know that David had been anointed to take his place as king of Israel.

The fact that Saul did not know about David's anointing by Samuel is easy to understand. David's family could have spread the word, but his brothers were embarrassed by their own rejection, and David himself kept quiet, waiting on the Lord to reveal the anointing he had been given.

The anointing did manifest itself in David's life, but in an unexpected manner. David's anointing included giftedness as a musician, and Saul, whose peace was frequently disturbed by the presence of demonic influences, was soothed by David's music.

Therefore, David, as Saul's armor-bearer, and a source of spiritual peace, had some standing with Saul before the event, or he would never have had an audience with Saul at the battlefield. And, at the same time, Saul's jealousy had not yet been aroused, because he knew nothing of David's anointing to be the future king of Israel.

David* ... (having been sent to the battlefield to take food to his brothers) ... **said to Saul, "Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him."*

Saul replied, "You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a boy, and he has been a fighting man from his youth."

But David said to Saul, "Your servant has been keeping his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine."

And Saul said unto David, Go, and the Lord be with thee.

1 Samuel 17:32-37 KJV (emphasis is the author's)

David's account of killing the lion and the bear is unbelievable when considered from the natural point of view, and it would have been just as unbelievable to Saul. The only other person in the Bible who killed a lion with his bare hands was Samson, and he only killed a "young lion". Not even a powerful grown man is capable of seizing a lion or bear by the beard and killing it with a single blow. Only a man anointed and empowered by the Holy Spirit would be

capable of such a feat.

We presume, because of Saul's failure later in life, that he was not a man of faith, but only a man who had been given "ears to hear" would have believed that David had killed a lion and a bear with his bare hands in the strength and anointing of the Holy Spirit.

Yet, Saul's initial response, even in faith, was a natural response of the flesh. David was a youth, not a warrior. But many who have read this account miss the singular and important fact that Saul believed David's account of killing a lion and a bear with his bare hands in the strength of the Lord, and he, too, received by faith the promise that this uncircumcised (outside the covenant of God) giant could not stand against the anointed of God, even if the anointed one was still a shepherd boy and not, yet, a warrior.

The decision to let David face Goliath is proof that Saul's own faith was involved in the decision and, yet, he tried to equip David with his own armor and weapons.

In the life of the body of Christ today that would be the equivalent of receiving a command or commission by revelation from the Holy Spirit and then trying to implement that command or commission with the strong arm of the flesh.

It won't work as many believers and many churches today have proven over and over. The work of the Lord is only effective when the grace (anointing and empowerment) of God is manifested through our active, obedient faith responses, and, in this regard, both David's and Saul's faith responses were evident.

Still, David rejected Saul's armor, saying, "I cannot go in these, because I am not used to them."

His rejection of Saul's armor was a rejection of the strong arm of the flesh in favor of the power of God released through the anointing, which is a lesson the body of Christ today desperately needs to understand.

We also see how the Holy Spirit prepared David for this work of faith by testing David's anointing just as God tests believers today in order to release the anointing given to each of us at the moment of saving faith. Thus David was deliberately allowed and ordained by God to face the lion and the bear.

Sometimes we don't understand the difficulties and hardships we have faced in the past until we have to face the giant. Then we understand that we would never have had the faith manifested through our individual anointings to stand against the giant if we had not experienced other fiery trials along the way.

The fiery trials were necessary for the development of David's faith and obedience, as well as the release and manifestation of his anointing, and without

the fiery trials David's anointing would never have manifested in the fullness that God intended for David's life.

What is demonstrated for our benefit is that they are also necessary for the release and maturing of our anointing as well.

Oddly enough David's killing of a lion and a bear appears not to have been known by anyone but David. He kept it to himself until the Holy Spirit caused him to reveal it to Saul. If he had revealed it to his family at the time, he would either have been ridiculed as a liar and a braggart, or he would have become a famous folk hero.

How many of us would keep such a thing to ourselves? Yet, David kept quiet and waited on the Lord.

What I have received from the Spirit of truth in this regard is that David, the anointed of God, took his responsibility as the shepherd of his father's sheep seriously. And Satan, intending to quench David's anointing, caused first a bear, then a lion, to attack the sheep under David's watch care.

David did not have to think about his response. His obedient faith response was instantaneous, and he charged into action without a weapon in his hand and without concern for his own welfare.

What the Lord wants us to "see" in this is that David did not have to wait for some kind of noticeable Holy Spirit empowerment in order to go into action to protect his father's sheep. Nor did he have to work up his personal courage to take action.

Instead, David went into action by faith because of his anointing, and without any natural protection or weapon, and the Holy Spirit rose up in him in power **ON THE WAY** into battle.

He did not receive some conscious knowledge of the empowerment first and then attack the lion or the bear. He charged into action instantly and without hesitation, in absolute, faith-filled response to what he already knew was the revealed will of God, totally unconcerned with what might happen to him if the lion or the bear turned on him.

And the Lord God rose up off His throne in joy as His own Spirit, given to David as an anointing, was released in power by David's obedient faith response, so that a single blow from David's young fist instantly killed both the bear and the lion.

It is noteworthy that the lion and the bear attacked the sheep. They did not attack David. David's fearless, faith-filled response was triggered by his God-given sense of responsibility for the sheep rather than his own self-defense. Likewise, David's response to Goliath was not personal. His fearless, God-given, faith-filled response was against the threat to God's covenant people, the sheep whom he would eventually rule over as the shepherd of Israel.

In this we see David not only foreshadowing his future as King of Israel, but foreshadowing Jesus of Nazareth, the king of kings and lord of lords. David, the anointed champion and future king of Israel defeated the enemy by faith on behalf of the entire nation of natural Israel.

And Jesus of Nazareth, the anointed champion and future king of spiritual Israel defeated the enemy by faith on behalf of the entire kingdom of God in Him.

In this regard it is important to note that we have each been given an anointing to manifest the truth, love, and power of Jesus Christ in various ways, but that anointing is only released as we willingly respond to the testing of our faith through trials of many kinds.

We also need to remember that God does NOT allow us to be tested beyond our ability to overcome through faith and obedience.

Abraham's testing: Hebrews 11:17

Our testing: 1 Peter 1:17

The testing to come: Revelation 2:10

Spiritual peace, then, does not come through the absence of trouble and testing. It comes as we overcome various trials through our obedient faith responses so that the anointing we received at the moment of believing faith can be progressively released.

As David, obviously instructed by the Lord, prepared for the fight with Goliath he picked up five smooth stones and put them into his shepherd's bag. But why five stones? If the Lord was going to deliver Goliath into his hands why would he need five stones? Was this an act of unbelief, a momentary lapse in the extraordinary manifestation of his anointing?

Immediately afterward we hear David prophesying to Goliath.

Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied.

This day will the Lord deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.

1 Samuel 17: 44,45,46 KJV

In David's heart it is already done. He had the revelation of God's will, and he was so eager for the manifestation of the anointing that he ran toward Goliath,

just as he had run toward the lion and the bear, but, again, he did not have the empowerment of the Spirit before he ran to battle. The empowerment of God's anointing rose up in him AS HE RAN INTO BATTLE.

Can you imagine the giant's confusion? He is a fully armored, battle hardened, four hundred pound warrior, and David is a teenage boy in sandals running toward him with a slingshot whirring around his head in a noisy blur.

The outcome was never in doubt with David, and the outcome should never be in doubt with us.

As covenant men and women of God we, too, have the anointing of God by the indwelling presence of the Spirit, and, if we have the revelation of God as an abiding word in our hearts, we should RUN to the battle with the joy of the Lord rising up inside us no matter how the circumstances seem to be stacked against us.

David's empowering faith was not something he worked up on his own. He didn't copy some other man of faith, using his words and actions. He didn't dig through the Bible looking for promises to claim. He didn't decide that he wanted to kill Goliath so he could marry the king's daughter and then try to work up the faith to get the job done.

He did what New Testament believers are supposed to do. He did not try to direct the anointing to meet his needs. **He responded with absolute, determined obedience to the anointing he received.**

When Samuel anointed David, David did not refuse, nor did he boast. He simply received and believed, and he waited on the Lord. When the lion and the bear attacked the sheep, David responded to the anointing without hesitation, and the Lord allowed him to experience the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit.

Again he did not boast or attempt to gain glory for himself. He simply obeyed and then waited on the Lord.

Most New Testament believers would immediately go out looking for more lions and bears to kill. Some would start a lion and bear killing ministry. In short order there would be a new denomination, the Church of the Lion Killers, who would believe that all others had missed this new truth.

But David waited on the Lord, and the Lord brought him out of the fields to the battle where the anointing empowered his obedient, trustworthy, bond-servant once again.

Most of us yearn to experience the power of God. We're so eager for it that we sometimes attempt to manufacture the manifestations of the Holy Spirit and attempt to manufacture the manifestations of faith, but what did David do? David

waited on the Lord.

David would have been taught the Torah and the prophets in his family and in his synagogue, and the Word of the Lord was in his heart. But he waited (continuously) on the Lord in regard to the anointing and the release of his faith in his various circumstances. He waited (continuously) on the Lord, as a bond-servant, responding instantaneously and alertly to the Lord's inward commands in absolute, determined, joy-filled obedience as the anointing manifested itself in POWER...AS HE WENT.

But what about the five stones? Wasn't that a moment of doubt, a momentary slip of faith? After all, it only took one stone to kill Goliath.

In 2 Samuel 21:15-22 there is an account of four more giants being killed by David's men.

These four were descended from the giants in Gath, and they fell by the hand of David and by the hand of his servants. 2 Samuel 21:22 NASB

The revelation and promise of God included, not only Goliath, but what appears to be the four brothers of Goliath who were also giants. Thus five stones.

David's anointing, then, **included a promise of overcoming the testing and trials he did not, yet, know about.**

There are lions and bears and giants in our lives, too. If we go up against them in our own strength and at the moment of our own choosing we will be put to flight, even though it is the Lord's will that we overcome.

In spite of what some teachers of the Word are saying, we cannot generate giant-killing faith as an act of our own will. The Lord will first allow the lion and the bear to come against us to prove the anointing and the abiding (continuously present) Word of faith He is giving us. Only then will we be allowed to face the giant.

If we want to experience GIANT-killing faith we must first be willing to go through the fiery trials and the testing of our faith (the testing of our willingness to "hear" and "obey" the voice of the Lord, continuously and instantly, in all things).

Every experience of "hearing" and "obeying" the voice of the Lord, even as the still small voice of the Spirit, our spiritual conscience, every prayer of faith, every difficult passage of life in which we have turned to the Lord, trusting and obeying by faith, is a preparation for the trials to come.

Like athletes, we are either aggressively pursuing the perfection of our faith, or we are just "maintaining." And, like soldiers, we are either eager to be on the front lines, like the Marines or Special Forces, killing giants, or we are content to be lollygagging back in camp.

But if lollygagging back in camp is our choice we will be totally unprepared when the giants storm the camp, and there are GIANTS preparing to storm the camp.

What does that tell us?

It tells me that if I want the full manifestation of the anointing I received at the moment of saving faith in my life I must wait on the Lord by continuously seeking and responding to the revelation of His will in all my thoughts, words, and actions. It tells me that I must willingly and joyfully submit to the testing of my faith in all things rather than seeking faith "techniques" for meeting my own needs in some self-induced crisis. It tells me I need to be about the business of interceding for others, especially for my brothers and sisters in Christ, but that I must not attempt to manufacture faith, even on behalf of others. It tells me that if I wait on the Lord, continuously seeking the revelation of His truth, promises, and commands, His anointing will empower me by grace through faith to overcome the testing and accomplish His purposes in and through my life. And it tells me that if I am obedient to the anointing and the revelation, the giants will fall, even those giants that I do not, as yet, know anything about.

The Lord is preparing an army in spiritual, born-again Israel, an army of covenant men and women of faith, for the anointed manifestation of His will in the world. We should not, therefore, resent or complain about the fiery trials of life coming our way at this present time. Instead, we should respond with joy-filled confidence to the anointing we have in Christ as He prepares us, through the fiery trials, to face the uncircumcised GIANTS we are already anointed and ordained to overcome in the future.