

Why did David take 5 smooth stones when he went to meet Goliath? One is all that it took to do the job, with God's guidance. If David trusted in God as he said he did, why did he take four extra stones? In fact, why did he take any stones at all? Why didn't God just strike Goliath down while David stood there looking on, as might be implied from Exodus 14:14, "The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still?" David could have reasoned, 'God wouldn't let anything happen to a good Jewish boy like me!' Did he not have enough faith? To answer this question, we must explore the meaning of faith, or trust, a little further.

To me, there are two kinds of trust: active and passive. When David took five stones to meet Goliath, he was exhibiting active trust. He was doing the best he could with what he had. He declined the use of Saul's bulky armor and took the weapon that was most suited for his talents: the sling. He then used it to the best of his ability. God worked through David, as he has declared he will work through us. In Ephesians 3.20-21 we read that "to him who by the power at work within us is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, to him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever."

We can't just sit on our posterior and expect God to do our work. Can you see David taking his armchair, sunshade, and lemonade down to the battle front to watch God strike Goliath down? Many of us want to be 'armchair' Christians. We want to put our problems into God's hands and forget about them completely. This is what passive trust is all about, and it is not what God wants from us. We must do all that we can; we must be aggressive in the fight against evil. We don't know exactly how God is going to work, except that it will be through us.