

## STICKS AND STONES

### Five Transformative Words

Prior to charging toward the giant David picked up five smooth stones. So, this series is all about five transformative words for 2023.

#### Stone #1: Purpose

You have been chosen by God to walk a certain path!

- God has a plan for your life. He has ordained a path for you to walk.
- This speaks to divine destiny.
- Some are not on the path God ordained because they did not realize that they were created for a purpose.
- I believe that every person is a dream of God, that He designed and created you for a purpose.
- **You are not an accident!** You were made on purpose.
- And that purpose, that dream God has for you, is hardwired into who you are.
- God has created you in such a way that you are a one-of-a-kind masterpiece.
- God made you for a purpose, so do what you were made to do.

***Ephesians 2:10* says, "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."**

You are God's workmanship. Workmanship refers to a work of art, a masterpiece. So, God created you and made a masterpiece. Why? He made you to do something ... something good. And He even planned out those good works in advance for you to do.

#### Stone #2: Presence

You never walk the path alone. God will be with you!

- In His presence is where we belong ... and not just in eternity ... but right now, today!
- People try every other device known to man to find joy, peace, contentment. Guess what, you can find it in the presence of the Lord.
- You can find it in Jesus. His love is what we need and it's available right now.

Our God is a God who will not let anything separate us from his love. He would tear down any wall, turn over any table, and overcome any obstacle that stood in his path. He wants to be with us.

The Apostle Paul in **Romans 8** puts it this way:

***"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons,[ neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."***  
**Romans 8:38-39**

Did you hear that? Nothing can separate us from God's love! His presence! These two verses demonstrate the power and extent of God's love for us.

Death has no hold on us.  
Life has no hold on us.  
Our past has no hold on us.

### **Stone #3 Power**

You will be empowered by the Holy Spirit as you walk!

Jesus told his disciples to "...tarry in the city of Jerusalem, until you be endued with power from on high". Luke 24:49b

- God says to them, "Wait here until you are equipped. Hold up in Jerusalem and don't do anything. Don't enter into your ministry until you are first endued".
- The word "endued", means 'fully dressed' or 'clothed with'. "Wait here until you are endued", or fully dressed or clothed, "with power".
- Now, I define "power" as the ability to get the job done!
- God wanted to clothe them with the (power) ability to get the job done.
- The Holy Spirit is the endowment / empowerment that provides us the ability to get the job done and to be successful.
- Get ahold of that. When you understand your relationship with the Holy Spirit, it's a game changer.
- You are equipped to be successful and to get the job done.

### **Weapon #4: Passion**

Your gifts will enable you to walk with confidence.

It's good to know about God ... but it's so much better to know him personally! You can know about someone, but not know them. I know about Christopher Columbus, but I never met him. I do not know him.

- To know someone you must spend time with them!
- When you spend time with Jesus your passion for him increases!
- When you connect to Jesus in a passionate way, your spiritual confidence will emerge.
- I know Jesus. And I know what He can do.

### **Weapon 5: Prayer**

Your prayers will provide strength for every single step.

In 1 **Ch. 4:10** it says "**Now Jabez called on the God of Israel" (v.10)**

When you "**call on God**" it is an act of prayer. You DO have a prayer! Jabez prayed this simple prayer and a billion centuries later we're still talking about him. He is still on our radar because he prayed in faith.

He has no other accolades attributed to his name!

- There is no mention of Jabez possessing a special ability or talent or gift.
- The Bible doesn't say that he was wealthy or educated.
- There's no indication that he was a great prophet or anointed preacher.
- He is not remembered as a wise ruler presiding over a great nation.
- Jabez is not famous for warrior ability who could single-handedly win battles.
- But he is known for being a man of prayer!

A simple prayer made him stand out in the Bible. Our prayers could help us stand out too. You DO have a prayer!

Maybe you've hesitated to ask for things in prayer – I know I have. Maybe you've felt your request was selfish – I know I have. Maybe you've not prayed because you felt that God may not answer – I know I have.

But watch this ... If you ask God for the things He already wants to give you – it's not selfish – it's not self-centered – it's not wrong. God already has ambitions for your life. He wants you to be successful. The Bible says:

***"Call to Me and I will answer you, and I will tell you great and mighty things, which you do not know." Jer. 33:3 (NASB)***

So why don't we call on Him? Why don't we ask Him? That's what Jabez did – he asked in faith – believing that God would answer his prayer and guess what – God answered him.

Friends ... there is no better path to travel then the one God has ordained for your life.

***John 14:6 - Jesus said unto him, I am the way (path), the truth, and the life: no man comes unto the Father, but by me.***

Jesus the sinless Son of God died for your sins. He did for you what you could not do.

John 3:16 - ***For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.***

Put your total faith in Christ and get on the path of life.