

These are tough days for all of us.
Relationships are stretched.
Patience is a significant struggle.
We all face giants today.

A Psalm of David

"(v.1) The Lord is my shepherd;
I have everything I need.
(v.2) He lets me rest in green meadows;
he leads me beside peaceful streams.
(v.3) He renews my strength.
He guides me along right paths,
bringing honor to his name.

(v.4) Even when I walk
through the dark valley of death,
I will not be afraid,
for you are close beside me.
Your rod and your staff
protect and comfort me."

- I love what David did when he **faced** the giant Goliath.

No murmuring or complaining.

"God, why do I always have these huge problems?"

NO

He didn't **dwell** on the fact that Goliath was a skilled warrior
and he was just a shepherd boy.

NO

He didn't focus on the size of the obstacle in front of him.

NO

David **chose** instead to focus on the magnificent greatness of his God!

He said:

"Listen Goliath, you come against me with a sword and a shield, but I come
against you in the name of the Lord God of Israel."

Placing

one small stone in his sling shot, he slung it at Goliath
and the big, bad giant was on his face in the dirt. Done!

How do YOU face your troubles, problems, challenges?

OK—not with sling shots any more, but with?

God is our shepherd, and he knows what we need even better than we do. God delights in directing us toward what causes real growth within us. As long as we make him our shepherd, he will lead us to places of safety. He knows how to direct us away from places where we may be tempted to stumble. Even when we fall, he can deliver us from our failure, pain, and suffering. God will help us avoid the places where we have stumbled in the past and guide us as we journey toward spiritual and emotional health.

Tools for Growth:

1-ROD an instrument of authority, correction.

Psalm 2:9; 45:6

Exodus 21:20

II Samuel 7:14

Job 9:34

A Rod was also used by shepherds for: Counting
Guiding
Rescuing
Protecting: Leviticus 27:32,
Ezekiel 20:37

A Father certainly has a responsibility to use his authority prayerfully, carefully, as one who corrects for good not selfish reasons, who recognizes and submits to God's authority in his own life. **What is God's plan for my children?**

2-STAFFan instrument of support and encouragement.

Exodus 21:19

Judges 6:21

II Kings 4:29

Zechariah 8:4

This ministry of Dad cannot ever be overlooked. It is a deal breaker.

FINALLY The Rod and Staff **comforts** me!

They reassure me!

Psalm 71:21, Isaiah 12:1,

Psalm 86:17 40:1,

Ruth 2:13 49:13

Most of us (fathers) do not fully realize the influence we have on our children for good or bad. Often we play around and miss great teaching and relating moments with our children. This is our time! Grab it! Enjoy it.

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