

POWER

"... the gospel ... is the power of God unto salvation ..." (Romans 1:16)

DAVID: THE MAN WHO HAD THE HEART TO BE KING

by Wade Webster

There are a number of great descriptions given to individuals in the Bible. For example, Abraham was called "the Friend of God" (*Jam. 2:23; 2 Chron. 20:7*) and Moses was called "the man of God" (*Deut. 33:1-2*). As great as these descriptions are, and as much as I would like to be known by either of them, the most coveted description of all may be that which was given to David when he was described as the man after God's own heart (*Acts 13:22*). In my mind, it doesn't get any better than that.

There are a number of great traits for which Bible characters are known. For example, Solomon was known for his wisdom (*1 Kings 3:12*) and Job was known for his patience (*Jam. 5:11*). As great as it would be to be known for these things, the greatest thing of all may have been that for which David was known, - his heart. Again, in my mind, it doesn't get any better than that.

David personified heart. As you know, there were many differences between Israel's first and second king. For example, Saul was tall and David was small. However, the greatest difference was not in height, but in heart. David had the heart to be king (*1 Sam. 13:14; 15:28; 16:7*), and Saul did not. In this study, we want to take a closer look at David, the man who had the heart to be king.

DAVID THE SOLDIER: A Courageous Heart

David's final charge to his son Solomon was for him to "be strong and of good courage" (*1 Chron. 28:20*). Of course, all that Solomon had to do to fulfill these words was to follow in his father's footsteps. From the beginning of his life to the end of his life, David possessed a courageous heart. As a young boy, when a lion and a bear stole his father's sheep, he pursued after them and

slew them (*1 Sam. 17:34-36*). David was neither a hireling, nor a weakling. He cared for the sheep and wouldn't let them be taken without a fight. He possessed courage far beyond his years. He was as bold as the lion or bear that dared to feast upon his father's flock (*Prov. 28:1*). It was this lion-like courage that moved David to accept the challenge of Goliath, the Philistine champion. The shepherd-boy David stood in faith while the soldiers of Israel shook in fear (*1 Sam. 14:23-30*). At the end of his life, when his physical strength was fleeting, his heart remained as courageous as ever. In fact, he was almost slain by Ishbibenob, one of the sons of the giant (*2 Sam. 21:16*). Abishai, one of David's mighty men, had to step in to finish the fight (*2 Sam. 21:17*). Today, God is still looking for men who have courageous hearts and will stand in the gap (*Ezek. 22:30*). He is still looking for those who will not let fear hold them back (*Heb. 13:6; Acts 4:13, 29, 31; 9:27, 29; 18:26; 19:8*).

DAVID THE SHEPHERD: A Compassionate Heart

Throughout Scripture, shepherds are known for their compassion. We see them nursing the sick back to health and carrying the young in their bosom (*Isa. 40:11*). In keeping his father's sheep, David must have done these things on a number of occasions. To his credit, David's compassionate heart stayed with him throughout his life. Becoming king did not harden his heart. Following the deaths of Saul and Jonathon, David sought out any remaining members of their family. Unlike other kings, David wasn't trying to remove all threats to the throne. He was seeking to show kindness for Jonathon's sake (*2 Sam. 9:1, 7*). When a descendant named Mephibosheth was found, David restored all of Saul's land to him and granted him a seat

from that day forward at his table (*2 Sam. 9:7-13*). Today, God is still looking for those who have compassionate hearts. In fact, compassion is to be a characteristic of all Christians. Peter wrote, "Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous: Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing" (*1 Pet. 3:8-9*).

DAVID THE SOVEREIGN: A Chosen Heart

David did not appoint himself king; nor, did he steal the throne from another. He waited for God to crown him (*1 Sam. 16:13*). On several occasions, David had the opportunity to slay Saul and to take the throne. However, he would not do so. Although Saul was trying to slay him out of jealousy, David would not lift his hand against God's anointed or chosen (*1 Sam. 24:6, 10; 26:9, 11, 16; 26:23*). David prepared himself to be "a vessel unto honor, sanctified, and meet for the master's use" (*2 Tim. 2:21*), and then he waited on God to use him where He saw fit. Like David, we have been chosen by God. We are a "chosen generation" (*1 Pet. 2:9*). Through the gospel, God has called us to place in His kingdom (*2 Thess. 2:14; Col. 1:13-14*). We may presently be in a position under others. We must submit to those who are over us in the Lord (*Heb. 13:17*). We must not usurp authority (*1 Tim. 2:12; 3 John 9*). Our job is to prepare ourselves for the Master's use. In time, He may lift us up to serve in a greater capacity (*Jam. 4:10*).

DAVID THE SINNER: A Contrite Heart

Although David was a great man, he was not without his faults. The Scriptures record

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several of his sins, including the sins of adultery and murder (2 Sam. 11). As you recall, he stole the wife of one of his bravest soldiers and then had the man murdered in battle to cover his tracks. It really doesn't get any more calloused and cold than that. David deserved to die for what he did. However, by the grace of God, he didn't die (2 Sam. 12:13). However, he did pay dearly for his sins. Through those within his own family, he felt the pain of adultery and the pain of losing a

loved one first hand (2 Sam. 12:10-14). While David's sins were contemptible, the penitence that he showed afterwards was commendable. When Nathan pointed the finger of condemnation at his friend, David plainly and penitently confessed his sin (1 Sam. 12:13). To his credit, David didn't make excuses for his actions or blame the messenger. He took responsibility for his sin and sought forgiveness for it (Psa. 51:1-4). Things could have been, and likely would have been much worse for David, had he not possessed a contrite spirit (Psa. 34:18; Isa. 57:15). In the fifty-first psalm, he declared, "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise" (Psa. 51:17). Like David, we must be willing to confess our sins and to turn from them (1 John 1:7-10). We must rend our hearts and turn to God for mercy when we sin (Joel 2:12-13).

DAVID THE SINGER: A Cheerful Heart

David is described in Scripture as "the sweet psalmist of Israel" (2 Sam. 23:1). This description is certainly appropriate when you consider that David penned the largest part of Psalms, Israel's songbook. Although the psalms of David reflect many emotions, including negative emotions like anger and disillusionment, the overall tone of the psalms is one of joy. In the fifth psalm, David declared, "But let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice: let them ever shout for joy, because thou defendest them: let them also that love thy name be joyful in thee" (5:11). In like manner, in the forty-second psalm, he wrote, "When I remember these things, I pour out my soul in me: for I had gone with the multitude, I went with them to the house of God, with the voice of joy and praise, with a multitude that kept holyday" (Psa. 42:4; cf. 16:11). For a time in his life, due to sin, David lost his song or his joy. However, David wasn't content to dwell in the dumps. He was determined to get his song back. From the depths of his heart, he pleaded with God to "restore" unto him the joy of salvation (Psa. 51:12).

Like David, we can lose our song. However, God doesn't want us to do so. He wants His people to be filled with joy (John 15:11) and to burst forth with song (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16). If God's joy dwells within us, it will come forth in song. After all, those who are merry sing (Jam. 5:13). If we have lost our joy because of sin or something else, we need to ask God to restore it to us. A merry heart will do us good like a medicine (Prov. 17:22).

DAVID THE SOULMATE: A Committed Heart

It would be hard to find a greater friendship than that which existed between David and Jonathan. They were knit together with one heart and they loved each other with one soul (1 Sam. 18:1, 3; 19:2; 20:17). Upon hearing of Jonathan's death, David spoke of how the love of his friend surpassed that of women (2 Sam. 1:26). David's heart was so committed to his friend that not even death could sever it. In remembrance of his friend, David sought out the only surviving heir of Saul's house that he might show kindness unto him for Jonathan's sake (2 Sam. 9). Likely, the friendship shared by Jonathan and David was the model from which Solomon drew many of his observations about friendship. Consider the following proverbs and see if they don't remind you of the friendship that Solomon's father shared with Jonathan:

- "A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity" (Prov. 17:17).
- "A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother" (Prov. 18:24).
- "Thine own friend, and thy father's friend, forsake not; neither go into thy brother's house in the day of thy calamity: for better is a neighbour that is near than a brother far off" (Prov. 27:10).
- "Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend" (Prov. 27:17).

David and Jonathan possessed committed hearts. They refused to let anything pull them

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16th Annual POWER LECTURES

JULY 27 - 31, 2008

DAVID: THE MAN WHO HAD THE HEART TO BE KING

SUNDAY: JULY 27, 2008

- 9:30 AM - *Overview of David's Life* ~ Wade Webster
- 10:30 AM - *Jesus Christ: The King That Sprang From David's Loins* ~ William Woodson
- 7:00 PM - *Abithobpel: A False Friend With A New Testament Counterpart* ~ Gary McDade
- 8:00 PM - *Joab: David's Captain Who Had His Own Agenda* ~ B. J. Clarke

MONDAY: JULY 28, 2008

- 9:00 AM - *The Man After God's Own Heart* ~ Keith Mosher, Sr.
- 10:00 AM - *David & Goliath: The Slingshot Heard Round The World* ~ Paul Sain
- 11:00 AM - *The House That David Longed To Build* ~ Dan Cates
- 1:00 PM - *David's Mighty Men: Courage Begets Courage* ~ Cliff Goodwin
- 2:00 PM - *The Shepherd's Psalm* ~ Kyle Butt
- 2:00 PM (Ladies Class) - *Bathsheba: Whose Bath Made A King Unclean* ~ Jane McWhorter
- 7:00 PM - *Amazing Grace: Mephibosbeth's Place At The King's Table* ~ Dan Winkler
- 8:00 PM - *Your Cheating Heart Will Tell On You/What David Didn't See From His Rooftop* ~ David Sain

TUESDAY: JULY 29, 2008

- 9:00 AM - *The Spirit Of The Lord Spake By Me* ~ Eddy Gilpin
- 10:00 AM - *Nathan: Who Loved His Friend Enough To Tell Him The Truth* ~ James Rogers
- 11:00 AM - *Shemei: An Enemy With Whom David Showed Great Self-Control* ~ Curtis Cates
- 1:00 PM - *Murder, He Wrote: The Death Of Uriah The Hittite* ~ Jimmy Clark
- 2:00 PM - *The Kingdom That David Saw* ~ Eric Owens
- 2:00 PM (Ladies Class) - *Abigail: A Wise Woman Who Married A Foolish Man* ~ Sheila Butt
- 7:00 PM - *The Sin Of Counting Heads: When David Numbered Israel* ~ Larry Acuff
- 8:00 PM - *David's New Oxcart* ~ Gary Colley

WEDNESDAY: JULY 30, 2008

- 9:00 AM - *When David Lost His Song* ~ Robert Jefferies
- 10:00 AM - *Sharing The Spoils: Remembering The Weak* ~ Gary Williams
- 11:00 AM - *I Just Can't Wait To Be King: Resisting The Urge To Run Ahead Of God* ~ Bobby Liddell
- 1:00 PM - *Solomon: The Son Selected To Succeed David* ~ Sam Wilcutt
- 2:00 PM - *Jonathon: Who Defied His Father For His Friend* ~ Jeff Clark
- 2:00 PM (Ladies Class) - *Michal: A Wife Whose Love Grew Cold* ~ Kathy Pollard
- 7:00 PM - *David In The Sheepfolds: Preparation For Greater Service* ~ Neal Pollard
- 8:00 PM - *Trouble At Home: Sin In David's Family* ~ Brad Harrub

THURSDAY: JULY 31, 2008

- 9:00 AM - *Saul: The King Who Lost His Kingdom To A Neighbor Better Than He* ~ Chuck Webster
- 10:00 AM - *David Mourns For His Enemies: Saul, Abner, Absalom* ~ Randy Vaughn
- 11:00 AM - *David & His Harp* ~ Patrick Morrison
- 1:00 PM - *Thou Art But A Youth* ~ Robert Hatfield
- 2:00 PM - *Absalom: Heart-breaker & Kingdom-taker* ~ Kirk Talley
- 2:00 PM (Ladies Class) - *A Wise Woman Who Saved Her City With Quick & Decisive Action* ~ Wendy Wadley
- 7:00 PM - *The Sweet Psalmist Of Israel* ~ Tom Holland
- 8:00 PM - *My Servant David* ~ Robert R. Taylor, Jr.

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Deuteronomy 5:32

Wade Webster, Editor

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Phone (662) 393-2690

FAX (662) 342-7152

E-mail: shavenpreacher@gmail.com

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apart. Of course, Jonathan was not David's only friend. Nathan and his mighty men were also loyal friends. Sadly, not all of David's friends were faithful. Ahithophel, David's counselor and friend, betrayed him and broke his heart (*Psa. 41:9*). Like David, we are likely to have both true and false friends. Hopefully, the true ones will outnumber the false ones, as was the case with David. When we do find true friends, we need to be committed in heart to them. If they are right, we need to fight for them. If they are wrong, we need to lovingly correct and restore them as Nathan did David.

DAVID THE SEER: A Controlled Heart

On one occasion, David declared, "The Spirit of the Lord spake by me, and His word was in my tongue" (*2 Sam. 23:2*). David was blessed by God to see and record many things about the future. He was especially blessed to reveal and record things about the coming Messiah and His kingdom (*2 Sam. 7:12-16; 1 Kings 9:5; Psa. 2*). Rather than resisting the spirit, as some of his descendants would later do (*Acts 7:51*), David submitted to it. Like other holy men, he spake as he was "moved by the Holy Ghost" (*2 Pet. 1:21*). David allowed himself to be a pen in the hand of God. He allowed God to use him in writing His inspired word. Today, the sacred canon is complete. David's work, and the work of other inspired men, is finished (*Rev. 22:18-19*). While our heart does not need to be controlled in the sense of writing God's word, it does need to be controlled in the sense of letting God direct our lives through His word (*Jer. 10:23; Prov. 3:6; 2 Thess. 3:5*).

DAVID THE SERVANT: A Compliant Heart

Throughout the Old Testament, God refers to David as His servant (*2 Sam. 7:20-21, 25-26; 1 Kings 9:4-5; 11:4, 6, 38; 14:8; 15:5; 2 Kings 8:19;*

20:5; 22:2; 2 Chron. 6:15-17; 8:14; 28:1; 29:2; 34:2; Neh. 12:24; Psa. 89:3, 20; Ezek. 34:23). It is clear from a study of David's life that he had the heart of a servant. His heart was compliant or submissive to the will of God. A good example of David's submission to God is in the matter of building the temple. David deeply desired to build a house for God. Solomon declared, "Now it was in the heart of David my father to build an house for the name of the LORD God of Israel. But the LORD said to David my father, Forasmuch as it was in thine heart to build an house for my name, thou didst well in that it was in thine heart: Notwithstanding thou shalt not build the house; but thy son which shall come forth out of thy loins, he shall build the house for my name. The LORD therefore hath performed his word that he hath spoken: for I am risen up in the room of David my father, and am set on the throne of Israel, as the LORD promised, and have built the house for the name of the LORD God of Israel" (*2 Chron. 6:7-10; cf. 1 Chron. 28:3*). Please note that it was in David's heart to build God a house. However, when God prohibited him from doing so, he submitted to the will of God. His heart was compliant to the will of God. Although he couldn't build it, he could and did aid his son by laying up the supplies that would be needed. Like David, our hearts need to be compliant to the will of God (*Jam. 4:7*). We need to be constantly on guard against our hearts becoming hardened or resistant to God's will (*Heb. 3:8, 15; 4:7*).

God's search for a man after His own heart stopped with David. From that day forward, men have known David by that description and for that characteristic. Hopefully, we now have a better understanding of the man that David was, and the man that God wants each of us to be.

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