

Why Was David A Man After God's Own Heart?

Acts 13:21-22 [New King James] *“And afterward they asked for a king; so God gave them Saul the son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, for forty years. And when He had removed him, He raised up for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony and said, ‘I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will.’”*

What special attributes did David develop that gained him such high favour with God?

We know that King David will be given a special place in the Kingdom of God, to rule over all Israel and Judah, [**Jeremiah 30:4, 9; Ezekiel 37:21, 24**].

1 Peter 4:17 [New King James] *“For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?”*

All Christians are being judged now as to their response to their Creator God.

Would the Creator God be able to say about you that you are a man or woman *“after God's own heart”*?

Saul who preceded David as king had utterly failed by disobeying the Creator God, [**1 Samuel 13:13-14**].

The Creator God decided to replace Saul with someone else as king.

The method of selection God used was different to what humans would have used.

1 Samuel 16:7 [New King James] *“But the LORD said to Samuel, ‘Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.’”*

The Creator God looks on the inside, at the inner motives of the heart, at a person's attitude.

The Creator God wanted Saul's replacement to measure up to high standards in inner character.

There are several specific areas of David's character that made him especially pleasing to the Creator God, that made him a *“man after God's heart.”*

Active Faith –

Even though David was but a young man when initially anointed to be king. David had already exhibited tremendous strength, wisdom and talent.

David was known as a shrewd fighter and was physically fit and poised, and an accomplished musician, [**1 Samuel 16:18**].

David showed one key reason for his success in the Creator God's eyes, active living faith.

Perhaps no Bible story is more known and popular than the example of David and Goliath. Here was a teenaged David, perhaps short, freckle-faced and lanky, who decided to go against the champion of the enemy army. A man-crushing warrior who stood more than 9 feet tall, whose armour alone weighed nearly 200 pounds!

Goliath was taunting the Israelites, challenging them to provide an opponent for him. All Israel's warriors refused, but **not** David!

David walked by faith, **not** sight, and knew that the Creator God could use him to defeat this enemy of His chosen people, [1 Samuel 17:26, 36-37].

Without a trace of fear, and with **no** armour, David stepped forward with his slingshot and "waap," down crashed the mass of muscle, bone and armour who dared to defy the eternal God!

David was close to the Creator God, he listened to God and believed that nothing could stand against the power of the Eternal God.

David had complete faith to overcome any seemingly insurmountable obstacle with the Creator God's power within him.

David's faith was **not** without personal effort, David was prepared, David did not neglect the physical part he could do.

David had become strong and able by protecting his father's sheep from wild animals, and he was an expert marksman with his slingshot after years of practice.

Even more important, David maintained regular contact with his Creator God and rightly gave God full credit for the victory.

All Christians today should have this same attribute of character.

If we believe God, diligently study His Word, the Christian Bible, and remain in prayerful contact with Him.

Godly Humility –

Another major aspect of David's character was sincerity and consistently humble.

This trait was especially apparent in David's relationship with Saul.

After his incredible defeat of Goliath and the resulting adulation of all Israel, David became a member of Saul's royal court.

Still, he considered himself totally unworthy to marry the king's daughter, [1 Samuel 18:17-18, 23-24].

David knew that the Creator God had blessed him, and he felt undeserving of marriage to the king's daughter.

Later, Saul, out of jealousy, became David's enemy, [1 Samuel 18:5-9, 29].

Yet David still esteemed himself as nothing more than a dead dog or flea [1 Samuel 24:14], he honestly felt that he was too insignificant to threaten Saul's position as king.

Eventually the Creator God did make David king and made far reaching promises to him, including the establishment of a perpetual throne, which Saul failed to qualify for.

Yet David continued to reflect godly humility, [2 Samuel 7:18].

David felt he was **not** important, to him, only God's plan and purpose mattered.

David served God in humility, with a mind like that of Jesus Christ as described in Philippians by Paul also a bond slave of Jesus Christ.

Philippians 2:3-8 [New King James] *“Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.”*

We need to ask, do we have this same humility of mind and action?

Loyalty to the Creator God’s Government –

David displayed another quality that anyone being trained for rulership must possess.

David had complete loyalty and respect for God’s government and for the human instruments God places in offices of that government, [**Romans 13:1-5**].

The Creator God began to work through Saul as ruler of His people.

But Saul became caught up in a rebellious attitude and began to reject God’s directions, [**1 Samuel 15:1-9**].

Immediately after anointing David as the future king of His people to take the place of rebellious Saul, God allowed an evil demon to trouble Saul, but left him in office as king, [**1 Samuel 16:13-14**].

Demon-influenced Saul, crazed with envy, tried to kill David at every opportunity.

Even though David served Saul [**1 Samuel 16:16-23**] and refused to fight back, Saul persisted, [**1 Samuel 19:1-2, 9-10, 15; 1 Samuel 20:30-34**].

David had a deep, abiding respect for whomever God had established over him, even if that person in authority were a murderous maniac.

David never talked against Saul or failed to acknowledge Saul’s authority as God’s anointed.

Once having given in to a temptation to move against King Saul, [**1 Samuel 24:1-4**] this act would have shamed the king.

David felt guilty and repented bitterly, [**1 Samuel 24:6-11**].

On another occasion, David rejected an easy opportunity to take Saul’s life, knowing that to do so would make him guilty of rebellion against the Creator God, [**1 Samuel 26:3-12**].

David understood the lesson that Saul missed, that rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry as shown him by God’s servant Samuel, [**1 Samuel 15:23**].

The Creator God allowed this situation to test David for many years after he had been anointed to replace Saul as king.

How would we react if we had been in David’s shoes?

Would we have passed this test as David did?

We have to ask the question, are we willing to be ruled over now by God's appointed rulers so that we, like David, can be trained to rule in God's Kingdom after the return of Jesus Christ to this earth?

Serene Patience –

Another facet of David's character, which developed along with loyalty, was patience.

David had to wait many years after his anointing to be king before he became king.

This waiting was **not** easy. David had countless physical and spiritual trials. Only after much strife did God give David kingship over Israel.

David constantly left his life and future in the hands of the Creator God, and had the patience necessary to develop Godly character.

Romans 5:2-4 [New King James] *“through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope.”*

Paul explains this attitude as it applies in the lives of true Christians.

Faith and patience are often mentioned together in the Christian Bible.

We cannot have faith without patience or patience without faith.

Faith is belief in the Creator God and His Word, the Christian Bible, backed up with active obedience, [**James 2:18**].

Patience is the serene attitude that allows us to wait on the Creator God to act in adverse circumstances.

Patience is developed through trials like David experienced, [**James 1:3**].

David knew that God would fulfil His plan for him if he patiently endured, [**Hebrews 10:36**].

As true Christians we have to ask the question, *‘Am I patiently enduring?’*

Do we have the calm resolve that results from leaving our life now and in the future in the hands of our Creator God?

Zeal –

Another major area of David's character involved his whole approach to God's way of life.

David always exhibited an unfeigned, wholehearted, enthusiastic devotion to the Creator God.

When David served, he served all the way, in whatever was needed.

David was a continual inspiration to others.

After retrieving the ark of the covenant from enemy armies, David was more excited than anyone else, [**2 Samuel 6:14-21**].

Everyone knew David's enthusiasm about serving God and it affected the whole nation.

We all need to question ourselves as to our wholeheartedness towards God's way of life, that we may then be an example for others to follow, [**Hebrews 10:23-24**].

Is the zeal we have for the work of God a zeal that is contagious?

We must **not** draw back or allow others to hold us back, [**Hebrews 10:38-39**].

Romans 12:1 [NIV] *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship.”*

Out of gratitude for what the Creator God has done for us, through Jesus Christ's life, death and resurrection, that is God's mercy towards us. We should offer our total lives to God as a “*living sacrifice*” of our will, the fulfilling of the will of our Saviour and Creator being foremost in our mind and actions.

The Greek word translated “*bodies*” is “*soma*” meaning the whole life, body, mind and human spirit, [**Job 32:8**].

Wisdom –

Not to be overlooked is another vital aspect of David's life was the wisdom he developed, [**1 Samuel 18:14**].

David's son Solomon, the wisest human who has ever lived, learned about wisdom from his father David, and Solomon was the source of most of the instructions now incorporated into the book of Proverbs, [**Proverbs 4:3-5**].

Wisdom is the proper application of the spirit of God's law in every area of life.

This began for David in the deep reverence for God, [**Proverbs 1:7; Proverbs 9:10**].

David feared the eternal Creator God and set his heart and attitude to obey Him.

We all need to ask ourselves, “*Do I lack spiritual wisdom?*”

James 1:5-8 [New King James] *“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.”*

God tells us to ask Him, in total faith, for godly wisdom, and He will give it to us in abundance.

But as with all faith, it is of **no** use unless it is accompanied with works, [**James 2:20**].

The “works” to gain godly wisdom is the daily study and meditation on the wisdom books in God's Word, the Christian Bible.

Our faith that the Creator God will give us this godly wisdom must be total, without any doubt and not “*double-minded*.”

The Greek translated “*double-minded*” is “*dis*” meaning two and “*psuche*” meaning “*spirit*.”

If we are still influenced by the spirit ruling this world, Satan, [**2 Corinthians 4:4; Matthew 4:8-9**] as well as the Holy Spirit that we can receive from God the Father on obedience to His Word, the Christian Bible, [**Acts 5:32**] we will be unstable in our minds.

“*Unstable*” is translated from two Greek words “*a*” meaning without and “*katastasia*” meaning established place, or rest.

Real Repentance –

This is the most important spiritual characteristic that David had.

Without this, he would **not** have continued to be “*a man after God’s own heart.*”

David practiced real repentance, [2 Corinthians 7:10-11].

David was not perfect, like all human beings, he occasionally stumbled into a sinning situation.

But when David saw his mistake, he always admitted that he was wrong and sought God’s forgiveness with all his heart and mind.

David also asked God for the right heart and mind to avoid falling again into sin and live a life of seeking to please his Creator God.

After his adultery with Bathsheba and the indirect murder of her husband Uriah, David totally repented when his sin was exposed to him by Nathan the prophet of God, [2 Samuel 12:1-23].

The example of this real repentance of David is expressed in the thoughts of David expressed in **Psalms 51**, that he wrote after he was shown by Nathan the extent of his sin with Bathsheba.

Psalms 51 is a very helpful Psalm to meditate on when we have sinned.

Notice David’s intent and motive, he wanted in his whole heart to continue to be used by God, and to be on the right track again in his spiritual life.

David knew that God had to clean him up in order to use him.

David’s motive was to give.

David wanted with all his heart to help others to know and obey God, [Psalms 51:13-15].

David was completely broken in this attitude of deep repentance, [Psalms 51:16-17], David knew that God wanted this contrition for David’s own good.

God who looks on the heart forgave and forgot David’s sins, [2 Samuel 12:13]. God only remembers the character that David developed. If David had **not** admitted his sins and changed, God could never have said about him that he was “*a man after mine own heart,*” [Acts 13:22].

David overcame his human nature, developed godly character and has qualified for a high position in the coming Kingdom of God.

We all need to ask the question, “*What will God say about us?*”