

A Man After God's Own Heart 2 Samuel 7

Introduction:

1. When Saul rebelled against God, and God rejected him as king of Israel, God made this statement in 1 Samuel 13:14: "*The Lord hath sought him a man after his own heart.*" Of course, David was chosen by God to be the next king.
2. We get even more insight into the mind of God when we turn to the New Testament. God made this incredible statement: "*I have found David, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfill all my will.*" Acts 13:22
 - The Bible uses the word "heart" in the sense that your heart is what you are all about, what really makes you tick, what is important to you, what you value and hold precious, etc.
 - Somebody may ask, "Why do you work at a homeless shelter?" The person may say, "Because I have a heart for homeless people."
3. What does it mean to be **after** a person's heart? If I am trying to capture Deniece's heart, what would this infer? It means that I want to learn what is important to her, I care about what she cares about, I long to please her, and I live unselfishly for her.
 - What is your heart consumed with? What is your heart all about? How would those who **know** you answer that question?
4. David was a man after **God's** own heart. Why? This chapter will give us insight into answering this question, and teach us how we can truly be a people after God's own heart.

His heart was purposed to glorify God.

1. David is now established as the king of Israel (vs. 1). He is living in Jerusalem in the king's palace, and has rest from his enemies. It has been a long journey for David with a lot of twists and turns.
2. But one thing hadn't changed. David's heart was still upon the Lord. He wanted so much to glorify God. As he is sitting there, he has a thought: "It isn't right for me to live in a permanent home, and the ark of God has no permanent place to reside."
 - Up to this point, the ark had dwelt in a portable tent that was picked up and moved each time Israel moved. It did not have a permanent house and location.
3. David purposed in his heart, "I'm going to build a beautiful house - a temple for the ark to dwell in where God's presence and glory can permanently reside."
vs. 2-3
4. Today, it seems so much of Christianity is shallow and is consumed with the one thought, "What is God going to do for **me**? How is He going to bless **me** and enrich **me**?"

- But David was purposed in his heart to do something for the Lord. How refreshing! Not, “What can God do for me?” But rather, “What can I do for God?” vs. 26
5. God, give us believers who will say, “Let me study God’s Word and find out what God wants done, and what God wants to accomplish, and let me become consumed with that.”
 6. Paul said that his consuming passion was for Christ to be magnified in his body. He said, “*For me to live is Christ.*” Philippians 1:21
 - To be after God’s heart means that we truly seek to glorify God in all that we do.
 7. Whether it is our work life, home life, or leisure time, we desire to further what God is doing. We realize that it’s not about us, God being our heavenly genie that is there to bless us. We realize that it’s about us serving Him, and glorifying Him!

His heart was established by God’s promises.

1. God’s heart was truly moved by David’s desire to glorify Him, and so God sent the prophet Nathan back to David with some promises. We call this passage “the Davidic covenant.” It contains a series of promises that God makes to David. vs. 8-11
 - In another lesson, we will study this covenant in detail. But the covenant deals with God’s promises to David of a continuing seed, kingdom, and throne which involve Israel and, ultimately, the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. But today, while we are not Israel, we as the church (the body of Christ) have some incredible promises also. Our promises are all found in Christ. 2 Corinthians 1:20-21
3. God’s promises to David established David’s heart because of the nature of those promises. The same can be said of our promises today. God’s promises were:

Unconditional – These promises were not based on David’s actions or behavior. Verses 12-15 are dealing with Solomon, David’s son. Even if Solomon sinned, it wouldn’t change God’s promises.

- Today, we, as believers have unconditional promises from the heart of God. **Examples:** forgiveness of sins (Colossians 1:14, 2:13), God’s love (Romans 8:35-39), an eternal house in the heavens (2 Corinthians 5:1)

Immutable – This means “not capable of changing.” If David died, if Solomon sinned, if centuries went by, it would not change God’s promises (vs. 16). Centuries later, the angel Gabriel confirmed this covenant again to Mary. Luke 1:31-33

- Likewise, our promises today from God are immutable (Titus 1:2). We have the promise of life and righteousness the moment we get saved, and that promise rests upon Christ’s faithfulness, not ours. Galatians 3:22; 2 Timothy 1:1

Eternal – Notice the eternity of God’s promises to David. vs. 16

- Likewise, the moment we get saved today, God has eternal plans for us (Ephesians 2:6-7). Notice the way verse 6 is worded – God has already done it!
- **Illustration:** They say, “I’m going to give you tickets to the race.” Or, they put an envelope in your hand, then say, “I’m going to give you tickets to the race.” Now the promise is in hand! This is what God has done for us.

4. God’s desire is for your heart to be established by His promises. God wants you to be stable. As you become established in understanding your position in Christ, you become established in the faith, because all the promises of God are in Christ. Colossians 2:6-7

His heart was humbled in prayer.

1. After Nathan told David this wonderful message from God and all those glorious promises, what did David do? He immediately went to prayer. vs. 18
2. There is no better way to know a person’s heart than to spend time with them in prayer.
3. Do you want to know God’s heart? Spend time in His Word learning of His promises, but then take those promises and internalize them by talking to Him in prayer. Notice how David does this. vs. 21-22, 27-28
4. God loves it when we stand upon His Word and pray His Word back to Him. vs. 24-25
 - Of course we must rightly divide God’s Word, and stand on God’s Word to us.
 - The entire Bible is written **for us**, but it is not all written directly **to us**.
5. If you want to know your direct mail, study Paul’s epistles (Romans through Philemon) that he wrote directly to the body of Christ, and study God’s promises to you, and then pray those back to God and stand upon them in prayer.
6. Do you know what David’s heart was when he prayed (vs. 26)? He wanted the Lord to be magnified! This is why he was a man after God’s own heart.

In Conclusion:

1. David was a man after God’s own heart. How about you? What is your heart seeking after?
2. People spend a lot of time chasing after earthly things that will fade away and will not matter in light of eternity. It’s like chasing after the wind. Ultimately, you come up empty.
3. This is why Paul told believers to “*Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.*” **Colossians 3:2**
4. If you are a person after God’s heart, you will never regret this when it comes time to die and enter eternity.