

SHEKINAH MINISTRIES

GLORY AND PRESENCE OF GOD

AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART

What child of God would not want this testimony, and yet, only one man in the Bible had it. The man was David. He was a man after God's own heart. What did David have that was so extraordinary?

The answer to this question is given in this latest teaching, "A Man After God's Own Heart." We are studying the life and heart of David so that we might know what it takes to have this testimony from God and to be a people after God's own heart.

We begin this lesson in Acts 13:22 where the Father is quoted saying, "I have found David, the son of Jesse, a man after God's own heart." So what made David so special in God's eyes?

One of the first characteristics we notice about David is that he was valiant. Valor is courage, being brave. When people have valor, they will see an injustice being done and try to stop it, regardless of the consequences. They simply act upon their sense of truth and justice. Of course, "Discretion is the better part of valor," but sometimes it is necessary to fight.

Valor is not getting in the flesh and being easily offended; that is being immature or carnal. Valor is fighting a just cause.

David was also a man of faith. Faith calls those things which be not as though they were; God does that. David did that, too. When David heard the giant Goliath challenging the Children of Israel, he knew that the giant must be stopped, and David immediately rose to the fight. He didn't take into account his youthful body or the size of the giant; he just believed on his God. He said in I Sam. 17:37, "The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." Then David put the corresponding action to his confession; he picked up five stones (giving God something to work with) and he slung one at the giant. He did this by faith because, in the natural, a rock will not kill a man, especially a giant. God used that stone to deliver the children of Israel that day, and He was able to do so because David dared to believe Him.

David also was a man of honor. In all the many times that Saul mistreated him and tried to kill him without cause, David never once dishonored him. David recognized that God had anointed Saul to sit as king over the people, and he dared not touch the Lord's anointed. When David allowed Saul to live when he had the opportunity to kill him, his enemy, he chose not to. He did cut a piece

of his robe to show that he could have killed him had he desired to. David had this to say later, "The Lord forbid that I should do this thing to my master, the Lord's anointed, to stretch out my hand against him,

Part II of this study begins with an awesome display of homage and praise from King David to the Lord in the sight of all Israel. King David danced before the Lord with all his might in what we would consider today to be undergarments (II Samuel 6:14-16). As he whirled and leaped before the Lord, his wife looked upon him and despised him for making such an undignified open display of affection to the Lord God Jehovah. This still happens today when the religious folks and those who are instruments of Satan call us fanatics who do likewise and claim that our actions of praise to God are based upon emotions. They contend that our whooping and hollering is an "emotional trip." They do not know the honor that we bestow upon our God when we praise Him unabashedly from our hearts. Once again, it was David, who made this grand display of adoration, who had the testimony of A Man After God's Own Heart, not his indignant wife Michal who died a barren woman.

We also noted something very important that David did when addressing the Lord (II Samuel 7:22). He began to recite how awesome the Lord was and reminded Him of the wonderful things that He had done for His people. He was praising God for who He is; he was bragging about his Lord. This catches God's attention! He is eager to move on behalf of those who believe in him and what He is capable of! Doubters beware! If you address God without this faith that David expressed, you will get nothing from Him (James 1:6-8). That is why many Christians don't receive what God has for them - they doubt that God wants to give it to them. Therefore they never receive healing, prosperity, peace, or victory.

Now, David was human just like all of us, so it is possible for all of us who are God's children to have the testimony that he had. We discovered that David was subject to falling just as we are, but what he did when he fell makes all the difference to God. When David sinned against the Lord in II Samuel 11-12, he had a repentant heart for his sin. He did reap the consequences of his sin, but God "put away his sin" and had mercy upon him because he humbled himself before the Lord. God will do the same for us, too, if we do likewise.

As we studied more about David, we saw that he ruled his kingdom with an iron rod, just like God does His own. All those whom David fought against, he subdued or killed. There was no doubt who was the head of his kingdom.

David was also a man of his word. He made a covenant with Jonathan, Saul's son in I Samuel 20:12-17 where he vowed to show the kindness of the Lord to him and his descendants. David honored his word and sought for a descendent of Saul whom he could show kindness to in II Samuel 9. He found a son of Jonathan still alive, Mephibosheth, and he gave to him and his sons all the land of Saul, showed kindness to him, and he provided a place for him at his own table like one of his own sons.