



**A People After God's Own Heart  
Message Notes, July 22 2018  
Acts 13:21 – 22, 2 Samuel 6:16 – 22**

In 2006, we spent the whole year studying the life of King David, to learn from his journey with God what it means to “be a people after God’s own heart”. This series stirred afresh our vision for our ...

**Core Value #1—**

**Passionate Spirituality:** *Because God is our source of life, we pursue Him with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength.* This is demonstrated by ... a daily commitment to worship, prayer, and God’s Word; openly expressed, not only at church, but also at home, work, and play.

**On Sundays** – we are reminded that we are all the worship team (not solely those on the stage). We are not the audience. We have all gathered for an audience of one-- to praise and worship our maker and redeemer.

**Throughout our week** – we are reminded that worship is not about a service in a building, but rather a way of life in which we are continually seeking the Lord, loving and glorifying Him in all that we do.

**The Life of David**

**David was ...**

**1. A man**

David was an ordinary man, and not particularly impressive at that (God chose him to be king when he was the youngest of many brothers, a ruddy lad, herding sheep).

- We tend to put biblical characters on a hero’s pedestal, but this is not accurate and not helpful to us. When we see them as “so far beyond us,” we dismiss their example of faith and God’s grace in their lives as irrelevant to our own.
- David is a story of an ordinary man pursuing an extraordinary God. We can relate to him – flawed, weak, failing, and also faithful to come after God.
  - A story of one becoming alive to God (from *Leap Over a Wall* by Eugene Peterson).

## 2. After God

Acts 13:21-22: In this overview of Israel's history, God references David as "a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do." This assertion of God about David is revealed most fully in the contrast of the lives of King Saul and David. In contrasting these two, we see **3 key elements** that reflect David as a man after God:

1. **Listen:** David regularly inquired of the Lord.
2. **Obey:** David repeatedly did what God required.
3. **Do not compromise:** David did not compromise even when it put him at great risk.

We see the contrast to these elements in King Saul – I Samuel 13:7-14:

- Out of nervousness for the battle, Saul takes into his own hands, against the directives of the Lord, to offer the pre-battle offerings. When Samuel arrives, he condemns Saul's action as a foolish disobedience. Saul did not inquire of the Lord. He did not obey. He compromised God's command. It cost him his kingship!

David demonstrates his devotion to listening and obeying in I Samuel 24:

- David has the chance to slay Saul (who is hunting him down to kill him), but David declares he will not harm the Lord's anointed. He won't take matters into his own hands, even against the urging of his own men.

## 3. After God's own heart

- David's posture goes beyond a dutiful commitment to obey God's commands. He does not just love the Lord with his mind and will, but also with his heart!
  - David loves God emotionally – with passionate affection, joy, and wonder. He sings to the Lord; he dances before the Lord; he writes poetry unto the Lord (expressing the passionate affections of his heart for God).
- A great example of his whole-hearted love for God is David's unabandoned worship before all the people, when they are returning the Ark of the Lord to Jerusalem.
  - 2 Samuel 6:16-22 "it was before the Lord [that I danced]; I will celebrate before the Lord. I will become even more undignified than this [before the Lord] and will be humiliated in my own eyes." (vs. 21-22)
- The psalms repeatedly reveal the heartfelt love David has for the Lord:
  - Psalm 62:5-8
  - Psalm 63:1-2
  - Psalm 42

... and so many others

- One last contrast (that shows David's heart after God):
  - When Samuel rebuked Saul for his disobedience and told him God was removing his hand from him and his rule, Saul's response was not focused on restoration with Yahweh, but rather an appeal to Samuel to go with him to worship God before the people so he would not lose face in their eyes. I Samuel 15:30-31

- When David was confronted with his sin (towards Bathsheba and Uriah), he repented to the depths of his soul to be restored to God. There was no thought in him of being restored in the *eyes of men*. But he could not bear the thought of being cast away from the presence of *the Lord*. Hear his repentant heart in Psalm 51.

David was a warrior king and a devoted friend (to Jonathan) – admirable traits, but his deepest characteristic was that of a lover of God – passionate, affectionate, devoted, ever seeking, always returning (from failures), truly “a man after God’s own heart.”

The catalyst and fuel for this passionate love of God was God’s own love and delight for David. David knew God loved him intimately (just read Psalm 23).

Knowing our Maker-Redeemer’s delighted, passionate, intimate love **for each of us** is what frees our hearts to lovingly come after Him. The classic children’s “hymn” says it well...

*“Oh, how I love Jesus. Oh, how I love Jesus. Oh, how I love Jesus – **Because He first love(s) me!**”*

“Holy Spirit, stir in us and teach us how to be lovers like David; how to live ‘after God’s own heart.’”