

A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART

Beginning at **Heb 10:22** the writer of Hebrews takes up the subject of faith and continues his thoughts concerning faith to the end of the epistle.

- a. In the 10th chapter, **v22**, he says, “**let us draw near (to God) with a true heart in full assurance of faith . . .**”
 - ▶ In **v38** he says, “**the just shall live by faith . . .**”
 - ▶ And, in **v39**, he talks about “those who believe to the saving of the soul”
- b. In the 11th chapter he points to the men and women of faith of the Old Testament period who believed to the saving of their souls: Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, and many others.
 - ▶ In **v38** he says these men and women of faith were too good for this world -- “**of whom the world was not worthy.**”
 - ▶ And, in **v39**, he says all of them gained a good testimony through their faith.

I want to point out that David is included in that Hall of Fame of the Faithful (**v32**).

- a. And, in **Ac 13:22**, Paul reminds us of God's own testimony concerning David.
 - ▶ **Ac 13:22 -- “And when He had removed him (Saul), He raised up for them David as king, to whom 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.’”**

That is a wonderful testimony and a beautiful compliment: “**a man after God's own heart.**”

- a. Shouldn't every true Christian want that to be God's testimony of him?

In this study I want to . . .

- a. Consider some of the attitudes David had that made him a man after God's own heart.
- b. I want you to see the similarities between his attitudes and those of Jesus.
- c. And I want to encourage each one of you to make it your aim to be a man (or, woman) “after God's own heart.”

We begin by observing that . . .

1. The man after God's own heart loved the word of God.

“**Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day**” (**Psa 119:97**).

- a. In this psalm we find one who has a great love for God's Word. (If this psalm was not written by David it is certainly consistent with the attitude he expresses toward God's law in other passages).

- ▶ Also Psa 119:47-48 -- "And I will delight myself in Your commandments, which I love. 48 My hands also I will lift up to Your commandments, which I love, and I will meditate on Your statutes."
- b. David's love for God's Word was due to the fact that it helped him to overcome sin (Psa 119:11 -- "Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You").
 - ▶ His love for God's Word was also due to the fact that it comforted him when he was afflicted (Psa 119:50 -- "This is my comfort in my affliction, for Your word has given me life").
 - ▶ And his love for God's Word was also due to the fact that it gave him great peace of mind (Psa 119:165 -- "Great peace have those who love Your law, and nothing causes them to stumble").
- c. And please take notice of the fact that David loved ALL of God's law and was intent upon doing ALL of it.
 - ▶ Look again at Ac 13:22 -- "I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do ALL My will."

Jesus loved the word of God, too -- and was intent upon doing all of it.

- a. This is evident from His frequent quotation of the law.
- b. And it is evident from the way He made use of God's word when He was tempted.
 - ▶ When Jesus was tempted by the Devil in the wilderness after 40 days of fasting, He responded to each temptation by quoting from the Old Testament scriptures (Matt 4:4, 7, 10).

How is your love for the word of God?

- a. Do you "hide" it in your heart?
- b. Do you appreciate every word of it? And are you intent upon doing all of it?
- c. Do you find it to be a source of comfort in times of trouble?
- d. Does it give you peace of mind?
- e. We all need to develop within our hearts the same attitude toward the word of God that David had .
 - ▶ In Psa 1:2, the psalmist says the man who is truly blessed delights in the law of the Lord and meditates in His law day and night.
 - ▶ We all need to learn to delight in the Word of God
 - ▶ We all need to meditate upon God's word daily.
 - ▶ Then we will be truly "blessed"!

2. The man after God's own heart loved the house of God.

Psa 26:8 -- "Lord, I have loved the habitation of your house, and the place where Your glory dwells."

Psa 122:1 -- "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go into the house of the Lord.'"

Psa 69:9 -- "for zeal for Your house consumes me . . ." (NIV)

Jesus loved the house of God too.

- a. In fact, John tells us that when Jesus drove the moneychangers out of the temple it reminded them of what David had written in **Psa 69:9**.
 - ▶ **Jn 2:15, 16** -- "When He had made a whip of cords, He drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen, and poured out the changers' money and overturned the tables. 16 And He said to those who sold doves, 'Take these things away! Do not make My Father's house a house of merchandise.'"
 - ▶ **vs17** -- "Then his disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for Your house has eaten me up.'"

How do you feel about the house of God? (**1Tim 2:15** tells us that the house of God is the church of the living God)?

- a. Have you obeyed the gospel of Christ and been added by the Lord to His church?
- b. Do you do everything you can to strengthen the church?
- c. Do you gladly accept your responsibilities in/to the church?
- d. Do you look forward to meeting with the church for worship?

3. The man after God's own heart loved to talk to God in prayer.

"I will call upon Him as long as I live" (**Psa 116:2**)

- a. His love for talking to God in prayer was based upon the fact that God had answered his prayers before.
 - ▶ **Psa 116:1-2** -- "I love the Lord, because He has heard my voice and my supplications. 2 Because He has inclined His ear to me, therefore I will call upon Him as long as I live."
- b. His love for talking to God in prayer was based also upon the fact that God had greatly blessed him.
 - ▶ **Psa 116:12-13** -- "What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits toward me? 13 I will take up the cup of salvation, And call upon the name of the Lord."
- c. And His love for talking to God in prayer was based upon the fact that prayer brought God close to him.
 - ▶ **Psa 145:18** -- "The Lord is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth."

Jesus was a man of prayer too.

- a. He made it a point to often slip away to pray privately.
 - ▶ **Lk 5:16** -- "So He Himself often withdrew into the wilderness and prayed."
- b. In times of greatest trial, Jesus resorted to prayer . . .
 - ▶ At Gethsemane -- **Matt 26:36-44**.
 - ▶ On the cross:
 - "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do" (**Lk 23:34**)
 - "My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me?" (**Matt 27:46**)
 - "Father, into your hands I commend My Spirit" (**Lk 23:46**)

Now, do you love to talk to God in prayer?

- a. Have you found it to be a source of comfort and peace?
 - ▶ **Php 4:6-7** -- "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."
- b. Do you "pray without ceasing" as Paul instructs us to do in **1Th 5:17**?
- c. If not, then learn from the example of David who realized his need for prayer.
 - ▶ **Psa 32:6-7** -- "For this cause everyone who is godly shall pray to You in a time when You may be found; surely in a flood of great waters they shall not come near you. 7 You are my hiding place; You shall preserve me from trouble; You shall surround me with songs of deliverance."

4. The man after God's own heart loved to praise God.

"Seven times a day I praise You, because of Your righteous judgments" (**Psa 119:164**).

- a. So, He praised God because of His righteous judgments.
- b. He also praised God because of His greatness and loving-kindness.
 - ▶ **Psa 147:1-9, 12-14**
 - ▶ **Psa 95:1-7**
 - ▶ **Psa 100**
- c. And he was determined to sing praises to God as long as he lived.
 - ▶ **Psa 104:33** -- "I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have my being."

Jesus loved to praise God too.

- a. As He did on one occasion publicly, in prayer.
 - ▶ **Matt 11:25-26** -- "At that time Jesus answered and said, 'I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes. 26 Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight.'"
- b. As He did with his disciples in song on the night of His betrayal.
 - ▶ **Matt 26:30** -- "And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives."

Do you love to praise God?

- a. Do you delight in singing praises to God in song?
- b. Do you take time to praise God in your prayers?
- c. Once again, David has words to encourage us in this.
 - ▶ **Psa 147:1** -- "Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God; for it is pleasant, and praise is beautiful."

5. The man after God's own heart loved unity among brethren.

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity" (**Psa 133:1**)

- a. David knew the value of friendship and unity, as exemplified in the relationship he had with Jonathan (**1Sam 18:1**).
- b. He also knew the terrible pain caused by enmity and strife within the family (**2Sam 13** -- the enmity between Amnon and Absalom).

Jesus loved unity too.

- a. He prayed diligently that His disciples might be one (**Jn 17:20-23**).
- b. He died on the cross that there might be unity (**Eph 2:13-16**).

Do you love unity in your family and in the church?

- a. Do your attitudes and behavior demonstrate your love for unity?
 - ▶ cf **Eph 4:1-3**.

6. The man after God's own heart hated every false way.

"Through Your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way" (**Psa 119:104**).

- a. So his hatred for every false way was based upon his understanding of God's precepts.
- b. His hatred for every false way caused him to be very careful in choosing his friends, and advisers, and servants.
 - ▶ **Psa 101:3-4, 6-7**.

Jesus also hated error and every false way.

- a. As manifested in His driving the moneychangers out of the temple -- **Matt 21:12-13**.
- b. As manifested in His denunciation of the hypocritical Pharisees, scribes, and lawyers (cf **Matt 23:13-36**).

What is your attitude toward error and every false way?

- a. Do you have a tolerant, compromising attitude toward error?
- b. Or, do you realize that we are involved in a "battle" over the souls of men, and we are to be militant in our opposition to every false way?
 - ▶ **2 Cor 10:3-5** -- "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, . . ."
- c. While we are to love the sinner, we must ever hate the sin!

7. The man after God's own heart faced up to his sins and dealt with them in the right way.

When Nathan, the prophet, confronted David with his sins, David did not try to deny it. -- he simply said, "**I have sinned**" (**2Sam 12:13**).

- a. He made no attempt to shift the blame to Bathsheba, or anyone else.
- b. David said nothing to excuse, minimize, or justify his behavior.

In Psa 51:1-4, 7-17 . . .

- a. He confessed that what he did was “iniquity” (v2), “sin” (v2), and “evil” (v4).
- b. He begged God’s forgiveness.
 - ▶ “Have mercy upon me, O God” (v1)
 - ▶ “Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God” (v14)
 - ▶ “Blot out my transgressions” (v1); “Wash me. . . and cleanse me” (v2); “Do not cast me away . . . and do not take your Holy Spirit from me”(v11).
- c. He renewed his commitment to do the Lord’s work.
 - ▶ “I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners shall be converted to You” (v13)
 - ▶ “My tongue shall sing aloud of Your righteousness” (v14)
 - ▶ “And my mouth shall show forth Your praise” (v15)

David was truly sorry; he sincerely repented; he prayed for God’s forgiveness; and he brought forth fruit in keeping with sincere repentance.

And David accepted God’s punishment without complaint (unlike Cain: “My punishment is greater than I can bear” (Gen 4:13)

Conclusion.

David was a man after God’s own heart because. . .

- a. He loved the word of God.
- b. He loved the house of God.
- c. He loved to talk to God in prayer.
- d. He loved to praise God in prayer and in song.
- e. He loved unity among brethren.
- f. He hated every false way.
- g. He dealt with his sins in the right way.

Now the question is: Does that describe you?

And especially now, as we are about to sing the song of invitation, have you dealt with the sins in your life in the right way?

- a. If not, are you willing to do it now?