

David: A Man After God's Own Heart
(EGW quotes at end)

**What was it about the heart of David that made his Father say,
"This boy has a heart like my own."**

Three things:

- 1) David's heart loved to spend time alone with his Father.*
- 2) David's heart was totally abandoned to doing his Father's will.*
- 3) David's heart was characterized by its stubborn love.*

1. David's heart loved to spend time alone with his Father:

The job of a Shepard boy is a very lonely way to live. There is not much excitement for a Shepard. David didn't have his CDs to listen to and he didn't have his videos to watch. He didn't have his friends to run around with and he didn't have a cell phone to call them. He was alone, day after day after day with his sheep. Now that doesn't sound like much of a way to live, but David wouldn't have had it any other way. You see, this time when he was all-alone was the time when he developed the deepest friendship that he would ever have in life. This quiet time was when David got to know the great God of the universe as his Abba – meaning his Daddy. And OH, how David got to know his Daddy. It wasn't just a casual relationship with God that brought him to the point where he could write: "The Lord is MY Shepard, I shall not want, HE makes me lie down beside green pastures, He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul.

David could say the Lord is MY Shepard. Just as I am the Shepard for these sheep, and I watch over them and there ain't nothing that's going to happen to MY sheep. I'll stay up day and night to watch over them and protect them. David was saying the great God of the universe is my Shepard. And there ain't nothing that's going to happen to me because the Lord is my Shepard. He is watching over me. He is in charge of everything that pertains me. My Shepard loves me. He is not only my Shepard ... He is also my Father ... my Daddy & I am His boy.

Most of David's life was spent all alone. Think about this: When David was just a little kid, his father called him to come to the house, Samuel the prophet poured some oil on his head and told him that God had anointed him to be the next King of Israel, then David went back to tending sheep. He didn't have a big party with the whole town coming out to celebrate. He

wasn't carried off to the university of Kings to get his training. God sent him back to the sheep, where he was once again alone and the only friend he had to talk with was God, Abba, his Daddy. And a few years later, when king Saul started throwing spears at him, David went off into the caves to hide, alone. For 10 years, David had the daily pressure of knowing the King and his army were hunting him down to kill him & he had his Father with him all of the time. And it was on the slopes with the sheep and when he was alone in the caves that God was shaping David's heart. And that is exactly what he wants to do for you and for me. The one thing we need to do is give Him some time out of our busy schedule each day. He want to give us a heart like David's, but He can't do it when we have noise and activity going on all around us. Our Father speaks to us in whispers, friends. And we have to have our ears perked to hear Him. Now I realize that we do not have the kind of time that David had to grow in his friendship with God. But it is up to you to make some time in your daily schedule to be all alone with Him. And what do you do when you are alone with Him. One place you might start is in reading the psalms, slowly and reflecting back on what David was saying to his Father, and about his Father. The psalms are David's prayer journal. It would be good for you to start your own prayer journal as you read David's.

2. David had a heart totally abandon to what ever God wanted him to do.

Psalms 9:1 David says, "I will praise You, O Lord, with ALL my heart." Translation: Here I am Daddy. I love you with all my heart. I know you are watching over me and caring for me. What do you want me to do for you today, Father. And it was in that setting that God said: Grad your sling, go kill the bear. And There is a lion after one of your little ones, go get it. And after a few years of hearing God's voice and following it in the little games, then came David's supper bowl. He had already beaten the lions and the bears Now it was the big game. It was build as Super Bowl #1. David vs. Goliath. And nobody was betting on David. A scrawny little kid going up against a 9-foot giant. But David knew something that nobody else knew. He knew his Daddy. And it was his Daddy who had told him to take on the giant. In 1 Samuel 17: 45-47 listen to this. "Goliath, I'm coming to you in the name of the Lord...Today the Lord, will hand you over to me...The battle is the Lord's and He will give you into my hands." This little kid new something that Goliath didn't know. David knew that he wasn't the one fighting the battle. He was only the tool in his Fathers hands. He was the secret weapon his Father was using. Goliath thought he was taking on this

little pipsqueak. He didn't understand that he was the pipsqueak trying to take on the one who created this whole world and this whole universe and Goliath against our Father was less than a single cell ameba taking on you. David was just the tool in his Father's hands and he knew. And that is all he wanted to be.

Another great place to see David's heart abandon to God was when David first became king and his army had just finished defeating the Philistines and now they had re-captured the Ark and the priests were bringing it back home. Now realize, the Ark represented the presence of God. God via the Ark was coming home. And here is what the Bible says, 2 Samuel 6:14,16, 20, and 21 (*Clear Word*). First, David got to know his Father at a deep, deep level. Second, David was totally open to doing whatever his Father wanted him to do.

#3: David's heart was known for its stubborn love.

Once David loved you, it was hard to get unloved. Once David loved you, it was hard to get unloved. Who do you think David had a right to dislike the most? It had to be King Saul. King Saul had made his life absolutely miserable for over 10 years. Saul had thrown spears at him, chased him off into the caves and hunted him down like dirty dog. But David never returned spears for spears, even when he had complete control over Saul. Twice, when Saul was hunting David down to kill him, he ended sleeping in caves that David was hiding in. And both times David, let him live.

The greatest example of this stubborn love of David happened just after Saul and his son Jonathon were killed in battle. Now if I were David, I would have said, "It's over, Saul is finally dead. I don't have to worry about him any more. I'm the king. I'm the king." But what did David do, He wrote a beautiful tribute to his dear friends Jonathon and SAUL. SAUL???

SAUL??? YUP! Listen to this: 2 Samuel 1: 17, 19, 24, 25, 27.

David loved his worst enemy. David loved his dear friend Jonathon.

Remember, Jonathan was next in line to take over the throne when Saul died. The stage was set for a royal battle, winner take all between Jonathon, Saul's son and David, God's anointed. But that battle never took place.

Instead, Jonathon recognized that God had chosen David and the two of them became the best of friends. So much so that the Bible, when they were separated, says: "They wept together. But David wept the most." If David loved you, you remained loved.

But above all David's stubborn love was his love for his Father. At the end of the most famous psalm, David writes these words: "I WILL dwell in the house of the Lord, forever." David didn't say, "Well, I'm going to do my best to dwell in the house of the Lord." And he didn't say, "I sure hope I can dwell in the house of the Lord." He said, I WILL dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Translation: Father, I know I have blown it. I know I make all kinds of messes for you to clean up, but Father, I'm staying in the house. I'm hanging on to you and I'm never letting go."

And that is why, listen to me, that is why God said, "This is a boy after My own heart. "

And He longs to say the same thing about you and about me, friends. There is nothing our Father wants more than to say: "Garry is my boy. He loves me from the depths of his heart. He just won't let go of me. When the time is best, I'm going to bring him home. I surely miss my boy."

Applicable Ellen White Quotes

The great honor conferred upon David did not serve to elate him. Notwithstanding the high position which he was to occupy, he quietly continued his employment, content to await the development of the Lord's plans in his own time and way. As humble and modest as before his anointing, the shepherd boy returned to the hills, and watched and guarded his flocks as tenderly as ever. {CC 204}

Through successive generations infidels have pointed to the character of David, bearing this dark stain, and have exclaimed in triumph and derision, "This is the man after God's own heart!" Thus a reproach has been brought upon religion, God and His word have been blasphemed, souls have been hardened in unbelief, and many, under a cloak of piety, have become bold in sin. {CC 180}

But the history of David furnishes no countenance to sin. It was when he was walking in the counsel of God that he was called a man after God's own heart. When he sinned, this ceased to be true of him until by repentance he had returned to the Lord. . . . {CC 180}

The principles taught in the schools of the prophets were the same that molded David's character and shaped his life. The world of God was his instructor. "Through Thy precepts," he said, "I get understanding. . . . I have

inclined mine heart to perform Thy statutes." Psalm 119: 104-112. It was this that caused the Lord to pronounce David, when in his youth He called him to the throne, "a man after Mine own heart." Acts 13:22. {Ed 48.1}

His religious life was sincere and fervent. It was while David was thus true to God, and possessing these exalted traits of character, that God calls him a man after His own heart (ibid., pp. 85, 86). {LHU 199.4}

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David, in the beauty and vigor of his young manhood, was preparing to take a high position with the noblest of the earth. His talents, as precious gifts from God, were employed to extol the glory of the divine Giver. His opportunities of **contemplation** and **meditation** served to enrich him with that wisdom and piety that made him beloved of God and angels. . . . The love that moved him, the sorrows that beset him, the triumphs that attended him, were all themes for his active thought; and as he beheld the love of God in all the providences of his life, his heart throbbed with more fervent adoration and gratitude, his voice rang out in richer melody, his harp was swept with more exultant joy; and the shepherd boy proceeded from strength to strength, from knowledge to knowledge; for the Spirit of the Lord was upon him (Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 641, 642).

...And when David saw that all Israel were filled with fear, and learned that the Philistine's defiance was hurled at them day after day, without arousing a champion to silence the boaster, his spirit was stirred within him. He was fired with zeal to preserve the honor of the living God and the credit of His people. {PP 645.1}

The words of David were repeated to the king, who summoned the youth before him. Saul listened with astonishment to the words of the shepherd, as he said, "Let no man's heart fail because of him; thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine." Saul strove to turn David from his purpose, but the young man was not to be moved. He replied in a simple, unassuming way, relating his experiences while guarding his father's flocks. And he said, "The

Lord that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, He will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said unto David, Go, and the Lord be with thee." {PP 646.1}

Goliath was filled with amazement and anger. "Am I a dog," he exclaimed, "that thou comest to me with staves?" Then he poured upon David the most terrible curses by all the gods of his knowledge. He cried in derision, "Come to me, and I will give thy flesh unto the fowls of the air, and to the beasts of the field." {PP 647.1}

David did not weaken before the champion of the Philistines. Stepping forward, he said to his antagonist: "Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied. This day will the Lord deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. And all this assembly shall know that the Lord saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the Lord's, and He will give you into our hands."

It was the providence of God that had connected David with Saul.

David's position at court would give him a knowledge of affairs, in preparation for his future greatness. It would enable him to gain the confidence of the nation. **The vicissitudes and hardships which befell him, through the enmity of Saul, would lead him to feel his dependence upon God, and to put his whole trust in Him.** And the **friendship of Jonathan for David was also of God's providence,** to preserve the life of the future ruler of Israel. **In all these things God was working out His gracious purposes, both for David and for the people of Israel.**

One great defect in the character of Saul was his love of approbation. This trait had had a controlling influence over his actions and thoughts; everything was marked by his desire for praise and self-exaltation. His standard of right and wrong was the low standard of popular applause. No man is safe who lives that he may please men, and does not seek first for the approbation of God. It was the ambition of Saul to be first in the estimation of men; and when this song of praise was sung, a settled conviction entered the mind of the king that David would obtain the hearts of the people and reign in his stead. {PP 650.2}

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Saul opened his heart to the spirit of jealousy by which his soul was poisoned. Notwithstanding the lessons which he had received from the prophet Samuel, instructing him that God would accomplish whatsoever He chose, and that no one could hinder it, the king made it evident that he had no true knowledge of the plans or power of God. The monarch of Israel was opposing his will to the will of the Infinite One. Saul had not learned, while ruling the kingdom of Israel, that he should rule his own spirit. He allowed his impulses to control his judgment, until he was plunged into a fury of passion. He had paroxysms of rage, when he was ready to take the life of any who dared oppose his will. From this frenzy he would pass into a state of despondency and self-contempt, and remorse would take possession of his soul. {PP 650.3}

He loved to hear David play upon his harp, and the evil spirit seemed to be charmed away for the time; but one day when the youth was ministering before him, and bringing sweet music from his instrument, accompanying his voice as he sang the praises of God, Saul suddenly threw his spear at the musician, for the purpose of putting an end to his life. David was preserved by the **interposition of God**, and without injury fled from the rage of the maddened king. {PP 650.4}

As Saul's hatred of David increased, he became more and more watchful to find an opportunity to take his life; but none of his plans against the anointed of the Lord were successful. Saul gave himself up to the control of the wicked spirit that ruled over him; while David trusted in Him who is mighty in counsel, and strong to deliver. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" (Proverbs 9:10), and David's prayer was continually directed to God, that he might walk before Him in a perfect way. {PP 651.1}

Desiring to be freed from the presence of his rival, the king "removed him from him, and made him his captain over a thousand. . . . But all Israel and Judah loved David." The people were not slow to see that David was a competent person, and that the affairs entrusted to his hands were managed with wisdom and skill. The counsels of the young man were of a wise and discreet character, and proved to be safe to follow; while the judgment of Saul was at times unreliable, and his decisions were not wise. {PP 651.2}

An attachment for David on the part of Michal, Saul's youngest daughter, afforded the king another opportunity to plot against his rival. Michal's hand was offered the young man on condition that evidence should be given of the defeat and slaughter of a specified number of their national foes. "Saul thought to make David fall by the hand of the Philistines," but God shielded His servant. David returned a victor from the battle, to become the king's son-in-law. "Michal Saul's daughter loved him," and the monarch, enraged, saw that his plots had resulted in the elevation of him whom he sought to destroy.

Saul's passion overcame him, and he hurled a javelin at David, thinking to pin the musician to the wall; but the angel of the Lord turned aside the deadly weapon. David escaped and fled to his own house. Saul sent spies that they might take him as he should come out in the morning, and put an end to his life. {PP 652.3}

Michal informed David of the purpose of her father. She urged him to flee for his life, and let him down from the window, thus enabling him to make his escape. He fled to Samuel at Ramah, and the prophet, fearless of the king's displeasure, welcomed the fugitive. {PP 656}

He was determined to wait for no further chance to kill David; as soon as he should come within reach of him, he intended with his own hand to slay him, whatever might be the consequences. {PP 653.3}

But an angel of God met him on the way and controlled him. The Spirit of God held him in Its power, and he went forward uttering prayers to God, interspersed with predictions and sacred melodies. He prophesied of the coming Messiah as the world's Redeemer. When he came to the prophet's home in Ramah, he laid aside the outer garments that betokened his rank, and all day and all night he lay before Samuel and his pupils, under the influence of the divine Spirit. The people were drawn together to witness

this strange scene, and the experience of the king was reported far and wide. Thus again, near the close of his reign, it became a proverb in Israel that Saul also was among the prophets. {PP 654.1}