

## Windows to the Heart of David David's Dependence upon the Lord

**Intro: Our readings this past week and the weeks to come will center principally upon King David. It is interesting that there is more said about David in the OT than any other historical character. For most people, their knowledge of David centers around two really different stories—the day in his youth when he slew the giant, Goliath of Gath; and the episode with Bathsheba and the aftermath. In these two stories we are able to see David at his best and David at his worst. Yet, it is not fair to David to reduce his life to these two stories, for they occupied a small part of his long life.**

**We are privileged to know more about David through the writings of the prophets as they relate his great leadership over the nation of Israel, fulfilling the purpose of God in occupying the land of Canaan. But even this does not give us the complete picture. The life of David is best seen through his own expressions of his heart in the psalms. They serve as windows into his heart. What impresses me as I read David's psalms is that they were written over the entire span of his life and they serve as monuments to his faith and devotion to God throughout his long life.**

**One of the features of David's life that shines through in his psalms is his dependence upon God.**

**David had to live constantly with the fear of death.**

*Someone once commented to me that David was always seemed to be whining about something! But the truth is, David faced many real life-threatening situations his whole life. He lived in the face of death!*

As a boy when he kept his father's sheep where there were real dangers of robbers and wild bears and lions. There were actual encounters with wild animals that could have killed him.

As a young man (18-20) he was a commander of the armies of Saul. He faced countless warriors on the battlefield and could have lost his life at the hands of any of them.

Over a period of ten years following (20-30) David was hunted by Saul like an animal from place to place. Often he spent time among the enemies of Israel as a refugee and never quite certain who he could trust.

After the death of Saul, Israel went through a period of civil war (30-37) and factions loyal to Saul would have looked for occasion to take his life.

Finally, as king of Israel (37-70) David faced the armies of foreign powers that warred against Israel and internal enemies who were not pleased with his reign for various reasons. Even own son, Absalom rebelled against him and parties loyal to him sought David's death. So

that we could say that most of David's life he had reason to fear for his life.

***So when we read David crying to the Lord for safety, he is not uttering merely empty words about minimal risks; but real problems. We are not to think of David as some kind of spiritual "cry baby" who could not stand on his own or someone "personally insecure" who lacked no self-confidence. Instead we are to see in them that...***

### **David depended upon the Lord for his deliverance.**

Perhaps no theme is more common to the psalms of David than pleas for protection and deliverance. Many of the psalms contain text notes reminding us of the occasion. Some examples:

Ps. 59:1-4—written during the time of Saul's jealousy when he had the house of David watched in order to kill David (1 Sam. 19)

Ps. 56:1—written during the time of Saul's pursuits (in Gath, 1 Sam. 21:10-11)

Ps. 34:1-3—written when he pretended to be mad to avoid death at the hands of the king Achish of Gath (1 Sam. 21:10-15)

Ps. 142:5—written when he was in the cave (1 Sam. 22)

Ps. 57:1—written when David fled the cave where Saul himself had slept (1 Sam. 22)

Ps. 54:1-3—written during the days of Saul's pursuits (1 Sam. 23)

Ps. 60:1—written during David's kingship (2 Sam. 8:3, 13)

Ps. 3:7-8—written when David fled at the rebellion of Absalom (2 Sam. 15:13-17)

***So it is clear that throughout his life, David was constantly bringing his needs to God, seeking his help and protection from real dangers. And this would not exhaust the list. Most of these involve the dangers of war and battle; other psalms deal with other sources of danger such as sickness, sin, and personal betrayal.***

***But again we may ask why did David cry out to the Lord in this fashion? Was it because David was a weak or fearful man?***

### **David trusted in God rather than rely upon his own strength.**

***David's dependence upon God is even more remarkable when we understand that he was a man of incredible courage and strength.***

On one occasion he took on a lion that had attacked his flocks; on another occasion a bear.

He faced Goliath with only a sling and 5 stones. This soldier had intimidated the bravest soldier in Israel's army.

Faced thousands of soldiers in warfare in bloody war where prospects of many deaths were certain. David was in the thick of the fight.

"David has slain his ten thousands".

He refused to hide out when enemies lurked about. Surely this is not a man of fear and cowardice (Ps. 11:1-3)

***Yet, David put his trust in God because he did not rely upon his own strength***

*To Thee, O Lord, I lift up my soul. O my God, in Thee I trust, do not let me be ashamed; do not let my enemies exult over me. (Psalm 25:1-2)*

In fact, we may correctly say that all of David's strength and courage were attributed by him to the Lord.

**Applying the message to ourselves.**

***David's example provides a valuable lesson for us. It teaches us the importance of relying upon God rather than relying upon ourselves. It is easy to feel self-sufficient and self-reliant; but this is not God's way. God wants us to rely upon him.***

*This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel saying, 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the Lord of hosts. (Zechariah 4:6)  
I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing. (John 15:5)*

*Therefore they spent a long time there speaking boldly with reliance upon the Lord, who was bearing witness to the word of His grace, granting that signs and wonders be done by their hands. (Acts 14:3)*

*But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the surpassing greatness of the power may be of God and not from ourselves; (2 Corinthians 4:7)*

***David teaches us that our success in life or in any work we do for Him, depends upon seeking his help.***

God wants us to depend upon His guidance (Prov. 3:5-6)

God wants us to depend upon His provision (Mt. 6:33)

God wants us to depend on His strength (Phil. 4:13)

***David teaches us that no matter how exalted we may be we always need the Lord.***

*Thus says the Lord, "Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; (Jeremiah 9:23)*

Dependence upon the Lord is a mark of humility and the pathway to God's blessing.

*Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you. (James 4:10)*

**Conclusion: The dependence David teaches us is really an acknowledgment of God's own power over us. David was simply willing to let God be God. Are we? Are we willing to put our lives in his hands? To cry to him for help? Not until we do so are we ready to receive his great blessings. Dependence on the Lord is hallmark of the truly faithful.**