

Windows to the Heart of David, #4
David's Uninhibited Praise to God

Intro: Since we've been reading about David and the psalms he wrote for a couple of weeks, I thought it was a good time to learn more about him and why the Scripture reveals so much about him. We have considered three important aspects of David's life:

His dependence upon God

His commitment to holiness

His longing to know God

But the depths of David's character are not exhausted by these. Let consider another "window" into the heart of David.

Consider David's uninhibited expressions of love and praise to God (Ps. 9:1-2)

I will give thanks to the Lord with all my heart; I will tell of all Thy wonders. I will be glad and exult in Thee; I will sing praise to Thy name, O Most High. (Psalm 9:1-2)

David's uninhibited love and praise

David found joy in his relationship with God, a triumphant joy that conquers all sorrows and disappointments.

David was not too proud or self-sufficient to give thanks to the Lord and it was sincere gratitude (with all my heart).

David wanted others to know of the great works of God in his life. He was not ashamed to tell others about what the Lord had done for him.

David wanted to sing praises to God. He did so with enthusiasm and meaning.

There were no inhibitions about what others might think about him when worshipping God.

Consider the incident when the Ark of the Covenant was returned to Jerusalem (2 Sam. 6:15ff)

It was a joyous day and David "danced before the Lord". His behavior was an expression of his uninhibited enthusiasm and outward show of emotion before the people. His wife Michal thought that he had acted in an undignified manner. She said somewhat sarcastically, "How the king has shown himself today". But David said, "It was before the Lord that I did these things" (v. 21)

And so David's life was filled with uninhibited expressions of joy and praise to God. But why? What did David find in God worthy of such joy and praise? We only have to read the psalms to see David's vision of God.

What David found in God worthy of praise and love

The majestic and benevolent creator of all

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Thy name in all the earth, who hast displayed Thy splendor above the heavens! (Psalm 8:1)

In this great text David speaks of God's majesty as displayed in the heavens; but he also could see God's benevolence on the earth. *Thou dost visit the earth, and cause it to overflow; Thou dost greatly enrich it; The stream of God is full of water; Thou dost prepare their grain, for thus Thou dost prepare the earth. Thou dost water its furrows abundantly; Thou dost settle its ridges; Thou dost soften it with showers; Thou dost bless its growth. Thou hast crowned the year with Thy bounty, and Thy paths drip with fatness. The pastures of the wilderness drip, and the hills gird themselves with rejoicing. The meadows are clothed with flocks, and the valleys are covered with grain; they shout for joy, yes, they sing. (Psalm 65:9-13)*

The sovereign and everlasting ruler of the nations

The wicked will return to Sheol, even all the nations who forget God. For the needy will not always be forgotten, nor the hope of the afflicted perish forever. Arise, O Lord, do not let man prevail; let the nations be judged before Thee. Put them in fear, O Lord; let the nations know that they are but men. (Psalm 9:17-20)

Psalms like these remind us that David knew that God was in control; that His Sovereign will determined the destiny of the nations.

The personal refuge and deliverer of the righteous

A Psalm of David the servant of the Lord, who spoke to the Lord the words of this song in the day that the Lord delivered him from the hand of all his enemies and from the hand of Saul.

And he said, "I Love Thee, O Lord, my strength." The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, My God, my rock, in whom I take refuge; my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies. (Psalm 18:1-3).

David in these verses offers his uninhibited praise to the God who saved him from death again and again on the battlefield.

The righteous and holy judge of men

David praised God for his justice in dealing with mankind.

For Thou art not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness; No evil dwells with Thee. The boastful shall not stand before Thine eyes; Thou dost hate all who do iniquity. (Psalm 5:4-5)

The eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous, and His ears are open to their cry. The face of the Lord is against evildoers, to cut off the memory of them from the earth. (Psalm 34:15-16)

The glorious king of Israel

Maybe this song was written when David brought the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem:

Lift up your heads, O gates, and be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in! Who is the King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, O gates, and lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in! Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, He is the King of glory. (Psalm 24:7-10)

Here in this psalm David extols the Lord as Israel's national god, the one who dwelt among them and blessed them.

And so David's uninhibited love and praise was a spiritual and enthusiastic response to the God he knew! But what about us?

Applying the message

How big is our God?

Is our God big enough to do what David's "God" did?

Can our God create the world in all its glory?

Can He display his power in the mighty forces that work in it?

Can He provide our needs?

Can He rule the nations?

Can He deliver us from trouble?

David's God is our God and we should be able to acknowledge His greatness and work in our lives!

Are you willing to give him unashamed praise and devotion?

When was the last time you felt such joy in God?

Are you hesitant to show how you feel about God? Are you self-conscious that others may think you are overwrought if you give the Lord credit for the blessings in your life?

When was the last time you expressed to the Lord your gratitude for his blessings? When was the last time you told someone about what the Lord did for you?

Don't be afraid to give God credit for the blessings in your life. Indeed every good and perfect gift comes from him! Love Him for it; praise Him for it; tell others about it.

Conclusion: Let's have the heart of David, to love Him and praise Him without inhibition, with joy and unconsciousness of how others may perceive us. For it is the Lord who blesses us and it is before the Lord that we live.

Salvation itself is based on a willingness to confess our faith before others. Mk. 9:38; but Mt. 10:28.