

AFTER GOD'S HEART

1 Samuel 21:10-15

20 June 2025

David had many victories resulting from his faith in God. At some point, he began to resort to his own tactics instead of placing his trust in God. David, in fear of Saul, fled to Gath, the home of Goliath, for safety instead of trusting God for his safety.

- David's former victories should have strengthened his faith, as he looked back at how God wrought the victory for him.
- Look back at how God worked in your life, and let it be a source of confidence today as you face new trials.
- Unbelief is never a good path to follow. It won't keep you out of trouble. Trouble will follow you.
 - Let the troubles and trials remind you that God is trying to work something out in your life. Then, let God have His way and do His work in you.
 - God doesn't take away your troubles when you get saved. He teaches you how to deal with them and triumph in them.
 - Trouble helps you to have the abundant life that Jesus wants you to have (Jn 10:10).
 - Just as physical strength comes from physical exercise (uncomfortable, painful), spiritual strength comes from events in your life that are uncomfortable and painful.
- To have a heart after God doesn't mean you are perfect. It means even when things go wrong, you keep going toward God with a desire to do right and to have a heart like God's.

Philippians 3:8-14

- The apostle Paul "**suffered the loss of all things.**" He didn't measure spiritual or ministerial success in things he gained, but in the things that he'd lost.
- Paul knew he had not "**already attained**" and was not "**already perfect**" (vs 12).
- Paul admitted that he didn't apprehend all that it means to be a follower of Christ, but that is what he was after (vs 13).
 - God doesn't expect us to be perfect. He wants our heart's desire to be like Christ.
 - God is looking at your heart's desire, not your works.
 - If your true heart's desire is to be a friend of the world, you are an enemy of God (James 4:4).
 - If your desire is the Lord, you will have Him (Psalm 37:4).

1 Sam 21:13 David behaved foolishly, trying to keep himself safe in the world.

- When you try to figure out your own life apart from God's guidance and direction, you will end up making a fool of yourself.
- When you do things your own way instead of God's way, and end up back in the world, God will make sure someone recognizes you and reminds you of where you came from and where you ought to be (John 18:25, Jonah 1:9-11, Exodus 2:14, Genesis 4:9).
 - God will abase you when you don't humble yourself and trust Him (Mt 23:12; Lk 14:11).

Psalm 56 (David wrote this during his time in Gath)

1-2 “...man would swallow me up.” “Mine enemies would daily swallow me up.”

- When we take our eyes off God and focus on our troubles, we will begin to magnify our troubles.
 - Remind yourself of what you deserve and be glad for what the Lord has promised you.
 - Hell is much worse than whatever trouble you are facing today.

3-4 “I will trust in thee...in God I have put my trust.”

- David’s words here don’t match his actions. If he really trusted God, He wouldn’t have fled to Gath and played the fool.
 - Christians often quote scripture hoping God will see how “spiritual” they are, and take care of their problems.
 - If your actions don’t demonstrate your faith, don’t expect God to do anything for you

5-9 David begins to reason things out with God, and starts to see things properly.

- This shows the importance of prayer. When you spend time reasoning with God, eventually you’ll begin to see things as you ought to.

10-13 “In God have I put my trust...For thou hast delivered my soul from death...”

- David sees the big picture (God saved his soul) and his troubles didn’t look so bad in that light.
 - God can take care of eternal things. Certainly, he can take care of temporal things.
 - God took care of your greatest enemies and problems (death, Satan, sin).
 - Everything else is small in comparison. God can handle them.
 - **“What time I am afraid I will trust in Thee”** (vs 3). There will be times when you are afraid. In those times, you can trust the Lord.
- David knew he wasn’t presently where he ought to be, but he said, **“I will trust thee.”**
- If you are after God’s heart, you may struggle to praise God today while you are in a time of trouble, but you can say, “I will praise God,” (future) (vs 12), knowing that He will carry you through it.