

# Week 21: David's Heart for God

*A Sabbath Family Bible Study*

## Introduction

David is remembered as “a man after God’s own heart” (1 Samuel 13:14; Acts 13:22). Yet he was far from flawless. He sinned grievously, faced deep failures, and lived under the constant strain of enemies and rebellion. What set David apart was not perfection, but the posture of his heart. He loved God’s Word, trusted His promises, repented quickly when corrected, and lived with a deep desire to glorify the Lord. This study reminds us that God is not searching for perfect performance but for wholehearted devotion, a heart that beats in rhythm with His own.

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 **Scripture Reading: Selected Passages (KJV) 1 Samuel 13:13–14; 2 Samuel 7:18–22; Psalm 27:1–4 (KJV) Acts 13:22 (KJV)**

*(With commentary throughout)*

### 1 Samuel 13:13–14

*13 And Samuel said to Saul, Thou hast done foolishly: thou hast not kept the commandment of the LORD thy God, which he commanded thee: for now would the LORD have established thy kingdom upon Israel for ever.*

*14 But now thy kingdom shall not continue: the LORD hath sought him a man after his own heart, and the LORD hath commanded him to be captain over his people, because thou hast not kept that which the LORD commanded thee.*

### Commentary:

From the beginning, David’s rise was marked by God’s search for a man who desired Him above all else. Unlike Saul, who craved man’s approval, David’s greatest ambition was to honor the Lord. A heart after God is one that values obedience more than appearances and seeks God’s glory more than self-preservation.

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### Psalm 27:1–4

*1 The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?*

*2 When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell.*

*3 Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident.*

*4 One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple.*

**Commentary:**

David's courage came not from his own strength but from his intimacy with God. His "one thing" was communion with the Lord. A heart for God is not divided, it pursues Him as the chief desire and treasure.

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**2 Samuel 7:18–22**

*18 Then went king David in, and sat before the LORD, and he said, Who am I, O Lord GOD? and what is my house, that thou hast brought me hitherto?*

*19 And this was yet a small thing in thy sight, O Lord GOD; but thou hast spoken also of thy servant's house for a great while to come. And is this the manner of man, O Lord GOD?*

*20 And what can David say more unto thee? for thou, Lord GOD, knowest thy servant.*

*21 For thy word's sake, and according to thine own heart, hast thou done all these great things, to make thy servant know them.*

*22 Wherefore thou art great, O LORD God: for there is none like thee, neither is there any God beside thee, according to all that we have heard with our ears.*

**Commentary:**

David never forgot that he was a servant of grace. Though promised an eternal kingdom, his response was humility and worship. True devotion to God is marked by awe, gratitude, and recognition that all blessings flow from Him.

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**Acts 13:22**

*And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will.*

### **Commentary:**

God Himself testified of David's heart. Despite failures, what mattered most was his continual return to the Lord's will. God delights in hearts that do not wander forever but always come back to His Word and ways.

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### **Discussion Questions for All Ages**

#### **Young Children:**

- Why did God say David had a heart like His?
- What was the "one thing" David wanted most?
- How can we show love for God every day?

#### **Older Children & Teens:**

- What does it mean to be "a man (or woman) after God's heart"?
- How was David different from Saul in the way he treated God's Word?
- What competes with your devotion to God? How can you put Him first?

#### **Adults:**

- In what ways does David's love for God challenge your own priorities?
  - How can your family cultivate a singular focus on seeking the Lord?
  - What is the difference between outward religion and true heart devotion?
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### **Psalm Reading**

#### **Psalm 63:1–5 (KJV)**

*1 O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is;*

*2 To see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary.*

*3 Because thy lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee.*

*4 Thus will I bless thee while I live: I will lift up my hands in thy name.*

*5 My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness; and my mouth shall praise thee with joyful lips.*

**Commentary:**

This psalm captures David's longing for God's presence above all earthly pleasures. To have a heart for God is to hunger for Him as life's greatest necessity.

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 **Hymn: *Take My Life and Let It Be***

By Frances R. Havergal (1874)

1.

Take my life, and let it be  
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;  
Take my moments and my days,  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

2.

Take my hands, and let them move  
At the impulse of Thy love;  
Take my feet, and let them be  
Swift and beautiful for Thee.

3.

Take my voice, and let me sing,  
Always, only, for my King;  
Take my lips, and let them be  
Filled with messages from Thee.

4.

Take my silver and my gold,  
Not a mite would I withhold;  
Take my intellect, and use  
Every power as Thou shalt choose.

5.

Take my will, and make it Thine,  
It shall be no longer mine;  
Take my heart, it is Thine own,  
It shall be Thy royal throne.

6.

Take my love, my Lord, I pour  
At Thy feet its treasure store;  
Take myself, and I will be  
Ever, only, all for Thee.

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### **Family Application Points**

1. **Seek God First:** Like David, let your family's greatest desire be communion with the Lord. Prioritize prayer and worship over busyness.
2. **Practice Gratitude:** Regularly thank God for His blessings. Like David in 2 Samuel 7, humble your heart in awe of His grace.
3. **Respond Quickly to Conviction:** Teach children to confess quickly when wrong. A heart for God is soft and responsive.
4. **Make God's Word Central:** Read and sing Scripture in your home often. Let it shape the affections of your family.
5. **Live with Joyful Confidence:** Remind your household that God's presence is their strength in every storm.

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### **A Sabbath Feast Prayer: (Used later when the Sabbath Meal is Ready)**

"Heavenly Father, we thank You for this Sabbath, a gift of rest and delight. As we share this meal, may our hearts overflow with gratitude. Let this table be filled not only with food but with joy, love, and the presence of Your Spirit. May our home reflect David's heart, content in Your goodness, bold in Your strength, and joyful in Your promises. In Jesus' name, Amen."

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### **Closing Prayer**

“Lord, give us hearts like David’s, hungry for Your Word, quick to repent, and eager to praise. Protect us from the divided loyalties of this world and set our hearts fully upon You. May our family be known not for perfection but for devotion to You. Teach us to seek Your face, trust Your promises, and delight in Your presence all our days. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.”