

Nearly all parents want their children to follow their hearts. Some parents know they have displayed some bad examples in their lives but their hearts are “good”. It is more like follow what I say but not what I do. My parents were the same way. However, I told my children to follow God’s heart. Only God is perfect in heart and action. King David was called the one that followed God’s heart (I Sam. 13:14, Acts 13:22), and we are going to study King David today.

Book of I Samuel and II Samuel were used to be one book. The translators of the Septuagint separated them and that separation remains today. The events of II Samuel cover 40 years of King David’s reign. The book started with death of Saul and his son. Later, David ruled over all the Israelites. David moved the capital to Jerusalem and the Art of Covenant (chapters 1 to 7). The Davidic covenant is stated in II Sam. 7:12-16. Then, King David led the people to win over many enemies (chapters 8 -10). The later chapters are about David’s sins and consequences. Later, his son Absalom rebelled against him but failed.

Some of David’s characters that God pleases:

1) Faith in God

Faith in God was clearly shown in David’s bravery. When he was young, he was willing to take the great challenge of fighting the giant Goliath. Heb. 11:32 mentioned David had faith in God. In some of the Psalms, it seems like David was not patient with God’s rescue timing but deep inside he still had the faith as shown in other parts of Psalms.

Unless we trust God, it is impossible for us to make God happy. (Heb. 11:6)

2) Treasure God’s Word

David really treasured God’s word. Psalms 19:10 states “They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb.” At the end of Psalms 19, it states “May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.

3) Praises God and Thankful

II Samuel chapter 7 contains David's prayer and thanksgiving to God. II Samuel chapter 22 is David's song of praise to God. In this song, it includes the famous verse of "The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, ..." This actually foreshadowed Jesus which is our Rock, Fortress, Deliverer and Refuge (I Cor. 10:4, Rom. 11:26, Heb. 6:18). There were many places in Psalms that David praised God and thanked God such as in Psalms 19, 34, 100, 119 and 138.

4) Try to follow God

David asked God before his action in II Sam. 5:19 (So David inquired of the Lord, "Shall I go and attack the Philistines? Will you deliver them into my hands?) Psalms 119:10 "I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands." You can see David was trying his best to seek God's heart. As you see earlier that David really valued God's words and commands.

5) True Repentant

King David was not perfect. We all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23). There were several cases where David sinned. Those sins include adultery with Bathsheba, murdered his general Uriah (II Sam. 11), and took census against God's will likely due to pride (II Sam. 24). David truly repented (Psalm 51). However, the consequences were there. David's son died due to his first two sins (II Sam. 12:18). Plague was the consequence of the census taken (II Sam. 24). We try to follow God's heart but not always successful. Once we committed a sin, true repentance is needed.

In summary, King David had many good characters where God valued, but he also committed sins. He truly repented because it was needed. We need to follow God's heart (Eph. 5:1, I John 2:17) because He is perfect (Matt. 5:48) and He has the best for us. Be very careful of our thoughts and actions because sins carry major consequences even one repents.