

## Give Me a Heart Like David, Upright Before God

King David was a fighter, a tactician, a diplomat, a musician, an artist, a shepherd, and a great king. David was such a great man that Jesus Christ, the Messiah, is referred to as David's son (Matthew 1:1; 12:23).

How was a man able to have so much earthly success in his life? David's upright heart was in line with God's heart.

Can I replicate his success in my own life? Yes, I can.

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.

The word "after" in this verse means "according to, toward, or along". David actively sought to know the heart of Israel's spiritual Father and to navigate his life by it. 1 Chronicles 29 is a masterful exposition on what David put into his heart.

1 Chronicles 29:10, 11:

Wherefore David blessed the Lord before all the congregation: and David said, Blessed be thou, Lord God of Israel our father, for ever and ever.

Thine, O LORD, *is* the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all *that is* in the heaven and in the earth *is thine*; thine is the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all.

God's sovereignty is the starting place of an upright heart. Our Father has offered, to men and women, a personal relationship with Himself. But when He engages in this relationship with us, He does not lose His Almighty position.

Thus, David begins his prayer over the congregation by rehearsing who our God is. God Almighty is sovereign over all. No circumstance (job, person, problem, challenge, day, feeling, weight on your heart, or secret sin) is too difficult for our heavenly Father to bear.

1 Chronicles 29:12:

Both riches and honour *come* of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all.

God's position as the Almighty grants Him unique privileges, one of which is the ability to offer anything to anyone without restriction. Wealth, honor, being great, and being strong are valuable across time. But here, David uses these traits figuratively to draw attention to the Giver and not the gift.

1 Chronicles 29:13:

Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name.

God has given us a sea of blessings. Just a few are a past free from condemnation, a future of eternal life with Him, a present of newness of life today, His holy spirit to commune with Him, a family to share love with, promises of full health, a purpose to perform good works with Him, endless mercy for our failings, and His Word in case we forget what He said. How great our Father is!

1 Chronicles 29:14:

But who am I, and what *is* my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? for all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee.

In verse 14, David again elevates God's position in front of the congregation from a different point of view. As God is the Almighty, all existence is in His possession. So, when we offer unto Him, whether it be time, expertise, prayer, love, or finances (like Israel used to build the temple), it is all giving what God has already given us to steward.

1 Chronicles 29:15:

For we are strangers before thee, and sojourners, as were all our fathers: our days on the earth are as a shadow, and there *is* none abiding.

A similar concept appears in Hebrews 11:13, where God reveals the confession of faithful men and women, whom He calls "strangers and pilgrims on the earth". They believed God, as David did, that this short, shadow-of-a-life is not our full inheritance of glory. Our glory is fully manifested when Christ returns to gather us together. Focusing on our spiritual inheritance unshackles us from bondage.

These men and women did not stop at agreeing with the concept of a spiritual inheritance, but made it a part of their very souls. They declared that they sought a country (their inheritance from God). We can do the same, declaring that this life does not contain all that we shall be.

David sought the heart of God. David recognized that God was King, and that *God* was the Source of all good things. David looked back with thankfulness on God's mighty work. David confessed that his success paled in comparison to his greater inheritance in eternity by the grace of God. Today we too can have this perfect heart offered to us in the mind of Christ.

Peace be with my brethren and love with faith from God and the Lord Jesus Christ.