



## LIFE LESSONS FROM OLD TESTAMENT HEROES WEEK #9 DAVID

Of all the biblical heroes we have studied thus far, it appears God chooses random people and then challenges them to trust Him. God encouraged them to not be afraid because He was with them, and His mighty hand would bring success. David, however, is different. At the age of 15, David is identified as 'a man after God's own heart'. Apparently, when tending the sheep out in the wilderness, David spent much of his time praying, worshipping, and reflecting on God's Word and promises. When encountering the occasional wild predators, such as lions and bears, he learned to trust God as he used his rod and staff to protect the sheep. In other words, David was a good shepherd. Like God Himself, he did not abandon the sheep to save his own life but instead, he risked his life to save them. David reflects upon this in the Psalm he wrote, Psalm 23.

When David was anointed to be the next King, he already had courageous faith. Since God gave him strength to fight lions and bears, he could surely defeat Goliath the giant, the Philistines, and all the many battles that followed. Because David had such a love, passion, and close relationship with God; fear was not the driving force in his life.

## AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART – DAVID

In the Bible, Jesus was mentioned to be the Son of David 14 times, not merely because He was a biological descendent of David, but because of a prophecy which stated the Messiah would be the new King who will sit upon the throne of David. (Isaiah 9:6-7, Jeremiah 23:5)

Courageous faith requires more than trusting God, it requires being a person after God's own heart. This can only happen when we accept God's forgiveness, have a passionate desire to love God more than anything else, and do everything possible to nurture our relationship with Him. This includes a love for worshipping, praying, reading God's Word, meditating on His Holy presence, and asking for forgiveness.

1. Read Psalm 42:1. What is David describing and do you desire the same. If so, to what degree?
2. Read Psalm 27:4. Of all the things in your life, what do you long for the most and how does this help or hinder your love for God? Do you desire to make any changes and if so, what would they be?
3. Read Psalm 51:10-13. David was a man after God's own heart but he was not flawless; neither are you. What sins do you long to admit and submit? Will you do it now?
4. Read Psalm 16:3. What is David saying and why? Do you desire the same? Why is it important to be in the fellowship with other believers? What are you doing to fulfill this need in your life?
5. Worship, prayer, reading the Bible, meditating upon God, and seeking to be one with God are not religious duties, but are reflections of a hungry heart for God. How hungry is your soul? Do you long to go deeper with God? Why? What will you do about this?

*"The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear? The Lord is my stronghold of my life, of whom shall I be afraid? Psalm 27:1*