

## Hebrews 11:32e “David’s development of Faith”

### I. Introduction

#### II. Vs. 32e David’s development

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To conclude this chapter, the writer finishes with One King (David) and the first of the prophets (Samuel) as he bridged the Judges to the Kings. Then the writer moves to speaking just of incidents that these people of faith accomplished by trusting in God like: *Subduing kingdoms, working righteousness, obtaining promises, and stopping the mouths of lions etc.* Those statements give way to the truth that NOT all of these people of faith outcome was positive as some were: *Tortured as they didn’t accept deliverance, still others stood trial, were mocked, scourged and endured chains and imprisonment.* All of which the writer says proves that the “*world was not worthy of them*”. They obtained a good testimony through faith even though they didn’t receive the promise in their lifetime and they did this to provide something better for us and will be made perfect with us.

#### II. Vs. 32e David’s development

*David: Our focus will be on David’s development of faith not upon the evidence of faith described throughout his life.* We start our research of David in 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 16. David is a man who doesn’t lack illustrations of faith throughout his life, in fact we are challenged to pick what stories to choose. David’s life covers forty chapters of the Bible covering most of three books and glimpses of 73 of the psalms he wrote. Yet with this being true I’ve noticed something about greatness as it relates to us mortals; we ascribe it very differently than God does:

- A. We recognize it upon outward things: We evaluate greatness upon a person’s deeds rather than their character!
- B. Second we wait to ascribe greatness only after a person’s deeds warrant such applause: We wait to award the trophy until after the season is over. *What we fail to realize is that greatness is not awarded it is rather forged.*

Because of this we fail to see that that the number one reason most people who aspire for greatness seldom attain it is because: *We don’t see the connection of the product of greatness with the inevitable process that proceeds it! David is a man whose greatness was in his inward character forged by going through the process.* But don’t miss understand me this life of faith didn’t guarantee that he NEVER made mistakes or failed. *We can get a bit of insight into David when we break down the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm written by David as a reflection of his time as a shepherd boy and we can see that early on God had done six things in David’s heart:*

Vs. 1 “*The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want*”: **Believing heart**

Vs. 2 “*He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters*”: **Patient heart**

Vs. 3 “*He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name’s sake*”: **Holy heart**

Vs. 4 “*Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me*”: **Confident heart**

Vs. 5 “*You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over*”: **Grateful heart**

Vs. 6 “*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever*”: **Fixed heart**

It should also be recognized that the initial anointing of David by Samuel is the first of

three and after this first anointing Samuel simply leaves him and goes home. ***There was no attempt to place David on the throne and it would yet be another 25 years before he would reign.*** Reading through Samuel's account of David reveals that he was a teenage shepherd in a home where he was the youngest and appears to have been overlooked by his father and brothers. Simply put ***it was adversity and obscurity that David majored in growing up.*** I have often heard it said that life boils down to choices but the outcome depends far more upon how we respond to those choices than whether they were right or wrong decisions! Then there is that the timing of the departure of the Spirit of the Lord from Saul which corresponded at the same time in which the Spirit of the Lord came upon David (verse 13). The beginning of David's national prominence was not upon what one would consider the normal battlefield as Saul had a "troubling spirit" and one of his advisers thought that "music therapy" as the thought seems to have been if, "*Music tames the savage beast why not the troubled Saul?*" and David was brought in for this. So David's first service for the nation was as a ***worshiper before he was seen as a warrior.*** It is no accident that we see David in his humility where he learns to worship God before he becomes a soldier, servant or king. If a person is not first and foremost a worshiper of God, they will not be much good at anything else. Based upon 1 Samuel 16:18 we can already see ***six visible characteristics about David made from observations others*** which led to his selection to soothe the king. This was not David's resume; these qualities were clearly visible in his life. What's more impressive is that they will be visible throughout his life. At the very end of David's life in the 23 chapter of 2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel the nation mourns for the soon departed David as they call him the, "*the sweet psalmist of Israel*". Not the mighty king, the great warrior, the most impressive quality of David's life was seen in his devotion towards the Lord! ***This list of six qualities is in reverse order from the least important to the most important.*** As I think we would all agree that having the "*Lord with him*" is the most important.

- A. "***Who is skillful in playing***": This of course has to do with technical ability but when you think about it ***this ability lies more with attitude than it does with talent.*** Take a gifted person who is unwilling to practice and improve on their gifting and you will have a talented player but not a skillful player. Becoming a worshiper is something you grow into, something that we can practice and improve in. All of which suggests that we need to spend time getting better at worshipping the Lord!
- B. "***A mighty man of valor***": This is an interesting quality as it tells me is that a ***worshiper is in the middle of a battle field!*** We worshiper's need to "*put on the full armor of God*" ready to do battle with our ego's and flesh. We need to boldly deal with the attitudes of our hearts that would hinder us from true worship.
- C. "***A man of war***": David had not yet fought the giant, and there was no evidence that he had battled anyone save the lion and the bear that stole his father's lamb (17:34-35). I suggest to you that a true worshiper of God is a man of war in as much as he makes war in his worship against an unseen realm. *David had won many a victory in praise as he plucked the strings of his lyre long before he took up those stones in his sling. "Could it be we lie defeated on the battlefield of life because we have not taken time in the battle of worship?"*
- D. "***Prudent in speech***": David knew not only what to say but when to say it! Worship begins inwardly but it can not remain there. David would reveal his inward heart by being a man not over taken by his emotions or passions he could just be quiet or say the right word that would lead others to want to know of His devotion! All too often the body of Christ has fought over content rather than having a right heart!
- E. "***And a handsome person***": Now we may be tempted to say that very few of us would qualify if appearance is necessary for being a worshiper. Yet I think we narrow this far too much. I think this speaks of two things both balanced:
  1. First I think this speaks of coming before the Lord presentable. In 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 3:2-4 as Peter speaks to women who are trying to win their unbelieving husbands to the Lord he exhorts them to do so by the; "*hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God.*"
  2. Second I believe that as we worship the Lord it is our invisibility next to the

Lord's visibility that is beauty! It is when His character and nature is seen in our lives that we become beautiful and this is what people saw in David! It is for this reason in the N.T. that we Christians are told continually to "*put on the Lord Jesus Christ*"!

F. "**And the LORD is with him**": There was a clear visibility of the lord's presence in and upon David's life. No matter what we may say of the above five qualities apart from this one no of them would matter. David had learned early on that spending time in the presence of God was what made sense of life. It is there that we learn that what we have we can be thankful for as in Him we are safe! We see that "*He has made everything beautiful in its time.*" (Eccl. 3:11).

***David is summoned from the pasture to the palace, yet I find it comforting that after Samuel's anointing that David simply returns to the sheep. Even after being summoned to the palace he splits his time between the palace and the pasture!*** That tells me that David was content to allow the Lord to raise him up as well as keep him up. **David saw in the work of God upon his life the wisdom of the Lord's processes!** Between the 16<sup>th</sup> chapter and the 17<sup>th</sup> chapter David grows and matures to becoming a man as Saul does not recognize him (17:58).

Further more David grew in his ministry as he starts out as the worship leader then in 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 16:21 we are told he becomes Saul's armorbearer. This may not mean too much to us but this was a soldier's chief assistant and their success in battle depended upon the faithfulness of their armorbearer, kind of like a parachute packer for as skydiver! David learned in these days have what it meant to be King and what it did not mean from Saul. Saul on the other hand found comfort from the David's ministry but did not learn the key to peace as seen in his life. We must not ever become to old and set in our ways that we can not learn from others even those whom are under us what it means to worship the Lord! Now one final note concerning what comforted Saul as David played. Look at David's Psalm's and you will discover that they are scripture set to music. Yeh so? Well this tells us that it is possible to be comforted by the word and yet remain unchanged, untransformed by its truths.

All of this will lead us to the conclusion of our investigation of David's ***development of faith*** as we come to one of the most familiar stories in the entire Bible the battle between David and Goliath. We too face giants in our lives, those areas where the obstacles to our victory cause us too cower at their mere presence. We mount up the courage to stand upon the hill with the champion of our past victories only to become greatly afraid by the challenge of our giant's shouts. "*Where is our champion, our David*"! Christian, our champion is not to be found in a technique, it is to be found in a person who like David had the "*Spirit of the Lord come upon Him*". And by His wondrous grace His victory is our victory. All we do is stand upon His hill and shout the praises of His prowess and then chase the slain enemy back to whence they came! Paul wrote of our champion in Romans 7:24-25 when he said, "*Who will deliver me from this body of death? I thank God; through Jesus Christ our Lord!*"

King Saul had gone from a man who upon "seeing" the strongest bravest man took him on too a man who just hearing the words of Goliath was already whipped. Goliath sought a man who would fight him in his own strength and Saul and the army of God could not see to fight any other way. Ah but young David in the 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 17:45 proclaims, "*You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.*" Yet another lesson learned at the expense of Saul and the giant. ***It is not me against the giant; it's the poor giant who has to take on the God I serve! Don't give the giants you face a mere man to fight give them the God they mock!*** It is here that we will stop our study of David's development of faith by noting three things about him as he went before Goliath in 1st Samuel 17:12-21:

A. Vs. 12-14 ***David was both young as well as inexperienced.*** He was the youngest of eight sons; further more his brothers were already off in battle and dad was too old to train him to fight. His brothers were big strapping fellows named "*Elias = "God is father" Abinadab = "father is noble" Shimea =*

“**fame**”. And David is the “least of these” and here in lies his strength for we are told “*when I am weak, then I am strong*” (2 Cor 12:10).

- B. Vs. 15-17 ***David was humble and a servant***. By now David was already the worship leader in Israel and splitting his time between the palace and the pasture. And yet you don’t hear any words of David to his father, “*Hey dad I don’t do seep any more I’m a worship leader!*” Instead David was content to split his time and only came to the palace when needed. ***It is not until after Goliath is defeated that David is given a place to stay in the palace***. We need to be faithful in the small things. It is Jesse who sends David with supplies hoping for news about his three sons. It was David’s father Jesse who hopes to present the captain with the food perhaps getting his older sons an advancement. Goliath taunted the army twice a day morning and evening and that means that David must have caught the morning show as the Giant was dead by night fall. My point is this; David must have got up very early to start on his 8-mile journey to the front with the supplies. But before he left he made sure that those sheep had a keeper to tend them. ***David had a shepherd’s heart and nothing left in his care would be well taken care of***.
- C. Vs. 19-21 There is one last thing to note in the development of David and that has to do with the difference between what David did and what the rest of the nation did. Saint’s ***there is a big difference in shouting at the enemy and fighting against him***. We are told that Saul and all the men of Israel were fighting against the Philistines but in reality all they were doing was going to out shout and argue the enemy. You can’t merely out shout and insult the enemy ***they must be slain***. You can’t out posture them and threaten them ***they have to die!***

**Saul could not see God doing anything apart from him and David could not see himself doing anything apart from God!** There is a very important detail that speaks to the work of God in the heart of David: David left the safety of the hill and walked down into the valley where Goliath was without having any stones for his sling. I’ve been to this sight in Israel and it is a good walk to this brook. Here is my point **David took a walk of faith before he was equipped with the provisions to defeat the giant**. David was unarmed when he went into that valley to face the giant. We often want the Lord to give us everything we need before we leave the comfort and security of our hill and what **David recognized is that he had everything he needed when he left the hill because the Lord was with him!** This is why David had already rejected Saul’s armor and the tried and true method of fighting for two very important reasons:

- a. “*I cannot walk with these*”: We can see this young man trying to walk around in Saul’s armor and not being able to do so. Much of the focus of the comments on this passage are from the perspective of David recognizing that he could not put on another man’s armor to do what God wanted him to do. I do not disagree with this view but I find it interesting to look at this verse from the perspective of Saul who wanted to send out David in his armor without risking anything himself. I would be very much content with sending out God’s provisions for warfare on someone else and staying on the hill and watching them work! I’m not always that eager to be stretched in my faith even though I’ll talk about God’s provisions and even help others put them on. Ah but God will have none of that as **security is not in the provisions but rather in the Lord who has provided them in the first place!**
- b. “*I have not tested them*”: David’s second comment is also penetrating as twice we are told in this verse that David had no experience in Saul’s (*or for that matter any other man’s*) armor. I’m not suggesting that we can not learn from watching how others do battle but what I am suggesting is that the greatest asset we have is our own learning to trust the Holy Spirit as He moves in and through our lives. Every battle we have gone through tests us and strengthens us. It is a glorious thing to see the natural way in which the Holy Spirit possesses a human but it is not something that we can duplicate. No we must allow Him to have all of us then and only then will we experience the victory that He has

accomplished through others.