

GREAT FAITH EXAMINED AND EXEMPLIFIED

Hebrews 11:32-34 with I Samuel 17

ON BOARD: “_____ is the captain grace.” William Gurnall, Puritan

[INTRO:] This study will be an overview or sketch of David’s early life of faith. We don’t have time to detail the details of his whole life. That normally takes a series of studies. We want to look at who he was before he was king, and before he was in exile.

Many of us began our faith journeys when young, like David. We were just kids when the Holy Spirit gave us a new heart and a new song to sing. And our faith was a great faith, a simple faith, a zealous faith, a bold faith. Examples?

Bible with me all the time/Amazing a library/Busy most nights/Blunder at county fair/ --- Great faith with little wisdom

Sproul: “David the Great” Greatest of all the kings who ever reigned. We’ll see David’s greatness was a result of David’s great faith and love for God. God who looks on the heart and not outward appearance . . . God who gives David the title, “a man after My own heart,” . . . and God who raises up David to be the kingly type of Christ. Looking over his whole life, we can summarize his character as being the Warrior King, Statesman, Poet/Songwriter, Prophet, Shepherd of Israel, yet a wounded soul due to his private and public sins.] [Our “Greatheart” of the O.T. - a type of our Perfect King and Shepherd, the Lord Jesus.]

[BACKGROUND:] I Samuel 8:4,5 --350 years of Judges - cyclical journey - agony and ecstasy; 13:11-14 - outnumbered by Philistines, Samuel tardy, offers sacrifice, Saul rejected.

After the capture of Agag (Amalekites) he didn’t destroy all that was commanded by God. I Samuel 15:22, 23; David anointed and filled: 16:1, 11-13. Then God’s Spirit departed from Saul, and David ministers to him in song.

I. Great faith is given by God

A. Ephesians 2:8,9 [Matthew Henry - “Our faith, our conversion, and our eternal salvation, are not the mere product of any natural abilities, nor of any merit of our own: *Not of works, lest any man should boast*, Ephesians 2:9. These things are not brought to pass by anything done by us, and therefore all boasting is excluded. He who glories must not glory in himself, but in the Lord.]

B. John 3:3

C. Philippians 1:29 [We were dead in trespasses and sins - Ephesians 2:1]

II. Great faith is childlike - Matthew 18:1-4 [John Gill - “unless ye learn to entertain an humble, and modest opinion of yourselves, are not envious at one another, and drop all contentions about primacy and pre-eminence, and

all your ambitious views of one being greater than another, in a vainly expected temporal kingdom.”]

- A. Innocent - [In what way? Willing submission to a heavenly Father - wanton and willful continuing in sin doesn't characterize the believer - we are repentant when confronted, although not always immediately]
- B. Obedient - Tending his father's sheep - I Samuel 16:11; 17-21 [Not daydreaming about being the king of Israel]
- C. Loving - I Samuel 16:21-23 [Loving both Saul and the LORD (music and God's Spirit upon him)]

Examples in your journey?

III. Great faith is tested - I Samuel 17:1-11

- A. By circumstances - vv. 34, 35 [Fearless in the face of danger, trusting in the One who protects]
- B. By friends - his brothers - vv. 26-28 [Why this rejection?]
- C. By enemies - Goliath - vv. 3-11 [40 days of taunting - “dismayed” in verse 11 is literally “shattered, broken, terrified” - Where was Israel's giant/champion? Saul - fearful - abandoned - 16:14]

IV. Great faith is zealous for the one true God [Here are my favorite verses - the OT version of the humble hero taking on and calling out the forces of darkness that we see in the movies, like Gary Cooper in High Noon]

- A. His person and name - vv. 36, 37;
- B. His glory - vv. 41-47 [John Trapp - “David letteth fly here at his adversary, no otherwise than as if he had wrapped up in his sling, not a stone, but the blessed God himself, if I may say so with reverence to his Majesty.”] - We should have a zeal for God - according to righteousness: Psalm 139:19-22 - How would you like to hear a message on those verses?

V. Great faith trusts the God who provides deliverance

- A. Skills - v. 40 - Psalm 144:1
- B. Past providences - vv. 34, 35; He would later sing, Ps. 23:4 [John Trapp - “He who hath found God present in one extremity, may trust him in the next. Every sensible favour of the Almighty inviteth both his gifts and our trust.”]

VI. Great faith can predict future victory - vv. 46, 47

- VII. Great faith gives glory to God - doesn't boast
- A. In his anointing - [Could have let pride rule]
 - B. In his skills - Psalm 18:34 [Let God receive all the glory in your life, both in your greatest victories and in your smallest endeavors. You do a great job cleaning the house by His gifting you the willingness and perseverance and strength and skill- D. Skinner.]
- VIII. Great faith is used mightily of God - vv. 48-53
- A. Moves mountains [Slays the giants - Examples? - soul winning, prayer, using gifts]
 - B. Encourages others [Barnabas] Who has been your encourager?
 - C. Rebukes others [Jesus, Paul, Luther, your best friend?]
- IX. Great faith is rewarded by God - I Samuel 18:1-5 [Thomas Adams - "It is the office of faith to believe what we do not see, and it shall be the reward of faith to see what we do believe."] [II Timothy 4:8] David will soon (in God's timing) be crowned.
- X. Great faith is patient - Psalm 27:14; Isaiah 40:31
- A. Anointed 3 times [Samuel at 15 or so; by fellow Judahites in Hebron when he was 30; and by all of Israel 7 years later]
 - B. Waited 15 years to be king
 - C. Didn't shortcut his destiny [Great trials and temptations made it possible, but he rejected the opportunities (killing Saul)]

[APPLICATION: Our key verse I Samuel 16:7, "the LORD looks on/at the heart." What does He see in me? Am I David the Greatheart, or am I fearful, meek and mild, afraid of the Goliaths in my life? II Timothy 4:7 "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."]