

As a king he said he ruled, "In the fear of God" (2 Sam. 23:3)

As an old and dying man he said to his son Solomon, "show yourself a man, and observe what the Lord your God requires"(I Kn. 2:2).

A French soldier wounded in battle was having a bullet dug out of his chest by a military surgeon. The probe went deep and the boy said, "Dig any deeper and you will find Napoleon."

God was everything to David! He saw God in the stars as a shepherd looking at the beautiful Bethlehem sky. That's why he wrote, "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands...In the heavens he has pitched a tent for the sun" (Ps. 19:1, 4b).

He saw God in the Scriptures. That's why he probably most people follow Spurgeon and believe he wrote Ps. 119, the greatest tribute to the Bible ever penned. David built his life on the word of God. The One who delivered Israel from Egypt, he believed, could deliver him. The God who led Israel in the desert, he believed, could lead him.

The stars and the Scripture! These are God's two books. Read them young people! As a boy on a farm, as a king on the throne, and as a dying man in his bed, God was everything to David. He loved God. He feared God. He trusted God. And he obeyed God. He did this like every faithful child of God, in the face of many obstacles. He had:

STAYING POWER

The devil is strong. David faced many "Bathsheba" temptations when he was young. Every day young people hear the

world telling them to come over to their side. Satan defeats us and discourages us in perpetual attempts to drive us from the paths of God's will. As an adult David felt the pull to leave his responsibilities. He said in Ps. 5:5-6, "Oh, that I had the wings of a dove! I would fly away and be at rest." The easiest thing to do in life is run away. But it isn't the BEST.

Like every child of God he had obstacles to overcome and one was his **strong splendid mind and body** (16:12,18; 17:42; 17:34-35). Because of God's command not to look on the outside we are tempted to think of David as a puny little fellow easily overlooked as the "runt" of the litter. Nothing could be further from the truth. The five scriptures that describe young David tell us he was fair skinned, handsome, prudent in speech, had beautiful eyes and was a valiant warrior. (See the Amplified Bible) And you talk about strong! Listen to what he tells Saul about his shepherding, as THE LIVING BIBLE puts it.

"When I am taking care of my father's sheep . . . and a lion or bear comes and grabs a lamb from the flock, I go after it with a club and take the lamb from its mouth. If it turns on me I catch it by the jaw and club it to death. I have done this to both lions and bears." (17:34-35)

I like the way an African American preacher here in Anderson put it. He said "David was a man after God's own heart but "you'd better not mess with him. How right he was!

David faced *two obstacles* in his quest to be what God wanted him to be - a father who forgot him (16:10) and brother who made fun of him when he challenged them