

to fight a Goliath (17:28). These are not obstacles, they are incentives! Tell us we CAN'T do something and you will light a fire under most of us that will send us through hell and high water to do it out of pure spite.

David's greatest obstacles to serving God were his handsome features, his strong body and his outstanding mind. In I Cor. 1:26 Paul says of Christians that God does not call many who are wise by human standards. [Aren't you glad he didn't say "any"?]

One reason for this is that the wise, the influential, the handsome, the strong, the wealthy and the nobly born see little need for God in their lives. They are quite satisfied with what the world has to offer. Are you beautiful, handsome, popular, athletic, intelligent, wealthy, etc? You will be sorely tempted to make these things your gods.

A SUBMISSIVE WILL

All of David's excellent qualities would have been useless unless he submitted them to God. There are some fine Sunday School Teachers in every church who have never taught a class. There are some powerful witnesses who have never witnessed to anyone. There are some capable preachers who have never stood in a pulpit. Why is this? It is because they have not given who and what they are to the service of the Lord.

It is not enough to be good- we need to be good *for something*. We are to obey God's Scriptural will and His special will for each of us. If not, we will miss many of the blessings God has for us and others will miss the blessings God wanted to give to

them through us.

Ivan, the Czar of Russia put on a disguise and visited his subjects to see what kind of people they were. One night dressed as a beggar, he went from house to house in Moscow, asking for food and lodging. At every door he was turned away. His heart sank into deep depression as he saw the selfishness of his people.

At length, however, a poor man let him in. He was given bread, water and a bed of straw. The poor man said, "I'm sorry I can't do better but my wife and baby are in the next room sick and I don't even have the money for doctors." Ivan left, but later that day returned in his robes, with his soldiers and with his doctor. He cared for that family, educated that child and made that father and husband, a trusted official. When asked why, he said, "He has a heart that is true!" Can God say that of you and me?

Only one life, it will soon be past
Only what's done for God will last

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