

DAVID'S RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

Do you know what an executive secretary is? Very high corporate executives have very powerful secretaries if they are effective. How do they gain this power? By learning the mindset of the boss. If you work for very long, with the same executive, you learn how they would decide on most matters. The smaller decisions, the secretary usually goes ahead and decides for the boss so as not to bother them with the mundane. If completely trusted, the secretary has a signature stamp from the boss. The executive has more free time and a lot less papers to sign.

David is like God's executive secretary. He has learned how God thinks through trial and error. That takes faith to tackle something hard or dangerous expecting God's deliverance. It takes even more faith to look at it afterward and see God's hand in it. The following is David explaining to Saul how he expects God to deliver Goliath into his hands:

1 Sam. 17:32-39 "And David said to Saul, Let no man's heart fail because of him; thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine. And Saul said to David, Thou art not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him: for thou art but a youth, and he a man of war from his youth. And David said unto Saul, Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock: And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him. Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God. David said moreover, The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said unto David, Go, and the LORD be with thee."

While David starts running from Saul to preserve his life, we get some more hints about how well he knew God. David and a few of his men come to Nob:

1 Sam. 21:1-9 "Then came David to Nob to Ahimelech the priest: and Ahimelech was afraid at the meeting of David, and said unto him, Why art thou alone, and no man with thee? And David said unto Ahimelech the priest, The king hath commanded me a business, and hath said unto me, Let no man know any thing of the business whereabout I send thee, and what I

have commanded thee: and I have appointed my servants to such and such a place. Now therefore what is under thine hand? give me five loaves of bread in mine hand, or what there is present. And the priest answered David, and said, There is no common bread under mine hand, but there is hallowed bread; if the young men have kept themselves at least from women. And David answered the priest, and said unto him, Of a truth women have been kept from us about these three days, since I came out, and the vessels of the young men are holy, and the bread is in a manner common, yea, though it were sanctified this day in the vessel. So the priest gave him hallowed bread: for there was no bread there but the shewbread, that was taken from before the LORD, to put hot bread in the day when it was taken away. Now a certain man of the servants of Saul was there that day, detained before the LORD; and his name was Doeg, an Edomite, the chiefest of the herdmen that belonged to Saul. And David said unto Ahimelech, And is there not here under thine hand spear or sword? for I have neither brought my sword nor my weapons with me, because the king's business required haste. And the priest said, The sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom thou slewest in the valley of Elah, behold, it is here wrapped in a cloth behind the ephod: if thou wilt take that, take it: for there is no other save that here. And David said, There is none like that; give it me."

Now, how did David know God would allow him the day-old showbread so his men could keep going? Normally the day-old holy bread was eaten by the priests or burnt. Matt. 12:4 *"How he entered into the house of God, and did eat the shewbread, which was not lawful for him to eat, neither for them which were with him, but only for the priests?"* He knew because he was the executive secretary.

A side note here: David lied to the priests about being on a secret mission for the king to protect the priests from knowingly rendering aid to a fugitive. It did not do any good, Saul blamed and killed all the priests and their families anyway (1 Sam. 22:17-19). Nice guy, that Saul!

One time, Saul was out pursuing David when he took shelter in a cave. The same cave where David and his men were hiding. David secretly snuck up on the sleeping Saul and cut the skirt off his robe. *"And it came to pass afterward, that David's heart smote him, because he had cut off Saul's skirt. And he said unto his men, the Lord forbid that I should do this thing unto my master, the Lord's anointed, to stretch forth mine hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of the Lord. So David stayed his servants*

with these words, and suffered them not to rise against Saul. But Saul rose up out of the cave, and went on his way. David also arose afterward, and went out of the cave, and cried after Saul, saying, my lord the king. And when Saul looked behind him, David stooped with his face to the earth, and bowed himself” (I Samuel 24:5-8).

David had his chance to kill his adversary, but he didn't take it. Instead, he showed Saul how he was not looking to harm him. *"And David said to Saul, wherefore hearest thou men's words, saying, behold, David seeketh thy hurt? Behold, this day thine eyes have seen how that the Lord had delivered thee to day into mine hand in the cave: And some bade me kill thee: But mine eye spared thee; and I said, I will not put forth mine hand against my lord; for he is the Lord's anointed”* (I Samuel 24:9,10). Even after Saul was rejected by God, David still considered him appointed by God. Therefore, David would refuse to strip Saul of the kingship. He figured it was God's place to do that.

A little later, Saul was again delivered into David's hand. David took Saul's spear and water cruse while he slept. The next morning David hollered from an adjacent hill at Abner, Saul's general, chiding him for not protecting his king. Then he shows them the spear, and Saul repents for dealing falsely with David (see 1 Sam. 26:5-25). He bid David to come home, but David decided to go his own way.

David and his men went home to Ziklag. *"And it came to pass, when David and his men were come to Ziklag on the third day, that the Amalekites had invaded the south, and Ziklag, and smitten Ziklag, and burned it with fire; and had taken the women captives, that were therein: They slew not any, either great or small, but carried them away, and went on their way. So David and his men came to the city, and, behold, it was burned with fire; and their wives, and their sons, and their daughters, were taken captives. Then David and the people that were with him lifted up their voice and wept, until they had no more power to weep. And David's two wives were taken captives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the wife of Nabal the Carmelite. And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: But David encouraged himself in the Lord his God”* (I Samuel 30:1-6). Then David did the right thing. He asked a priest to inquire of God.

This is serious, should the secretary decide this for himself? No, better to ask. *"And David enquired at the Lord, saying, shall I pursue after this troop? Shall I overtake them? And he answered him, pursue: For thou shalt surely overtake them, and without fail recover all. So David went, he and the six hundred men that were with him, and came to the brook Besor, where those that were left behind stayed. But David pursued, he and four hundred men: For two hundred abode behind, which were so faint that they could not go over the brook Besor"* (I Samuel 30:8-10). The Lord said: you got too much help, son.

What was the outcome? David then met an Egyptian that had provisions and had escaped from the Amalekites. Then the Egyptian led them to the camped Amalekites. *"And David smote them from the twilight even unto the evening of the next day: And there escaped not a man of them, save four hundred young men, which rode upon camels, and fled. And David recovered all that the Amalekites had carried away: And David rescued his two wives. And there was nothing lacking to them, neither small nor great, neither sons nor daughters, neither spoil, nor any thing that they had taken to them: David recovered all"* (I Samuel 30:17-19). Can you imagine? David recovered all! That is God working for us.

Even though Saul was a self-proclaimed enemy of David, David never gave up his allegiance to Saul as the leader of Israel. David also loved Saul's son Jonathan. How does David respond to new of their deaths?

2 Sam. 1:11, 12 *"Then David took hold on his clothes, and rent them; and likewise all the men that were with him: And they mourned, and wept, and fasted until even, for Saul, and for Jonathan his son, and for the people of the LORD, and for the house of Israel; because they were fallen by the sword."*

The Amalekite that killed the wounded Saul and retrieved the crown and royal bracelet, for David thinking he was doing service to David, was dealt with. He was also obeying Saul who asked him to finish him off (2 Sam. 1:9). How was he dealt with?

2 Sam. 1:14-16 *"And David said unto him, How wast thou not afraid to stretch forth thine hand to destroy the LORD'S anointed? And David called one of the young men, and said, Go near, and fall upon him. And he smote him that he died. And David said unto him, Thy blood be upon thy head;*

for thy mouth hath testified against thee, saying, I have slain the LORD'S anointed." David's way of thinking: a man should not undo an act of God like destroy His king.

Now, I will show how David deemed God's hand in all things pertaining to him; even the bad things.

Psalms 39:9-13 "I was dumb, I opened not my mouth; because thou didst it. Remove thy stroke away from me: I am consumed by the blow of thine hand. When thou with rebukes dost correct man for iniquity, thou makest his beauty to consume away like a moth: surely every man is vanity. Selah. Hear my prayer, O LORD, and give ear unto my cry; hold not thy peace at my tears: for I am a stranger with thee, and a sojourner, as all my fathers were. O spare me, that I may recover strength, before I go hence, and be no more."

David also accepted God's decisions once he could do nothing more. Like when he fasted to save the first child by Bathsheba. Once the child died, he left off his grieving.

2 Sam. 12:21-23 "Then said his servants unto him, What thing is this that thou hast done? thou didst fast and weep for the child, while it was alive; but when the child was dead, thou didst rise and eat bread. And he said, While the child was yet alive, I fasted and wept: for I said, Who can tell whether GOD will be gracious to me, that the child may live? But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me."

How did the Lord approach David after David arranged for Uriah to be killed in battle to cover for his affair with Bathsheba? He appealed to David's sense of justice.

2 Sam. 12:1-6 "And the LORD sent Nathan unto David. And he came unto him, and said unto him, There were two men in one city; the one rich, and the other poor. The rich man had exceeding many flocks and herds: But the poor man had nothing, save one little ewe lamb, which he had bought and nourished up: and it grew up together with him, and with his children; it did eat of his own meat, and drank of his own cup, and lay in his bosom, and was unto him as a daughter. And there came a traveller unto the rich man, and he spared to take of his own flock and of his own herd, to dress

for the wayfaring man that was come unto him; but took the poor man's lamb, and dressed it for the man that was come to him. And David's anger was greatly kindled against the man; and he said to Nathan, As the LORD liveth, the man that hath done this thing shall surely die: And he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity."

Now, Nathan lowers the boom and tells David he just passed sentence on himself.

2 Sam. 12:7-12 *"And Nathan said to David, Thou art the man. Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I anointed thee king over Israel, and I delivered thee out of the hand of Saul; And I gave thee thy master's house, and thy master's wives into thy bosom, and gave thee the house of Israel and of Judah; and if that had been too little, I would moreover have given unto thee such and such things. Wherefore hast thou despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in his sight? thou hast killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and hast taken his wife to be thy wife, and hast slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon. **Now therefore the sword shall never depart from thine house;** because thou hast despised me, and hast taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be thy wife. Thus saith the LORD, Behold, **I will raise up evil against thee out of thine own house, and I will take thy wives before thine eyes, and give them unto thy neighbour, and he shall lie with thy wives in the sight of this sun.** For thou didst it secretly: but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun."*

David had brought this curse upon himself. He sealed his fate about ever having peace during his lifetime. He also will remain celibate, in his old age, due to the fact his wives were had by someone else. Nathan then tells David that the child by Bathsheba will die. Later it is David's own son, Absalom, that rebelled and supplanted David as king and then defiles his wives. David flees into hiding for a time, but the Lord makes sure he has friends to help him get his kingdom back. We start to see David as just a man no different than any of us except he tried his best to think like the Lord. You finally start to see God's love when you really seek his mindset. God also shares His power over darkness and mishap with His ultimate reign over His creation. Nothing gets by God, He is always on top of matters.

Psalms 91:7 "A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee."

Our God can make these promises and keep them. How do we make sure we are always like David seeking the Lord before all else? I think David's key was to fix his heart, to always follow and serve the Lord. That means David decided one day to make all of tomorrow's decisions on that day. From then on, he did not allow himself a choice to serve God or not. He called it fixing his heart. He won't give himself the privilege of waking up one day and saying I am done with God. No, we can't think like that. That is why we can call ourselves already saved even though we are not yet immortal. We are prophesying our future. That is what God does when He calls the things that are not as though they were (Rom. 4:17).

Psa. 57:7 "My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is fixed: I will sing and give praise."

Psa. 108:1 "A Song or Psalm of David. O God, my heart is fixed; I will sing and give praise, even with my glory."

Psa. 112:7 "He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is fixed, trusting in the LORD."

A fixed heart is not the same as a clean heart. Sin can sidetrack us and fill our hearts with darkness. But if we have made the proper sacrifice and given ourselves completely to God, we can call for Him to clean up our dirtied hearts. He is faithful to answer.

Psa. 51:10, 11 "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me."