

# The Brown Street Beacon

*"...Shine out among them like beacon lights,  
holding out to them the Word of Life" (Phil 2:15-16)*



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## David, a Man after God's Own Heart

In Acts 13 David received a most high compliment. God says that David was a man after His own heart (Acts 13:21-22). Wouldn't it be wonderful to receive such a compliment? The truth is it is within our power. We can be the kind of Christians that are men and women after God's own heart. In fact, it should be the aim of each one of us to be after God's own heart. Let's take a look at some of the qualities that helped David to be such a man.

### What Was Not Involved

1. A perfect life - David was not without his sins. He made his share of mistakes during the course of his life. Perhaps the most familiar one was when he committed adultery with Bathsheba (2 Sam. 11:1-4). This was no small mistake that David made. He gave in to the lust of the eyes and that led to the giving in to the lust of the flesh. But adultery was not the end of his sinful ways in this matter. After learning that Bathsheba had become pregnant, David arranged the death of her husband Uriah to cover his sin (2 Sam. 11:14-17, 26-27). No, David did not live a perfect life.

2. His physical appearance - David was a very handsome man (1 Sam. 16:12). But God is not now, nor has He ever been, interested in mere outward appearance. God is concerned with the inner man, that is, with what kind of heart we have. *"But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart"* (1 Sam 16:7). Many other New Testament passages teach us the same thing. Read 1 Tim. 4:7, 8; 1 Pet. 3:3, 4).

### What Was Involved

1. **David loved God's law (Psa. 119:97).** When we really love doing something, it is hard to put it away. We like to be involved with it and spend time with it. We even budget our time so that we will have opportunity to do whatever it is we love to do. Shouldn't that be the way we love God's Word? Shouldn't we look forward to time we can spend with God's Word. We should even arrange our schedules so that we can spend more time learning and understanding it. The more time we spend with the Word, the more we will love and appreciate it (Josh. 1:8; Psa. 1:1-3).

2. **David hid the Word in his heart (Psa. 119:11).** If we are to be like David, that is, a people after God's own heart; a people that God takes delight in, we too must hide the Word in our hearts (Col. 3:16). The mind is like a computer (really a computer is like the mind). It stores information. This is why we should regulate what goes into the mind (Phil. 4:8; Col. 3:1, 2). But it is not

enough to simply keep the trash of the world out of our minds, we have to fill it back up with the Word. When we neglect to do so, sin is just around the corner (Heb. 2:1-3).

**3. David was humble.** In 1 Sam. 16:11-13, David learned that he would be king. In 1 Sam. 17:15, 20, however, we find David going back to tend the sheep. Would you tend the sheep if you knew you were the future king of Israel? David was humble, and God likes that in a person (Jas. 4:6-10; Phil. 2:5-9). The ultimate sign of a fool is arrogance (Prov. 28:26).

**4. David put his confidence in God (1 Sam. 17:1-51).** One of the great children's Bible stories that teach grown-up lessons is the story of David and Goliath. Goliath was a huge man, skill in physical warfare. He had experienced many victories on the battlefield and when he challenged the Israelite soldiers to fight, there were no takers. But when David came from his father's house and heard what Goliath was saying, defying the armies of God, he took Goliath's challenge. His oldest brother thought it was a matter of pride on David's part, but his confidence was not in himself, it was in God. He knew that God would deliver him (vers. 34-37). Now, we fight against a bigger foe than Goliath. We fight against Satan, against principalities and powers in high places (Eph. 6:12). If we are to be delivered, we must, like David before us, put our confidence in God and not in ourselves.

Let's follow the example of David and be people after God's own heart. Let's be a people of whom God will not be ashamed to be called their God (Heb. 11:16).

*Don*

## Four Elements of a Grace-Based Marriage

*Gary and Barbara Rosberg*

**T**here are four things that if you take in and adjust even 10 degrees, you can be on the path to having a wonderfully connected, grace-filled marriage where there is love within the home.

### 1. Accept Differences

We hear this a lot, but it's not always easy to put into practice. Just because it's difficult doesn't cancel out its importance - the first thing that we need to do to create homes filled with grace is to give our mates room to be different. Your husband is not your girlfriend, nor do you want him to be. You want him to be masculine and winsome and romantic. But a man is going to express himself differently than you, my dear sister in Christ. He is not a woman and, indeed, you are not a man.

### 2. Be Vulnerable

In a grace-based home both spouses need to be vulnerable with the other. That means taking off our masks, owning up to our hurts, and taking responsibility in areas we've been critical, harsh, or where we have been authoritarian instead of grace-based.

### 3. Allow Mistakes

When we work on our marriages, introducing new skills and truths into our relationship, sometimes we fool ourselves into expecting perfection. Your home needs to be a place where you allow your mate to make mistakes. In a grace-based home my mate is not going to be perfect, but in realizing that, I realize my mate is not my enemy. My mate is the love of my life. Where do you need to go back to your mate and say, "I came down on you too hard, will you forgive me? You can make mistakes, because I've made mistakes too." In all these areas -- allowing differences, vulnerabilities, and mistakes we must be candid.

#### **4. Tell The Truth**

We are told in the scripture to always tell the truth, but that we must also surround it with love. In your candidness, make sure your mate always comes out feeling stronger, that opportunities will always come forth, that you are their best cheerleader, but also that you are truthful. Remember, when telling the truth is difficult, you tell the truth because Jesus tells us to take the gird, the belt of truth and wear it. Telling the truth in love will create a genuineness in your marriage that will make your mate feel secure. The truth is part of loving someone deeply.

When you demonstrate these four elements, you will have a connected marriage and a grace-based home.