

8-19-18
GOD LOOKS ON THE HEART

I Samuel 16:6 And it came to pass, when they were come, that he looked on Eliab, and said, Surely the LORD'S anointed is before him.

I Samuel 16:7 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.

I Samuel 16:8 Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, Neither hath the LORD chosen this.

I Samuel 16:9 Then Jesse made Shammah to pass by. And he said, Neither hath the LORD chosen this.

I Samuel 16:10 Again, Jesse made seven of his sons to pass before Samuel. And Samuel said unto Jesse, The LORD hath not chosen these.

I Samuel 16:11 And Samuel said unto Jesse, Are here all thy children? And he said, There remaineth yet the youngest, and, behold, he keepeth the sheep. And Samuel said unto Jesse, Send and fetch him: for we will not sit down till he come hither.

I Samuel 16:12 And he sent, and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and withal of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look to. And the LORD said, Arise, anoint him: for this is he.

I Samuel 16:13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah.

I Samuel 16:14 But the spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him.

In this account in I Samuel we find quite a contrast between King Saul and King David. When Samuel anointed Saul it says,

I Samuel 10:23 And they ran and fetched him thence: and when he stood among the people, he was higher than any of the people from his shoulders and upward.

I Samuel 10:24 And Samuel said to all the people, See ye him whom the LORD hath chosen, that there is none like him among all the people? And all the people shouted, and said, God save the king.

When Saul was chosen to be King he looked the part. He stood taller than any of the other people.

When God choose David, he didn't look like a king, but the Lord told Samuel, "the Lord does not look at the outward appearance. He looks at the heart." The Lesson we need to remember is that God is still looking at men's hearts.

REMEMBER THAT GOD LOOKS AT THE HEART.

My first impressions as I read this passage concerning David as a young man:

No one, including David's parents, could envision this little boy as ever being King material. As I thought on that I realized that God does not see us just as we are today, but He sees what our hearts will make us in the future.

I. GOD DOES NOT SEE US WHERE WE ARE BUT WHERE WE WILL BE:

I Samuel 16:7 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.

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1. WHEN SAMUEL FIRST SAW DAVID, DAVID DID NOT LOOK LIKE A CANDIDATE FOR KING.

Samuel was looking for a candidate now, not 15-20 years down the road, depending on how old David was at this time. But obviously he was too young to be considered a legitimate candidate for King!

Probably he was too young to have a beard, because the Bible said he was Ruddy... meaning Rosie red checks, and beautiful countenance, no one thinks of a man with a beard as beautiful. A healthy looking young man, with a bright eyed, beautiful countenance that no one would respect for King material. A king needs to look austere, important, a man to be feared, and revered. Saul looked like a King. He was tall and rugged looking and had a royal look about him. David, at this point, didn't look the part.

God saw in David not as he was then, but as he looked at his heart he noted what he could be and would be in a few years.

2. SO TOO, GOD DOES NOT SEE US AS WE ARE BUT AS WE SOMEDAY SHALL BE.

Revelation 1:5 And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,

Revelation 1:6 And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Young people, God sees your heart and is looking for a young person to use someday in the future. He sees what you are when no one else is around.

What was David doing when he was shepherding those sheep in the wilderness all by himself?

- A. He was practicing singing to the Lord.
That's how he got to be so good on the harp.
Meditating on Scripture.
- B. He was practicing fighting the devil.
That's how he got so good with the sling shot.

God apparently took pleasure in the secret activities of this young man.

God sees what we are when no one else is looking or sees us.

I Samuel 13:14 But now thy kingdom shall not continue: the LORD hath sought him a man after his own heart, and the LORD hath commanded him to be captain over his people, because thou hast not kept that which the LORD commanded thee.

God saw in David the kind of young person that was after His own heart.

When did God call Frank Bissol to preach?

Jeremiah 1:5 Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.

When I was a little boy practicing my accordion, I remember thinking about how much I hated the devil. I started thinking about the devil, and then right there, no one could see me, I took off my accordion and said ok devil put em up. I'm going to give you a bloody nose.

My father had bought me and my brother boxing gloves that Christmas and I can't recall but maybe I got the idea of putting those gloves on and going a few round with the devil.

You know what I think? I gave the devil a bloody nose that day and my guardian angels reported the fight to the Lord and He said, put him in the Elkdale Baptist Church someday and let him fight the devil there, and play his accordion at fellowships downstairs.

You see, back then I am sure, if I was the child I was back then and lived today they would say I had A.D.D. Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder and needed to be on meds. But God saw something in me to call me to preach.

YOUNG PEOPLE, GOD SEES YOUR HEART. WHAT YOU IMAGINE, WHAT YOU DAYDREAM ABOUT, WHAT YOU THINK ABOUT, EVEN WHAT YOU PRETEND AND PLAY!

Parents, this is why we should even watch what toys we buy our children.

Proverbs 20:11 Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure, and whether it be right.

God is looking for young people today just like David. He is looking not at what you are on the outside now, but what is in your heart and what you can be for Him.

3. NOTE WHAT GOD SAW IN KING DAVID THAT MADE HIM A MAN AFTER HIS OWN HEART:

Speaking about the Character of David, Arthur Pink writes the following in his book, The Life of David:

1. His very name signifies "The Beloved".
2. He was an inhabitant of Bethlehem, was ordained to point to that place where the Darling of God's heart was to be born Mic. 5:2.
3. His "Beautiful Countenance" I Sam 16:13, spoke of him who is fairer than the children of men.
4. His occupation as a shepherd foreshadowed the peculiar relation of Christ to God's elect and intimated the nature of His redemptive work.

5. His faithful discharge of the pastoral office forecast the love and fidelity of the great shepherd.
 6. His lowly occupation before he ascended, ascended the throne prefigured the humiliation prior to his glorious exaltation.
 7. His victory over Goliath symbolized the triumph of Christ over the great enemy of God and His people.
 8. His perfecting of Israel's worship and instituting of a new ecclesiastical establishment anticipated Christ as the Head and the Law giver of His Church.
 9. In his anointing we see the most notifiable feature of being a man after God's own heart. The very name CHRIST means the anointed one.
 10. Though Saul was anointed first, he was a man after the peoples heart, so too, the anti-Christ will be received as King first. Sauls anointing was a dark foreboding of the antichrist, who comes in his own name and the people will like him and receive him.
 11. David, like Jesus, was ousted from Israel, and later after the King after their own heart (Saul) is destroyed through his own rebellion and sorceries than that King who is indeed a man after God's own heart is received and anointed.
4. THE BEST EXAMPLE OF WHAT IT IS TO BE A PERSON AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART IS WRAPPED UP IN THE PERSON OF CHRIST.

When I got saved, I saw many people who portrayed the person of Christ in their lives.

Nothing more powerful than having people see Jesus in you.

When you fall in love with Christ and become like Christ, you become a person after God's own heart.

- A. What is it to be born again but to have the image of Christ impressed into your heart and life.
- B. The Christians were first called Christians at Antioch because they were so Christlike in their actions.
- C. The more we become like Christ the more people we will see our salvation.

II Corinthians 3:2 Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men:

I John 4:17 Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.

- D. We become like Christ when God places His spirit in our hearts and we become partakers of the New Covenant:

Romans 2:28 For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh:

Romans 2:29 But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.

II Corinthians 3:5 Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God;

II Corinthians 3:6 Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.

II Corinthians 3:7 But if the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not stedfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which glory was to be done away:

II Corinthians 3:8 How shall not the ministration of the spirit be rather glorious?

II Corinthians 3:9 For if the ministration of condemnation be glory, much more doth the ministration of righteousness exceed in glory.

Jeremiah 31:31 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:

Jeremiah 31:32 Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD:

Jeremiah 31:33 But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Jeremiah 31:34 And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

I remember years ago when I first got saved, I visited B.B.C. still looking a bit rough around the edges, but God changed my heart. The next year He even changed my outward appearance. I had people come up to me and say we are so glad that you got saved. Did I get offended? No. Why? Because God knows my heart, and if your heart is right nothing will offend you. How sad it is that we also only judge from the outward appearance.

Psalms 119:165 Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.

In Bible college, people get confused hearing one thing then another, but the most important thing is the heart because my trust is not in the teaching of men but in the teaching of God.

Only those things that we do from the heart count before God.

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II Corinthians 3:8 How shall not the ministration of the spirit be rather glorious?

Until God takes the pen of his Spirit and engraves into your heart the word of God and the application of that word to your life, nothing will happen.

How can you explain away how some people have their lives totally transformed by the word of God and others can hear and hear and nothing happens?

How many Pastor's kids heard it and heard it then reject it? The problem is a problem of the heart.

Oh open your heart to that voice of the Holy Spirit.

Hebrews 3:15 While it is said, Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.

Has Jesus come into your heart?

The greatest thing that Christ did to draw us to Himself was wrapped up in the sacrificial death He paid for us on the cross.

As Christians gave their lives in the early church, the old saying is true:
the blood of the Martyrs is the seed of the church.

If a person's heart could not be stirred by the truth that God's Son died for their sins, then what could stir it.

We, who are sinners, think of that supreme sacrifice that made it possible for us to have salvation.

John 12:31 Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out.

John 12:32 And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.

John 12:33 This he said, signifying what death he should die.

MESSAGE II
A FORMULA FOR HEART MAINTENANCE

I Samuel 16:7 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.

I. SINCE GOD LOOKS AT THE HEART WE NEED TO BE SURE TO GUARD OUR HEARTS:

Proverbs 4:20 My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings.
Proverbs 4:21 Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart.
Proverbs 4:22 For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.
Proverbs 4:23 Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.
Proverbs 4:24 Put away from thee a froward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee.
Proverbs 4:25 Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee.
Proverbs 4:26 Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established.
Proverbs 4:27 Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil.

1. The best thing we can pursue is to be keepers of our hearts.

Proverbs 4:23 Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.

Ever notice how when buildings are left vacant they fall apart. Gone for 2 and a half weeks, note dust all over place in office, if you don't do regular maintenance on things they deteriorate and get dirty and fall apart. Vehicles the same, building the same, and your heart is the same.

All you have to do to see your heart corrupt and get dirty is put your life in neutral and go with the flow. It take regular maintenance to keep your heart.

Car needs regular maintenance, change oil, check oil, fluids, antifreeze, tires, gas. So our hearts need regular maintenance.

2. BE CAREFUL YOU DON'T LISTEN TO PEOPLE WHO TELL YOU TO SLACK OFF:

Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

II. WHAT IS A GOOD MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE FOR YOUR HEART?

Proverbs 4:23 Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.

The word of God is to your heart what oil is to your car engine.

Psalms 119:104 Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way.
Psalms 119:105 {Nun.} Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

A. KEEP YOUR HEART FILLED WITH THE WORD OF GOD:

a. Personal time of Bible reading every day.

- b. Formal time of Bible teaching in Church, 3 times a week we meet. That's not too much, skimp on your oil changes and in the long run you will notice it. Not right away, it takes time. It takes time to become run down. It takes time to be built up!

B. KEEP YOUR HEART FILLED WITH THE HOLY GHOST THROUGH PRAYER!

The Holy Ghost is to your heart what gas is to your engine.

Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

What were they told to do in Jerusalem?

A while back I had a vehicle that had a faulty gas gage. I would run out of gas. My gas gage said I had a quarter of a tank.

Lot of people run out of gas spiritually because they think they are alright. One of the most deceptive things that we do is to compare ourselves with the world, and then we think we are ok.

Ephesians 5:18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;
Ephesians 5:19 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;
Ephesians 5:20 Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

Galatians 5:16 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.
Galatians 5:17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

1. Prayer and being filled with the Spirit go hand in hand.

Luke 11:13 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

2. Good music and being filled with the Holy Spirit go hand in hand.

Ephesians 5:19 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;
Ephesians 5:20 Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

Rock & Roll Music and Christian rock, I believe, quenches the spirit of God. Music will affect your spirit, it is a scientific fact. It has been proven in experiments that the wrong kind of music will hurt you intellectually and spiritually.

III. WE KEEP OUR HEART BY BEING CAREFUL THAT WE ARE CLOTHED WITH HUMILITY.

James 4:6 But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

I Peter 5:5 Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

Paul the Apostle:

II Corinthians 12:7 And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.

II Corinthians 12:8 For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me.

II Corinthians 12:9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

II Corinthians 12:10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

I Corinthians 8:1 Now as touching things offered unto idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth.

Reason God could bless David was he was a man after God's own heart. He was a man of humility.

Psalms 51:17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

We can become proud of our Scripture knowledge,
We can become arrogant and haughty even in the work of God.

Nothing corrupts the heart more than pride:

Pride is called as the sin which caused the condemnation of the devil.

I Timothy 3:6 Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.

Note what Paul said about his own preaching:

I Corinthians 1:31 That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.

I Corinthians 2:1 And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God.

I Corinthians 2:2 For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.

I Corinthians 2:3 And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling.

I Corinthians 2:4 And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:

I Corinthians 2:5 That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.

Never ceases to amaze me when God uses one of messages.

Forget notes - sometimes preach a message has nothing to do with a person's need and they apply it to that area.

We need to keep a guard around our hearts..

We do that by keeping regular maintenance over our hearts.

- I. BE CAREFUL YOU MAINTAIN A DILIGENT VIGIL OVER YOUR HEART.***
- II. BE DILIGENT IN THE ARE OF PRIVATE AND PUBLIC BIBLE STUDY & PRAYER.***
- III. BE DILIGENT TO GUARD AGAINST PRIDE.***

Proverbs 4:23 Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.