

David a Man of Faith

Heb 11:32-34

32 ¶ And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: 33 who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, 34 quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. NKJV

David is one of the few characters in the Bible that we have almost a complete picture of his life. From the time he was a youth until the day of his death, most of what he did is chronicled in either the books of 1 & 2 Samuel 1 Chronicles, or the Psalms.

He is also mentioned in many of the other books of the Bible. And here in Hebrews we get only a snippet of him. And here it has to do with David's faith that "subdued kingdoms, work righteousness, obtained promises, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness was made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens." Do you realize that in David's short forty year reign he did what no leader before him had done, not even Joshua. He defeated all the people in the land that opposed Israel and subdued even those as far away as Damascus who had afflicted Israel over the last 450 years. He essentially brought in a period of peace that would last for 40 years through the reign of Solomon.

How was he able to do this. The book of Hebrews indicates it was by faith. Faith is more than believing the impossible. Faith is laying hold of God, in His very person. David's life had been spent in reliance on God.

- I. David had faith when he was young.
 - A. Do you know that they tell us that most people who become Christians do that before they turn 18.
 1. That if a person does not turn to God when he is young, that the probability of them doing so later is about only 1 in 5.
 2. 80 % of people who become Christians do so before they turn 18.
 3. Ec 12:1 Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, Before the difficult days come, And the years draw near when you say, "I have no pleasure in them":
 - B. David as a young man out in the wilderness watching the flock of sheep defended them against a lion and a bear.
 1. He did not think it was from him but from God.
 2. 1 Sam 17: 34 But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep his father's sheep, and when a lion or a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock, 35 I went out after it and struck it, and delivered the lamb from its

mouth; and when it arose against me, I caught it by its beard, and struck and killed it. 36 "Your servant has killed both lion and bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, seeing he has defied the armies of the living God." 37 Moreover David said, "The LORD, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine."

3. David was not some pretentious 16 year old but was confident in his God.
4. That is faith.
5. Do you have that faith.

II. David had faith when plotted against by the king.

A. On several occasions David was forced to flee to preserve his life.

1. He was chased by Saul all over the Judean wilderness.
2. He suffered much at the hands of Saul.

B. But David knew that Saul had been chosen by God to be king and would not kill him even when he had the opportunity to do so.

1. 1 Sam 24: 3 So he came to the sheepfolds by the road, where there was a cave; and Saul went in to attend to his needs. (David and his men were staying in the recesses of the cave.) 4 Then the men of David said to him, "This is the day of which the LORD said to you, 'Behold, I will deliver your enemy into your hand, that you may do to him as it seems good to you.'" And David arose and secretly cut off a corner of Saul's robe. 5 Now it happened afterward that David's heart troubled him because he had cut Saul's robe. 6 And he said to his men, "The LORD forbid that I should do this thing to my master, the LORD'S anointed, to stretch out my hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of the LORD." 7 So David restrained his servants with these words, and did not allow them to rise against Saul. And Saul got up from the cave and went on his way. 8 David also arose afterward, went out of the cave, and called out to Saul, saying, "My lord the king!" And when Saul looked behind him, David stooped with his face to the earth, and bowed down.

9 ¶ And David said to Saul: "Why do you listen to the words of men who say, 'Indeed David seeks your harm'?" 10 "Look, this day your eyes have seen that the LORD delivered you today into my hand in the cave, and someone urged me to kill you. But my eye spared you, and I said, 'I will not stretch out my hand against my lord, for he is the LORD'S anointed.'" 11 "Moreover, my father, see! Yes, see the corner of your robe in my hand! For in that I cut off the corner of your robe, and did not kill you, know and see that there is neither evil nor rebellion in my hand, and I

have not sinned against you. Yet you hunt my life to take it. 12 "Let the LORD judge between you and me, and let the LORD avenge me on you. But my hand shall not be against you.

2. 1 Sam 26:1 ¶ Now the Ziphites came to Saul at Gibeah, saying, "Is David not hiding in the hill of Hachilah, opposite Jeshimon?" 2 Then Saul arose and went down to the Wilderness of Ziph, having three thousand chosen men of Israel with him, to seek David in the Wilderness of Ziph. 3 And Saul encamped in the hill of Hachilah, which is opposite Jeshimon, by the road. But David stayed in the wilderness, and he saw that Saul came after him into the wilderness. 4 David therefore sent out spies, and understood that Saul had indeed come. 5 So David arose and came to the place where Saul had encamped. And David saw the place where Saul lay, and Abner the son of Ner, the commander of his army. Now Saul lay within the camp, with the people encamped all around him.

6 ¶ Then David answered, and said to Ahimelech the Hittite and to Abishai the son of Zeruiah, brother of Joab, saying, "Who will go down with me to Saul in the camp?" And Abishai said, "I will go down with you." 7 So David and Abishai came to the people by night; and there Saul lay sleeping within the camp, with his spear stuck in the ground by his head. And Abner and the people lay all around him. 8 Then Abishai said to David, "God has delivered your enemy into your hand this day. Now therefore, please, let me strike him at once with the spear, right to the earth; and I will not have to strike him a second time!" 9 And David said to Abishai, "Do not destroy him; for who can stretch out his hand against the LORD'S anointed, and be guiltless?" 10 David said furthermore, "As the LORD lives, the LORD shall strike him, or his day shall come to die, or he shall go out to battle and perish. 11 "The LORD forbid that I should stretch out my hand against the LORD'S anointed. But please, take now the spear and the jug of water that are by his head, and let us go." 12 So David took the spear and the jug of water by Saul's head, and they got away; and no man saw it or knew it or awoke. For they were all asleep, because a deep sleep from the LORD had fallen on them.

13 ¶ Now David went over to the other side, and stood on the top of a hill afar off, a great distance being between them. 14 And David called out to the people and to Abner the son of Ner, saying, "Do you not answer, Abner?" Then Abner answered and said, "Who are you, calling out to the king?" 15 So David said to Abner, "Are you not a man? And who is like you in Israel? Why then have you not guarded your lord the king? For one of the people came in to destroy your lord the king. 16 "This thing that you have done is not good. As the LORD lives, you deserve to die, because you have not guarded your master, the LORD'S anointed. And now see where the king's spear is, and the jug of water that was by his

head." 17 Then Saul knew David's voice, and said, "Is that your voice, my son David?" And David said, "It is my voice, my lord, O king." 18 And he said, "Why does my lord thus pursue his servant? For what have I done, or what evil is in my hand? 19 "Now therefore, please, let my lord the king hear the words of his servant: If the LORD has stirred you up against me, let Him accept an offering. But if it is the children of men, may they be cursed before the LORD, for they have driven me out this day from sharing in the inheritance of the LORD, saying, 'Go, serve other gods.' 20 "So now, do not let my blood fall to the earth before the face of the LORD. For the king of Israel has come out to seek a flea, as when one hunts a partridge in the mountains."

C. There are several things to notice in these passages.

1. David would not take matters into his own hands to destroy Saul.
2. David did not hate Saul although Saul sought his life.
3. David would not listen to counsel that went contrary to what he knew was God's will.
4. As far as David was concerned, Saul was God's problem, not his.

D. David's faith always kept him from doing rash things.

1. When David was later made king and Saul's son tried to take over for his father, David eventually had the man put to death who claimed to have killed him.
2. He never stuck out in revenge, even against his son Absalom who also tried to kill him and take over the kingdom.

III. David's faith kept him close to God

A. David wrote hundreds of Psalms, many of them in our Bible.

1. These psalms were a testimony of God's faithfulness and righteousness and everything else about God.
2. Psa 11:1 ¶ To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David. In the LORD I put my trust; How can you say to my soul, "Flee as a bird to your mountain"? 2 For look! The wicked bend their bow, They make ready their arrow on the string, That they may shoot secretly at the upright in heart. 3 If the foundations are destroyed, What can the righteous do?

4 ¶ The LORD is in His holy temple, The LORD'S throne is in heaven; His eyes behold, His eyelids test the sons of men. 5 The LORD tests the righteous, But the wicked and the one who loves violence His soul hates. 6 Upon the wicked He will rain coals; Fire and brimstone and a burning wind Shall be the portion of their cup. 7 For the LORD is righteous, He loves

righteousness; His countenance beholds the upright.

3. Psa 13:1 ¶ To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David. How long, O LORD? Will You forget me forever? How long will You hide Your face from me? 2 How long shall I take counsel in my soul, Having sorrow in my heart daily? How long will my enemy be exalted over me? 3 Consider and hear me, O LORD my God; Enlighten my eyes, Lest I sleep the sleep of death; 4 Lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed against him"; Lest those who trouble me rejoice when I am moved. 5 But I have trusted in Your mercy; My heart shall rejoice in Your salvation. 6 I will sing to the LORD, Because He has dealt bountifully with me.
4. Even when David did not have the answers that he sought for, yet he knew that God had the answer and he never lost faith in God.
5. Not even in the most difficult times of his life.

Faith is easy when everything is turning up roses. But what about when the winds come and the waves come and beat on your house of faith. Can it stand the test? Can you make it? You can if your faith is on the Rock, the Lord Jesus Christ.