

A person in a dark hooded robe is kneeling in a grassy field, holding a long staff or sword. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow. A large tree is on the left, and other trees are in the background. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

A Heart Like
God's

Part 6: A Heart of Covenant

David's heart was like
God's because:

1. He remembered His true
Origin

David's heart was like
God's because:

2. He lived in genuine
intimacy

David's heart was like
God's because:

3. He practiced in secret
what would one day be
needed in public

David's heart was like
God's because:

4. He was faithful in his
present assignment. He did
not use it as a stepping
stone.

David's heart was like
God's because:

5. He honored authority,
even (especially) when it
wasn't honorable

1 Now the Philistines gathered their armies for battle; and they were gathered at Socoh which belongs to Judah, and they camped between Socoh and Azekah, in Ephesdammim.

1 Samuel 17

NASB95

2 Saul and the men of Israel were gathered and camped in the valley of Elah, and drew up in battle array to encounter the Philistines.

3 The Philistines stood on the mountain on one side while Israel stood on the mountain on the other side, with the valley between them.

4 Then a champion came out from the armies of the Philistines named Goliath, from Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span.

5 *He had a bronze helmet on his head, and he was clothed with scale-armor which weighed five thousand shekels* of bronze. (*156 pounds)*

6 *He also had* bronze greaves on his legs and a bronze javelin *slung* between his shoulders.

7 The shaft of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and the head of his spear *weighed* six hundred shekels* of iron (*18 pounds*); his shield-carrier also walked before him.

8 He stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel and said to them, “Why do you come out to draw up in battle array? Am I not the Philistine and you servants of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves and let him come down to me.

9 “If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will become your servants; but if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall become our servants and serve us.”

10 Again the Philistine said, “I defy the ranks of Israel this day; give me a man that we may fight together.”

11 When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid.

Knowing whom it is we
serve is **critical**. No man
can serve two masters.

A Nation should never
have our highest loyalty,
especially when that
nation has forgotten its
purpose and identity.

12 Now David was the son of the Ephrathite of Bethlehem in Judah, whose name was Jesse, and he had eight sons. And Jesse was old in the days of Saul, advanced *in years* among men.

1 Samuel 17

NASB95

13 The three older sons of Jesse had gone after Saul to the battle. And the names of his three sons who went to the battle were Eliab the firstborn, and the second to him Abinadab, and the third Shammah.

14 David was the youngest. Now the three oldest followed Saul,

15 but *David went back and forth from Saul to tend his father's flock at Bethlehem.*

16 The Philistine came forward morning and evening for forty days and took his stand.

17 Then Jesse said to David his son, "Take now for your brothers an ephah of this roasted grain and these ten loaves and run to the camp to your brothers.

18 “Bring also these ten cuts of cheese to the commander of *their* thousand, and look into the welfare of your brothers, and bring back news of them.

19 "For Saul and they and all the men of Israel are in the valley of Elah, fighting with the Philistines."

Pride exalts itself when promotion seems imminent.

Humility waits on the Lord for the fullness of promotion to come.

Even (especially) when we
are promoted, we should
always honor our roots.



20 So David arose early in the morning *and left the flock with a keeper* and took *the supplies* and went *as Jesse had commanded him*. And he came to the circle of the camp while the army was going out in battle array shouting the war cry.

1 Samuel 17

NASB95

21 Israel and the Philistines drew up in battle
array, army against army.

22 Then David left his baggage in the care of the baggage keeper, and ran to the battle line and entered in order to greet his brothers.

23 As he was talking with them, behold, the champion, the Philistine from Gath named Goliath, was coming up from the army of the Philistines, and he spoke these same words; and David heard *them*.

24 When all the men of Israel saw the man,
they fled from him and were greatly afraid.

25 The men of Israel said, "Have you seen this man who is coming up? Surely he is coming up to *defy Israel*. And it will be that the king will enrich the man who kills him with great riches and will *give him his daughter* and make *his father's house free* in Israel."

26 Then David spoke to the men who were standing by him, saying, “What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and *takes away the reproach from Israel?*”

For who is this *uncircumcised* Philistine, that he should taunt *the armies of the living God?*"

We know we understand
and embody God's
Covenant Heart by the
level of courage we have
when facing opposition.

Covenant means that
God will be faithful no
matter what
circumstances may seem
to indicate.

Whatever convictions we
view as worth dying for
are the ones we are
truly living for.

31 “Forces from him will arise, desecrate the sanctuary fortress, and do away with the regular sacrifice. And they will set up the abomination of desolation.

Daniel 11:31–32

NASB95

32 “By smooth *words* he will turn to
godlessness those who act wickedly toward
the covenant, but *the people who know their
God will display strength and take action.*

27 The people answered him in accord with this word, saying, "Thus it will be done for the man who kills him."

1 Samuel 17

NASB95

28 Now Eliab his oldest brother heard when he spoke to the men; and Eliab's anger burned against David and he said, "Why have you come down? And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your insolence and the wickedness of your heart; for you have come down in order to see the battle."

29 But David said, "What have I done now? Was it not just a question?"

30 Then he turned away from him to another and said the same thing; and the people answered the same thing as before.

31 When the words which David spoke were heard, they told *them* to Saul, and he sent for him.

32 David said to Saul, "Let no man's heart fail on account of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine."

33 Then Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are *but* a youth while he has been a warrior from his youth."

34 But David said to Saul, “Your servant was tending his father’s sheep. When a lion or a bear came and took a lamb from the flock,

35 I went out after him and attacked him, and rescued *it* from his mouth; and when he rose up against me, I seized *him* by his beard and struck him and killed him.

36 “Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, since he has taunted the armies of the living God.”

37 And 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." And Saul said to David, "Go, and may the LORD be with you."

David's (and our) victory
came from a combination
of faith and preparation.

All of our life is
preparation for our next
"moment of truth."

Building a track record of
faithfulness in times of
testing gives us confidence in
our present battle because
of the testimonies we have
already experienced.

38 Then Saul clothed David with his garments
and put a bronze helmet on his head, and he
clothed him with armor.

1 Samuel 17

NASB95

39 David girded his sword over his armor and tried to walk, for he had not tested *them*. So David said to Saul, “I cannot go with these, for *I have not tested them.*” And David took them off.

40 He *took his stick in his hand* and chose for himself *five smooth stones* from the brook, and put them in *the shepherd's bag* which he had, even in *his pouch*, and *his sling was in his hand*; and he approached the Philistine.



The Beginner's Bible™



God never sends us to battle an enemy that cannot be defeated by the weapons we have already learned (or **should** have already learned) to use.

We already have in our
hand exactly what we need
for every battle we will
face.

What weapons have you
already proven in your
own life?

41 Then the Philistine came on and approached David, with the shield-bearer in front of him.

1 Samuel 17

NASB95

42 When the Philistine looked and saw David, he despised him; for he was *but* a youth, and ruddy, with a handsome appearance.

43 The Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods.

44 The Philistine also said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the sky and the beasts of the field."

45 Then David said to the Philistine, “You come to me with a sword, a spear, and a javelin, but *I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have taunted.*”

46 “This day **the LORD** will deliver you up into my hands, and I will strike you down and remove your head from you. And I will give the dead bodies of the army of the Philistines this day to the birds of the sky and the wild beasts of the earth,

that all the earth may know that there is a God in
Israel,

47 and that all this assembly may know that the LORD does not deliver by sword or by spear; for *the battle is the LORD'S* and He will give you into our hands.”

All warfare is spiritual.

Fighting any of life's battles by purely carnal means will do nothing to advance the Kingdom in our lives or in the world.

Everything that we do is
for the same ultimate
purpose:

14 “For the earth will be filled With the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, As the waters cover the sea.

Habakkuk 2:14

NASB95

48 Then it happened when the Philistine rose and came and drew near to meet David, that David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine.

1 Samuel 17

NASB95

49 And David put his hand into his bag and took from it a stone and slung *it*, and struck the Philistine on his forehead. And the stone sank into his forehead, so that he fell on his face to the ground.

50 Thus David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone, and he struck the Philistine and killed him; but there was no sword in David's hand.

51 Then David ran and stood over the Philistine and took his sword and drew it out of its sheath and killed him, and cut off his head with it. When the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled.

52 The men of Israel and Judah arose and shouted and pursued the Philistines as far as the valley, and to the gates of Ekron. And the slain Philistines lay along the way to Shaaraim, even to Gath and Ekron.

53 The sons of Israel returned from chasing the Philistines and plundered their camps.

54 Then David took the Philistine's head and brought it to Jerusalem, but he put his weapons in his tent.

David proved himself
ready to accept the
responsibility of shepherd
of Israel by his willingness
to lay down his life for
the sheep.

With every promotion,
God gives us new weapons
for the new responsibilities.

We must always be
prepared to learn
something new.