

# A Man's Heart

Character Traits  
from the Bible  
of Great Men

**“Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life”** (Pr 4:23).

- All life matters of success or failure are in your heart.
- As men ... wife, children, and church ... depend on you.
- You must believe and think godly thoughts at all times.
- You must esteem God’s precepts like David (Ps 119:128).
- Neither God nor men care at all what you say or show.

**“Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life”** (Pr 4:23).

- It is an imperative command to keep your heart.
- This men’s meeting is to provoke you to keep it.
- *As we sing ... your heart is prone to wander. Feel it?*
- Your heart can be kept ... to greatly enhance your life.
- But it will take all your diligence to properly keep it.

**“He that loveth pureness of heart, for the grace of his lips the king shall be his friend” (Pr 22:11).**

- Your success before God or men starts in your heart.
- This is no average Christian ... but one loving purity.
- A pure heart will always produce gracious speech.
- This combination is loved by the greatest of men.
- You must believe and think godly thoughts at all times.

**“A wise man’s heart is at his right hand; but a fool’s heart at his left” (Eccl 10:2).**

- The Bible assumes all men are right-handed.
- A right-handed man uses his right hand for key actions.
- The right hand location is one of control and power.
- A wise man controls and rules his heart for godliness.
- A fool is ruled by his heart for he has no control of it.

**“The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are bold as a lion” (Pr 28:1).**

- Guilt destroys the courage and initiative of men.
- Guilt breeds weakness and fearfulness of everything.
- Righteousness produces confidence and leadership.
- Your secret sins are known to God ... and destroy you.
- Godliness, starting in your heart, has great benefits.

**“Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding” (Pr 3:5).**

- First you must esteem all God’s precepts to be right.
- You then apply your entire heart to believe them all.
- This includes flushing every contrary idea you have.
- Your ideas are so bad you cannot even lean their way.
- You must believe and think godly thoughts at all times.







# King Saul (1)

- First king of Israel was picked and prepared by God.
- His father was a “mighty man of power” (1 Sam 9:1).
- He was very tall; he was physically the best (1 Sam 9:2).
- He had a conscience to reward the prophet (1 Sam 9:7).
- He had David’s humility meeting Samuel (1 Sam 9:21).

# King Saul (2)

- God turned Saul into another man for his role (1 Sa 10:6).
- Samuel told him to use His God-given role (1 Sam 10:7).
- God gave Saul another heart to be a great king (1 Sa 10:9).
- God fulfilled all three signs to confirm Saul (1 Sam 10:9).
- God revealed Saul of Benjamin to be king (1 Sam 10:21).

# King Saul (3)

- He hid among the stuff in humble modesty (1 Sa 10:22).
- Israel rejoiced at Saul, “God save the king” (1 Sam 10:24).
- God touched hearts of men to follow him (1 Sam 10:26).
- Saul had discretion to ignore sons of Belial (1 Sam 10:27).
- Though king, Saul continued to keep his herd (1 Sam 11:5).

# King Saul (4)

- God's Spirit filled Saul with anger against Ammon.
- He hewed a yoke of oxen in pieces for his draft.
- The nation feared their king and came as one man.
- He won a great victory and celebrated with Samuel.
- He spared the sons of Belial again in spite of Israel.

# King Saul (5)

- The Philistines faced Saul with a huge army (1 Sam 13:5).
- He would not wait for Samuel to arrive (1 Sam 13:9).
- He said he had forced himself to do the sin (1 Sam 13:12).
- This fearful, profane, weak choice cost him everything.
- Samuel told Saul that God sought a man like Himself.









# King Saul (6)

- The Philistines are defeated by the faith of Jonathan.
- Saul's oath and attempt to kill Jonathan were profane.
- Saul also disobeyed God regarding Amalek (I Sam 15:1-35).
- God moved His Spirit from Saul to David (I Sam 16:1-23).
- David's godly success aggravated Saul (I Sam 17:1 – 18:30).

# King Saul (7)

- Saul lost a potential family dynasty over Israel forever.
- Saul lost both his son and his daughter to his enemy.
- Saul lost God, the man of God, and favor (Heb 13:17).
- If you are only as good as your last game, Saul lost!
- Saul spent his last night with the witch of Endor.

# King Saul (8)

- Saul lost all soul tranquility and was plagued by devils.
- Saul knew he would die in his last battle for Israel.
- He chose to commit suicide before Philistine torture.
- He was beheaded and his body nailed to Philistine wall.
- His legacy and reputation? ... a total and terrible loser.

# King Saul (9)

- Saul became a classic example of a castaway (1 Co 9:27).
- He did not learn to rule his spirit and keep his heart.
- He tried to excuse disobedience by good sacrifices.
- He learned God despises rebellion or stubbornness.
- You must keep your heart with all diligence (Pr 4:23)!

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**“The first was like a lion, and had eagle’s wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked ... and a man’s heart was given to it” (Dan 7:4).**

- This is the first of the four world empires – Babylon.
- It was like the king of beasts – strong and fierce.
- It was like the king of birds – fast and fierce.
- God ended that nation’s conquests and expansion.
- God gave them the fearful heart of a man instead.



**“The mighty men of Babylon have forborn to fight, they have remained in their holds: their might hath failed; they became as women: they have burned her dwellingplaces; her bars are broken” (Jer 51:30).**

- When God leaves a man, he no longer wants to fight.
- God removed the courage of the Babylonian rulers.
- The Babylonians stayed in their impregnable city.
- Some men are as women when it comes to courage.
- Their lives are burned down and houses broken.

**“So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding” (Pr 2:2).**

- Saul did not incline his ear or apply his heart rightly.
- Great men do both in order to learn and prosper.
- Solomon repeated this mantra over and over for you.
- You arrived messing on yourself ... listen to do better.
- You must believe and think godly thoughts at all times.

**“All the days of the afflicted are evil: but he that is of a merry heart hath a continual feast” (Prov 15:15).**

- A negative outlook on life will cloud your entire life.
- Life is too short to waste even one day in affliction.
- God will do what you cannot ... go to sleep (Ps 127:1-2).
- Happiness is a choice ... choose it for lifelong joy.
- A merry heart is by wisdom ... or it is crackling thorns.

**“Let not thine heart envy sinners: but be thou in the fear of the LORD all the day long” (Pr 23:17).**

- A great temptation to sin is the prosperity of sinners.
- Asaph almost left the truth until a men’s meeting.
- The wisest man ever ... tells you to ignore the wicked.
- Choose the fear of the Lord ... for he wins (Eccl 7:18).
- The fear of the Lord is all day ... more than devotions.

**“Thine eyes shall behold strange women, and thine heart shall utter perverse things” (Pr 23:33).**

- Great men control their eyes and hearts at all times.
- They will not do anything foolish to lose their wits.
- Too much booze relaxes eyes to compromise Job.
- Too much booze relaxes hearts to speak wickedly.
- It is not worth it. The pleasure is not worth the pain.

**“Rejoice not when thine enemy falleth, and let not thine heart be glad when he stumbleth” (Pr 24:17).**

- How gentle and merciful are you in your heart?
- You should not rejoice no matter how enemies fall.
- You lose the Lord’s vengeance, if you do (Pr 24:18).
- Could you eulogize Saul the way David did? Learn!
- This is the kind of heart that distinguishes men.

**“Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered” (1 Peter 3:7).**

- Great men use marital authority with discretion (Col 3:19).
- He has knowledge of a woman’s inferiority and adjusts.
- He honors his wife rather than belittles her for her faults.
- He knows that legally in God’s sight she is his full equal.
- Prayers of great men are heard due to mercy to wives.

**“And David said unto him, How wast thou not afraid to stretch forth thine hand to destroy the LORD’S anointed?” (II Samuel 1:14).**

- This is the third time David spoke this way of Saul.
- David was anointed king ... Saul had tried to kill him.
- Should not providential opportunities be used?
- Your success in life follows your attitude to authority.
- Get your heart right – thanks ... not cursing (Eccl 10:20).



**“Happy is the man that feareth alway: but he that hardeneth his heart shall fall into mischief” (Pr 28:14).**

- Happiness is choosing to always fear God and His word.
- If you harden your heart against God, you get hurt!
- You will not see it coming ... for you will fall into it.
- How many warnings must Solomon give to win you?
- You must believe and think godly thoughts at all times.

**“He that is of a proud heart stirreth up strife: but he that putteth his trust in the LORD shall be made fat” (Pr 28:25).**

- Do you think you have to fight to protect yourself?
- You call it principle? God calls it pride. Get over it.
- If you have contentions, then you are proud (Pr 13:10).
- Humble and good hearts are peacemakers instead.
- Stop protecting yourself – let God make you fat!

**“The heart of the righteous studieth to answer: but the mouth of the wicked poureth out evil things” (Prov 15:28).**

- A good man has a heart that believes in research.
- He will not speak or act before he studies it out.
- Fools think about folly and blab it without thought.
- Great men are soberly cautious before any opinion.
- If you have not studied it, then you do not know it!

**“Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD: though hand join in hand, he shall not be unpunished” (Prov 16:5).**

- Do you grasp how highly God thinks of your pride?
- You do not boast or brag? God still abominates you!
- You can join any ally you wish – God will crush you.
- Humility is a trait that guarantees your promotion.
- But note well ... it is humility of the heart that counts.

**“When I was a child ... I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things” (1 Cor 13:11).**

- Real men stop playing like boys to become men.
- Men take responsibility for their actions and do it.
- Men see the future and do not waste much time.
- Men do not play much with toys until they are retired.
- Men are serious and fulfill every duty God has given.

**“Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men” (1 Cor 14:20).**

- Children and men differ in understanding anything.
- It is rightly dealing with God, others, time, money, etc.
- Men grow up and understand everything they do.
- Children and men differ greatly in their relationships.
- Men must forgive and overlook like little children.

**“The prince that wanteth understanding is also a great oppressor: but he that hateth covetousness shall prolong his days” (Pr 28:16).**

- If you do not understand mercy, you are just a bully.
- You must make allowances for your wife and children.
- Great men love and lead their wives to perfection.
- If you set your goals too high or too fast, you lose.
- Contentment is great gain, and it is great leadership.

**“And of the children of Issachar, which were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do; the heads of them were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their commandment” (1 Chron 12:32).**

- Have you learned enough to understand the times?
- Do you know what to do with real conflicts of ethics?
- Here is how you can tell - how many ask for advice?
- Leadership is created or enhanced by having answers.
- Men learn, review, question, analyze, apply, check, etc.



**“Of Zebulun, such as went forth to battle, expert in war, with all instruments of war, fifty thousand, which could keep rank: they were not of double heart” (1 Chron 12:33).**

- Where are the men willing and able to fight error?
- These men of Zebulun came to make David king.
- Can you keep rank or are you disruptive of rank?
- Single hearted men accomplish the most in life.
- Results and trust by others are for the single hearted.

**“Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him. For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust” (Ps 103:13-14).**

- Great men pity others rather than themselves.
- They pity women and children and show them mercy.
- They are knowledgeable to adjust their expectations.
- They remember ability or circumstances and adjust.
- They have a heart that loves mercy toward others.

**“Dead flies cause the ointment of the apothecary to send forth a stinking savour: so doth a little folly him that is in reputation for wisdom and honour” (Eccl 10:1).**

- Those who keep their hearts seldom have dead flies.
- To gain a reputation and then squander it is stupid.
- Great men keep manly progression going upward.
- You are a man – you cannot afford setbacks of folly.
- Others look to you and must be able to depend on you.

**“But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God” (1 Cor 11:3).**

- Do you know this order: woman, man, Christ, God?
- Do you maintain this order by example and authority?
- Do not get out of this order yourself or your wife.
- The woman is to be kept in this place under man.
- The most important role is you under Christ and God.

**“Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ” (II Cor 10:5).**

- This is primarily a ministerial text of a pastor’s work.
- You should cast down your imaginations before God.
- You should cast down every high opinion against God.
- You should bring every thought into captivity to Christ.
- You must believe and think godly thoughts at all times.

# For Further Study

The sermon outline, "Sins of the Heart," ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/sins-of-the-heart.pdf>.  
The sermon outline, "A Pure Heart," ... [www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/a-pure-heart.pdf](http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/a-pure-heart.pdf).  
The sermon outline, "The Heart of David," ... [www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/heart-of-david.pdf](http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/heart-of-david.pdf).  
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The sermon outline, "Maturity Curve," ... [www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/growing-up-maturity-curve.pdf](http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/growing-up-maturity-curve.pdf).  
The sermon series, "Delusions of Deceived Christians," ... not in e-format at this time.

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