

DAVID THE YOUTH

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David lived a wonderful and unique life that God commended him as a man after His own heart. His life is filled up with lessons that the youth of today can learn from. We are going to take a good look at the youthful life of David and learn some things that will make us to be celebrated as he was.

1 Sam 13:14

14 But now your kingdom will not endure; the LORD has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him leader of his people, because you have not kept the LORD's command."

NIV

1 Sam 16:13

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.

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1. David was a youth with a heart for God.
2. David loved the word of God and grew strong in the word of God.

Ps 119:9-16

How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word. 10 I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. 11 I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. 12 Praise be to you, O LORD; teach me your decrees. 13 With my lips I recount all the laws that come from your mouth. 14 I rejoice in following your statutes as one rejoices in great riches. 15 I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways. 16 I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.

NIV

3. David did not just know the scriptures; he believed it with all his heart and committed himself to keeping the covenant.
4. David practiced the word. He applied the word to every situation.

1 Sam 17:26

26 David asked the men standing near him, "What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and removes this disgrace from Israel? Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?"

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1 Sam 17:45-47

45 David said to the Philistine, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. 46 This day the LORD will hand you over to me, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head. Today I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. 47 All those

gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD's, and he will give all of you into our hands."

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5. His love for God was evident in his devotion to God and worship of His holy name.
6. David was a psalmist who learnt how to play the instruments, especially the harp and also how to sing very well.
 - He was so skillful that he was hired by King Saul to play for him to calm him down when the evil spirit of rage will take over his mind and life.
 - David was not only a skillful harp player, but a skillful stone thrower.
 - In all that he did, he trained to become a master in it and he was.

1 Sam 16:17-23

17 And Saul said unto his servants, provide me now a man that can play well, and bring him to me. 18 Then answered one of the servants, and said, Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, that is cunning in playing, and a mighty valiant man, and a man of war, and prudent in matters, and a comely person, and the LORD is with him. 19 Wherefore Saul sent messengers unto Jesse, and said, send me David thy son, which is with the sheep. 20 And Jesse took an ass laden with bread, and a bottle of wine, and a kid, and sent them by David his son unto Saul. 21 And David came to Saul, and stood before him: and he loved him greatly; and he became his armourbearer. 22 And Saul sent to Jesse, saying, Let David, I pray thee, stand before me; for he hath found favour in my sight. 23 And it came to pass, when the evil spirit from God was upon Saul, that David took an harp, and played with his hand: so Saul was refreshed, and was well, and the evil spirit departed from him.

KJV

7. He was known as a worshipper and a dedicated seeker of God.
 - He wrote many songs and poems called the psalms which he also sang to the worship of God both privately and publicly.
 - He was so excited about God that in his songs and poems he keeps calling on people to come and taste of God.

Ps 34:8-9

8 Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in him. 9 Fear the LORD, you his saints, for those who fear him lack nothing.

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8. He had a repentant heart and a humble spirit.

Ps 51:17

17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

NIV

- He always repented of his sins when convicted of wrong doing.
9. David was a skilful stone thrower. He knew how to use the sling. It was because he was so skillful that he faced Goliath and defeated him with it.

1 Sam 17:38-40

38 Then Saul dressed David in his own tunic. He put a coat of armor on him and a bronze helmet on his head. 39 David fastened on his sword over the tunic and tried walking around, because he was not used to them. "I cannot go in these," he said to Saul, "because I am not used to them." So he took them off. 40 Then he took his staff in his hand, chose five smooth stones from the stream, put them in the pouch of his shepherd's bag and, with his sling in his hand, approached the Philistine.

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1 Sam 17:48-51

48 As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him. 49 Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell facedown on the ground. 50 So David triumphed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone; without a sword in his hand he struck down the Philistine and killed him. 51 David ran and stood over him. He took hold of the Philistine's sword and drew it from the scabbard. After he killed him, he cut off his head with the sword. When the Philistines saw that their hero was dead, they turned and ran.

NIV

- 10.** He trained himself not to fear evil or the enemy. He had a bold and strong heart which he cultivated through the word of God he knew and believed. He believed in the covenant Israel had with God as very real and applicable to everyday life. With this he obtained many victories in the field, warfare and personal matters.

1 Sam 17:32-37

32 David said to Saul, "Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him." 33 Saul replied, "You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a boy, and he has been a fighting man from his youth." 34 But David said to Saul, "Your servant has been keeping his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, 35 I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. 36 Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. 37 The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." Saul said to David, "Go, and the LORD be with you."

NIV

- 11.** He was submitted to his parent's authority. He was not disobedient to them and their instructions. He stayed most of the time with the sheep, and that gave him time to train himself in the use of the Word of God, the harp, the sling and faith in confronting the enemies that came against him in life.

1 Sam 17:12-19

12 Now David was the son of an Ephrathite named Jesse, who was from Bethlehem in Judah. Jesse had eight sons, and in Saul's time he was old and well advanced in years. 13 Jesse's three oldest sons had followed Saul to the war: The firstborn was Eliab; the second, Abinadab; and

the third, Shammah. 14 David was the youngest. The three oldest followed Saul, 15 but David went back and forth from Saul to tend his father's sheep at Bethlehem. 16 For forty days the Philistine came forward every morning and evening and took his stand. 17 Now Jesse said to his son David, "Take this ephah of roasted grain and these ten loaves of bread for your brothers and hurry to their camp. 18 Take along these ten cheeses to the commander of their unit. See how your brothers are and bring back some assurance from them. 19 They are with Saul and all the men of Israel in the Valley of Elah, fighting against the Philistines."

NIV

- 12.** David was a likeable person who though social, never messed himself up with sin.
- 13.** David's life is a challenge to us today. It is a challenge today to every youth. His life was so well lived despite his mistakes that God called him "A man after mine own heart."

CONCLUSION

- 1.** Learn from David the youth and give yourself to the word of God and grow strong in it and become a mighty man of valor (bravery, courage, fearlessness, gallantry, boldness, heroism).
- 2.** Believe the word of God that you read and hear daily.
- 3.** Let the word change you completely.
- 4.** Let the word of God mould your character and behavior.
- 5.** Let the word of God make you bold and strong in faith such that nothing moves you.
- 6.** Give yourself to acquiring skill in your field of endeavor. Be so skillful that you will be called a master in the game that you play.
- 7.** Know your gifts and grow strong in them. The gifts God gave you are what God intends to use to make you great in life. Do not neglect them.
- 8.** Never fear opposition no matter the shape or size and time it may come. Let your heart be filled with courage.
- 9.** Submit to your parents as David did and took care of his family's sheep, and went on errands when sent.
- 10.** If David did not love taking care of the sheep (house work or hard work), he will not have had time to train and become skillful in playing the harp and throwing stones that will later bring him to limelight as he killed Goliath.