

Session 2 David's Training: 3 Anointings, 3 Stages, and 5 Seasons

I. REVIEW: DAVID AS A MAN AFTER GOD'S HEART

- A. The first description of David that the Lord gave through Samuel to King Saul (1 Sam. 13:14):
¹⁴The LORD has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and the LORD has commanded him to be commander [leader] over His people. (1 Sam. 13:14)
1. David obeyed the **commands** of God's heart: He set his heart to obey even after his failures.
 2. David studied the **emotions** of God's heart: He focused on understanding God's emotions.
 3. David served the **purpose** of God's heart: He sought God's fullness for his life and generation.
- B. David was a student of God's beauty—His glory (splendor), heart (emotions), wisdom, power, etc.
⁴One thing I have desired of the LORD, that will I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in His temple. (Ps. 27:4)
- C. David found his primary identity (his sense of value and success) in who he was in his relationship with God. He measured his success in life by how much he grew in grace to walk in obedient love and meekness. David felt God's love for him and his love for God; therefore he felt successful, even when circumstances were difficult, even when his calling to be king was threatened.
- D. Our relationship with the Lord consists of who we are before God as "one loved by God" and as "one who loves God" in response. Our love for God must be expressed in obedience to Him.
- E. There are two aspects of our confidence in God's love: first, our confidence in God's affection for us even in our weakness; second, our genuine love for God even when it is weak. Weak love is still sincere love. David's *confidence in God's love* was about being confident in God's affection for him in his weakness, but it did not lead to his being content to live in compromise. God disciplined David for his sin several times, but it did not change God's tender affection for David (Prov. 3:12).

II. DAVID WAS ANOINTED PUBLICLY THREE TIMES

- A. David was anointed on three occasions, receiving enabling grace for three different purposes. The anointing of the Spirit empowers us with God's grace to do God's will in each season of our life.
1. First, David was anointed in **Bethlehem** (1 Sam. 16:13). God's assignment to David was to do *small tasks* while developing his spiritual identity and meekness with a servant spirit.
 2. Second, David was anointed in **Hebron** (2 Sam. 2:4). God's assignment to David here was to *govern God's people* without losing his primary identity or his servant spirit.
 3. Third, David was anointed in **Jerusalem** (2 Sam. 5:3). God's assignment to David here was to *fully conquer God's enemies* without losing his primary identity or servant spirit.

B. Three stages in David's calling (Ps. 78:70-72)

⁷⁰*He also chose David His servant, and took him from the sheepfolds; ⁷¹from following the ewes that had young He brought him, to shepherd Jacob His people... ⁷²So he shepherded them according to the integrity of his heart, and guided them by the skillfulness of his hands. (Ps. 78:70-72)*

1. **Chose:** The Lord *called* David in his youth while he was living in Bethlehem.
2. **Took:** The Lord *trained* David in the wilderness years and while he was living in Hebron.
3. **Brought:** The Lord *put* David in position to fulfill the fullness of God's purpose in his life.

C. The threefold pattern seen in David's life calling and vision:

1. **Birthing of the vision:** At about 17 years old, David was given prophetic promises about his life when he received the initial call to be king of Israel. But he did not become king over all Israel until he was 37 years old, about twenty years later.
2. **Death of the vision:** God tested and prepared David to equip him to walk out the fullness of God's vision for his life.
3. **Fullness of the vision:** God released greater favor, authority, and resources in David's life.

III. FIVE SEASONS AND CITIES IN DAVID'S LIFE

A. **Bethlehem:** The Bethlehem years lasted from his childhood through his teen years (1 Sam. 16-17). David's commitment to love God as the primary goal of his life was *tested by rejection and by being faithful in the mundane*. He found his identity in his relationship with God as he focused on understanding that God loved him and on cultivating his love for God. His sense of success was found in his relationship with God and in being faithful to God by being faithful in small things. [Ch

1. David had to overcome the rejection of his family in this season (1 Sam. 16:7-11) and the rejection of his family and friends throughout his life (Ps. 38:11-12; 69:7-10).

¹⁰*Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen these."* ¹¹*And Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all the young men here?" Then he said, "There remains yet the youngest, and there he is, keeping the sheep"...* ¹²*He sent and brought him in...the LORD said, "Arise, anoint him; for this is the one!" (1 Sam. 16:10-12)*

⁷*Because for Your sake I have borne reproach...⁸I have become a stranger to my brothers, and an alien to my mother's children; ⁹because zeal for Your house has eaten me up...¹⁰When I wept and chastened my soul with fasting, that became my reproach. (Ps. 69:7-10)*

¹⁰*When my father and my mother forsake me...the LORD will take care of me. (Ps. 27:10)*

¹¹*My loved ones and friends stand aloof from my plague, and my relatives stand afar off.*

¹²*Those also who seek my life lay snares for me. (Ps. 38:11-12)*

2. He was faithful to serve behind the scenes in mundane ways. He was responsible with the small details of what was entrusted to him (1 Sam. 16:10-11; 17:22). Being faithful in small things is one of the main things Jesus will affirm in His people on the last day (Mt. 25:21).

²¹*“Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.” (Mt. 25:21)*

- B. **Gibeah:** The Gibeah years covered about age 18 to 22 in David's life (1 Sam. 18-20). His commitment to loving God as the primary goal of his life was *tested by early favor and temporary popularity*. After killing Goliath (1 Sam. 17), David was promoted to national prominence.

²*Saul took him that day, and would not let him go home to his father's house... (1 Sam. 18:2)*

1. He was honored by marrying King Saul's daughter and moving into the royal court in Gibeah, the governmental headquarters (Washington, DC). He was given a promotion in the army and celebrated by all Israel including the women who sang of his triumph (1 Sam. 18:5-8).

⁵*And Saul set him over the men of war, and he was accepted in the sight of all the people...
⁷So the women sang as they danced, and said: “Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands.”
⁸Then Saul was very angry, and the saying displeased him. (1 Sam. 18:5-8)*

2. Early promotion can be part of preparation for future destiny. In this season some become too busy with new opportunities and are distracted from their relationship with God.

²¹*The crucible [is] for silver...but man is tested by the praise he receives. (Prov. 27:21, NIV)*

- C. **Adullam:** The Adullam years covered about age 23 to 30 in David's life (1 Sam. 21-31). David's commitment to loving God as the primary goal of his life was *tested by adversity* in the wilderness for about seven years as King Saul and 3,000 soldiers sought to kill him (1 Sam. 24:2; 26:2).

¹*David...escaped to the cave of Adullam. (1 Sam. 22:1)*

1. The Lord trained David under Saul's evil leadership to be a great warrior king. Since the Lord was training him to be Israel's great warrior king, he needed to know the land. The Lord “put him in the land” instead of sending him to school to study the geography of Israel.
2. When God raises up His “Davids,” He trains them in the “seminary of Saul,” sometimes using a demonized leader who mistreats them, to help them grow deep in their relationship to God.
3. Nobody could hinder God's will in David's life—not Saul, nor the Philistines, nor any other. The only one who could stop David's destiny was David—by responding in a wrong way.
4. When we feel the pain of mistreatment, disappointment, or delay, the darkest issues of our hearts come to the surface. Our pain in not receiving the recognition that we expect is often linked to our *unperceived pride*. This is the greatest enemy of our calling.

⁹*“The heart is deceitful above all things...who can know it?” (Jer. 17:9)*

¹²*Who can understand his errors? Cleanse me from secret [unperceived] faults. (Ps. 19:12)*

5. I compare our unperceived pride to the fault lines that lie below the surface in an earthquake zone. They come to the surface in our life under the pressure of mistreatment, delay, etc. Pressure brings the truth of our desires and pride to the surface so that we can see them.
 6. About 10% of our life is determined by what happens to us and 90% by how we respond to it. We either *become bitter* by focusing on the wrong that was done to us or we *become better* by focusing on our pride that is exposed. The lesser enemy in David's life was Saul, whom God used to expose the greater enemy—the sin and pride in his own heart.
 7. I do not consider that we are ready for our full calling until we have successfully passed through several seasons of disappointment. By that, I mean that we have learned to respond to disappointment in humility (servanthood and gratitude), rather than drawing back from serving, with our hearts tinged with bitterness (often referred to as burnout).
 8. **Leadership Lesson:** Endurance, with a long-term perspective, is essential in walking out one's full prophetic destiny and promises.
- D. **Hebron:** The Hebron years covered age 30 to 37 in David's life (2 Sam. 2-5). David was tested by receiving only a *partial fulfillment* of the promises for which he had long labored and waited.
- ¹David inquired of the LORD, saying, "Shall I go up to any of the cities of Judah?" And the LORD said to him, "Go up." David said, "Where shall I go up?" And He said, "To Hebron." (2 Sam. 2:1)**
1. In Hebron, David was king over only one tribe—Judah. This was just one of the 12 tribes that God had promised him about 13 years earlier.
 2. First David saw himself as one who lived *before God*; secondly he saw himself as one whom God had made to be *before men*. In other words, whether he was serving his father as a shepherd or Saul as his armor bearer, whether he was fleeing as a fugitive in the wilderness or ruling as king, David's greatest desire was to love and obey the Lord, regardless of the changing circumstances and seasons of his life.
- E. **Jerusalem:** The Jerusalem years covered age 37 to 70 in David's life (2 Sam. 6-24). David was *tested by the pressures* related to walking in the fullness of the promises and blessings he received.
- ¹¹Beware that you do not forget the LORD your God by not keeping His commandments...
¹²lest—when you have...built beautiful houses...¹³ and your silver and your gold are multiplied
...¹⁴when your heart is lifted up, and you forget the LORD. (Deut. 8:11-14)**
1. David's season of greatest blessing was also his most dangerous season, spiritually speaking. Scripture records that his greatest failures, along with many pressures, occurred in this season.
 2. David has many pressures while in Jerusalem as the fullness of his destiny will be realized
 3. 1 Samuel describes how a young David was mistreated by an older, jealous leader—Saul.
2 Samuel describes how an older David was attacked by a young, ambitious leader—Absalom.