

I. A Heartfelt Desire (1-2)

- A. It was an honorable desire (1) - “Now when David lived in his house, David said to Nathan the prophet, “Behold, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of the covenant of the Lord is under a tent.”
- B. It was an applauded desire (2) - “And Nathan said to David, “Do all that is in your heart, for God is with you.”
- C. It was a sensible desire (Proverbs 3:5-6) - “Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.” **It was sensible, but not spiritual**

Four tests to see whether good intentions are God's intentions

1. Good intentions of our hearts must be submitted to God's overall will for our lives.
2. Good intentions must be based on God's CLEAR directions - *David did not even ask God.*
3. Good intentions must center in God's interests, not our own - *Is this intention bringing Him glory?*
4. Good intentions do not replace God's will, even when supported by other godly people.

II. A Heartbreaking Denial (3-6)

- A. It was an immediate denial (3) - “But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan...”
- B. It was an emphatic denial (4-6) - “Go and tell My servant David, ‘Thus says the Lord: It is not you who will build Me a house to dwell in. 5 For I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up Israel to this day, but I have gone from tent to tent and from dwelling to dwelling. 6 In all places where I have moved with all Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?”’”

Redirection does not necessarily equal rejection

God is the Authority in our life and has the perfect right to deny us something that we desire.

How Do We React When God Says ‘NO’ To Us?

1. Rebellion - I don't care what God says - I want this for me!
2. Self deception - It may not be in God's will, but I can make it happen on my own.
3. Resentment - God doesn't really care about me, if He did, He wouldn't keep this from me
4. Submission - If God is telling me ‘No’ then it is for my own good.

III. A Heart-Lifting Determination (7-15) **God was determined to bless David and in expressing this, He lifted David's heart.**

- A. God reminds David of His past faithfulness (7-8) - “Now, therefore, thus shall you say to my servant David, ‘Thus says the Lord of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be prince over my people Israel, 8 and I have been with you wherever you have gone and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a name, like the name of the great ones of the earth.’”

1. **I have promoted you** - from the pasture to the palace (7)
2. **I have preserved you** - I've taken care of you in difficulty, why would I leave you now (8)

- B. God reveals His plan for David's future (9-15) - “Moreover, I declare to you that the Lord will build you a house.”

God gives 6 “I will's”; He withholds one thing and gives 6 in it's place!

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| 1. I will subdue your enemies (10) | 4. I will establish the kingdom of your son (11) |
| 2. I will build thee a house (10) | 5. I will establish His throne forever (12) |
| 3. I will raise up thy seed after thee (11) | 6. I will be His Father |

IV. A Heartwarming Doxology (16-20)

A. Humility (16) - "Then King David went in and sat before the Lord and said, "Who am I, O Lord God, and what is my house, that you have brought me thus far?"

B. Gratitude (17-18) - "And this was a small thing in your eyes, O God. You have also spoken of your servant's house for a great while to come, and have shown me future generations, O Lord God! 18 And what more can David say to you for honoring your servant? For you know your servant."

C. Faith (19) - "For your servant's sake, O Lord, and according to your own heart, you have done all this greatness, in making known all these great things." David trusted that God had his best interests at heart!

D. Praise (20) - "There is none like you, O Lord, and there is no God besides you, according to all that we have heard with our ears."