

## “GIVE ME AN UNDIVIDED HEART,” PSALM 86:11

This was a prayer of King David. He was the man that God testified of in Acts 13:22, “I have found David, a man after My own heart.” How did David end up getting such a commendation from God? And how can we gain an undivided heart and become of great joy to God?

### 1. DAVID DELIGENTLY SOUGHT GOD FOR AN UNDIVIDED HEART: HE KNEW HIS HEART COULD HAVE MANY WEAKNESSES!

- “The heart is deceitful above all things, and is desperately corrupt; who can understand it? I the Lord search the mind and try the heart,” Jer.17:9-10

**EX:** An example of a time when David needed to have something corrected in his heart is shown to us in 1 Samuel chapter 25. David had been insulted by a man named Nabal, and David went to go kill him. But Nabal’s wife, Abigail, met David as he was coming to kill Nabal, and through her kind words Abigail showed David that his revenge would go against his own principles of heart.

She said, “There has been no evil found in you your whole life long, so do not shed innocent blood now and avenge yourself, for God will protect and avenge you. Do not offend your heart..”

Many times David had refused to kill King Saul, who kept trying to kill him! David had repeatedly said that God would judge Saul, not himself- yet when Nabal insulted him, David went against his own principles of heart to seek revenge. But when David’s divided heart was exposed by Abigail, David corrected his heart attitude and saved himself from the dishonor of murdering Nabal. David corrected this wrong thing in his heart because he wanted an undivided heart!

\* Try to listen to someone who corrects you: “faithful are the wounds of a friend,” Prov.27:6.

Circumstances in life can bring us into pressured situations where our wrong response can surprise ourself- and also surprise others! Hidden things in our hearts can be suddenly exposed.

**EX:** Twelve years ago, over 1 billion people around the world were watching the final football game of the 2006 World Cup. The two final teams, Italy and France, were tied 1-1 and the game went into overtime. Zinedine Zidane, the captain of the French team, was one of the best football players in all of history. Zidane was retiring, and this was his last game. Everyone hoped he would lead his team to victory to end his famous career, but what happened left the whole world in surprise. His Italian opponents could not defeat Zidane’s talent, but by insulting him they found a way to cause Zidane to defeat himself! In one sudden angry move, Zidane head butted the Italian player who insulted him. That thoughtless action caused him to be expelled from the game & it led to his team losing the world championship. Because of one impulsive act, Zidane will forever be known not for one last great victory, but for his last foolish defeat.

Have you ever suddenly reacted to a situation in a way that surprises you? Have you spoken wrong words, or released a bad attitude, and then thought, “Where did *that* come from?” (from a hidden area of your heart- an area that has not yet surrendered to Christ!)

King David knew the weaknesses of his own heart, so he prayed in Psalm 139:23-24, "Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; and see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

**\* WE NEED TO ASK THE LORD TO SEARCH OUR HEART- AND WHEN HE REVEALS ANYTHING WRONG, TO HELP US CHANGE OUR HEART & GAIN AN UNDIVIDED HEART!**

EX: There was a time years ago when I was organizing all of our videos & movies: As I looked at one group of DVDs, the H.S. spoke to my heart, "So these are your idols..." Sometimes the H.S. will reveal to us something wrong in our heart, that we did not even know was there! Respond to God, do not ignore the quiet voice of the H.S.!

David declared in Psalm 101:2-4, "I will walk within my house with a perfect heart. I will set nothing wicked before my eyes; I hate the work of those who fall away; It shall not cling to me. A perverse heart shall depart from me; I will not know wickedness."

***"LORD, GIVE ME AN UNDIVIDED HEART!"***

## 2. BECAUSE DAVID SOUGHT FOR AN UNDIVIDED HEART, HE WAS ALSO ABLE TO GATHER AROUND HIMSELF OTHERS WHO WERE WHOLEHEARTED

**EX:** A group of soldiers came to join David when he was hiding in the wilderness from King Saul, in 1 Chron. 12:16-18. They wanted to follow David, because David was wholeheartedly following God!

"Then some of the sons of Benjamin and Judah came to David at the stronghold. And David went out to meet them, and answered and said to them, "If you have come peaceably to me to help me, my heart will be united with you; but if you have come to betray me to my enemies, since there is no wrong in my hands, may the God of our fathers look and bring judgment." Then the Holy Spirit came upon Amasai, chief of the captains, and he said: "We are yours, O David; we are on your side! Peace, peace to you, and peace to your helpers! For your God helps you." So David received them, and made them captains."

Many of these soldiers were from the tribe of Benjamin, who would naturally want to be loyal to King Saul because Saul was from their same tribe. But David's pure heart after God caused even these Benjamite soldiers to wholeheartedly support David's leadership!

**EX:** In 1 Chron 12:33 there were 50,000 soldiers from the tribe of Zebulun who joined him when David became king- "To help David with undivided loyalty," NIV. Literally the Hebrew scripture said about them "They were not of a double heart."

David's kingdom became very strong because everyone had a united heart to follow the Lord together!

When God's people gain a united heart to follow the Lord together, great blessing can be released!

**EX:** Acts 2:1-4 When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and *one* sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit "They were all in one accord" = one passion - one heart!

**EX:** About 300 years ago a group of Christian refugees started to live together on the German estate of a godly young man named Count Zinzendorf. They held many different doctrines and

had many conflicts together. Count Zinzendorf was grieved by their conflicts, and with much pleading and prayer, was able to get them all to sign an agreement on May 12, 1727, that they would stop all their arguing and wholeheartedly serve the Lord together. Within a few months a spirit of prayer began to grip the community. On August 10 they all fell on the floor during a service, overwhelmed with God's love, and the service went from morning, through the afternoon, until midnight!

Day after day the power of God fell upon them in a greater & greater way. On August 25 the power of God fell and they started a prayer meeting that continued all night, all the next day, all the next day & night- for over 100 years! Not only did they receive revival, they also brought revival to hundreds of places around the world. One out of every 12 church members became a foreign missionary for the next 100 years. Their little church in Germany was only a few hundred people, but they gained millions of converts around the world!

- Leaders- Parents- We need to aim at being of one heart & mind in serving the Lord- that can help those who follow us to also gain undivided hearts. And this can help prepare us all, for God to move among us in power! That has been a key for every revival in history!
- As Psalm 133 tells us, "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! ...For there the Lord commanded the blessing— Life forevermore."

What is one of these blessings that God will command for the brethren who dwell together in unity? Deut.11:13 "And it shall be that if you earnestly obey My commandments which I command you today, to love the LORD your God and serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul, then I will give you the rain for your land in its season, the early rain and the latter rain, that you may gather in your grain, your new wine, and your oil."

\* natural rain & harvests= bless our jobs, our finances

\* spiritual rain & harvests= outpourings of the Holy Spirit, souls saved, churches growing!

When we seek to have an undivided heart to serve the Lord together, we need to pray that any wrong attitude in our hearts towards anyone will be corrected- that forgiveness & love will flow!

\* HOW CAN WE KNOW IF WE HAVE FORGIVEN OTHERS FOR THEIR WRONGS AGAINST US? BY WHETHER WE STOP REMEMBERING THOSE WRONGS!

\* AND WHAT IF WE THINK SOMEONE ELSE MAY HAVE BEEN OFFENDED BY SOMETHING THAT YOU HAVE DONE? Mat. 5:23-24 "Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift."

\* LET US SEEK TO BE BROTHERS THAT DWELL TOGETHER IN UNITY- THAT SERVE THE LORD TOGETHER WITH AN UNDIVIDED HEART!

3. DAVID HAD MANY DIFFICULTIES & FAILURES IN HIS LIFE, BUT DAVID GAINED- AND KEPT- AN UNDIVIDED HEART!

Psa 9:1 "I will praise You, O LORD, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works."

Psalm 27:4 “**One 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.86:12 I will praise You, O Lord my God, w/ all my heart, & I will glorify Your name forevermore

- David's life ended with great joy, 2 Sam.23:1-2 “Now these are the last words of David. Thus says David, the man raised up on high, The anointed of the God of Jacob, And the sweet psalmist of Israel: "The Spirit of the LORD spoke by me, And His word was on my tongue.”
- David's son, Solomon, had a very different end to his life- Solomon had a good start in life & was abundantly blessed by God- but he ended up with a divided heart, 1 Kings 11:3-6

“And Solomon had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines; and his wives turned away his heart. For it was so, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned his heart after other gods; and his heart was not loyal to the LORD his God, as was the heart of his father David. For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and did not fully follow the LORD, as did his father David.”

Solomon's life ended with much sorrow! –Eccles.1:2 Many elderly people filled w/ many regrets

- David's life ended with great joy! Many elderly people have their hearts filled with many joys!

David & Solomon both struggled with many of the same weaknesses & failures, but David succeeded while Solomon ended up a failure. WHY?

David diligently tried to correct his heart (many prayers in the Psalms. Ps.51: Wash me...cleanse me...purge me...create in me a clean heart...restore to me the joy of Your salvation...)- Solomon did not try to diligently change his heart! (no prayers for repentance or cleansing, he just ended his last book w/ regret and warnings, “Don't be a backslider like me!”) Solomon never had the joy of his salvation restored- but David did!

David tried to quickly repent of his wrongs- Solomon did not! Solomon stayed in his sins year after year, until his heart had become very hard. Ecclesiastes shows us that Solomon tried to get back to God at the end of his life, but his hardened heart was never fully restored.

**EVERYONE HAS FAILURES IN THEIR LIFE. BUT IF YOU CAN GET UP FROM YOUR FAILURE & MOVE FORWARD, YOUR LIFE CAN BECOME A SUCCESS. IT IS ONLY IF YOU FALL & STAY DOWN, THEN YOUR LIFE WILL BECOME A FAILURE! GET UP! PRESS ON!**

Are you gaining more & more strength to control and purify your heart & life? It can be like a person who is on a diet- They rarely lose all the weight they want in a short time- but if they persevere little by little, and stick to it, they can accomplish their goal! **ASK GOD FOR AN UNDIVIDED HEART! KEEP ASKING! KEEP SEEKING!**

Is your church joining together more & more, praying more & more? Make a fresh commitment by God's grace! Attend gatherings and prayer meetings! Release forgiveness, not complaints! Ask for the rain of the Holy Spirit! **ASK GOD FOR AN UNDIVIDED CHURCH!**

**GOD CAN GIVE US AN UNDIVIDED HEART!**