

# Pursuing the Heart of God

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**Primary Scripture Text:** *“I have chosen to be faithful; I have determined to live by your regulations. I cling to your laws. Lord don’t let me be put to shame! I will pursue your commands, for you expand my understanding. Psalm 119:30-33 (NLT)*

Our present age is characterized by *compromise* and lack of commitment. **The Word of God** is the vehicle that **drives us** to be decisive and loyal, and it continually restores us to the truth! The Word dispels darkness; helps us **learn**; helps us **stand** and helps us **cling** to our faith **regardless** of the circumstances.

As we **OBEY** God’s commandments and **STAND** on God’s promises our comprehension and our experience of divine truth and trustworthiness **GROWS!**

The psalmist here is **determined** and asking God to **TEACH** him and **RAISE** him to another level of spiritual maturity.

God is looking for the **DETERMINED** and the **TEACHABLE!** God is looking for those who have a spiritual hunger and thirst that **CONTINUES for HIM!**

**Scripture Text:** *“As the deer longs for streams of water, so I long for you, O God. I thirst for God, the*

- David was CHOSEN by God: “A man after God’s own heart” (1 Samuel 13:13-14)
- A man of confidence, wisdom, loyal friend, spiritual.
- But he was anything but perfect; forfeited everything for a brief season of sensual pleasure.

## Question: What kind of people does God choose?

1. One who is \_\_\_\_\_ and whose life is in harmony with God.

**Scripture Text:** *“The eyes of the Lord search the whole earth, in order to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to Him. (2 Chronicles 16:9a NLT)*

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2. One who has a servant’s heart. Servants are filled with \_\_\_\_\_.

**Scripture Text:** *“He chose His servant David, calling him from the sheep pens. (Psalm 78:70 NLT)*

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3. One who has \_\_\_\_\_. The Hebrew word **“tamam”** (complete, whole innocent, P

**Scripture Text:** *“He took David from tending the ewes and the lambs and made him the shepherd of Jacob’s descendants—God’s own people—Israel. He cared for them with a true heart and led them with skillful hands.” (Psalm 78:71,72 NLT)*

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**Question: What are God's training methods?**

**Scripture Text: "God's way is perfect. All the Lord's promises prove true. He is a shield for all who look to him for protection." (Psalm 18:30 NLT)**

1. **Solitude** – David learned life lessons all along **BEFORE** he could be trusted with responsibilities and rewards before the public.
2. **Obscurity** – David was first unknown, unseen, unappreciated and un-applauded. Those who **accept the silence of obscurity** are best qualified to handle the applause of popularity.
3. **Monotony** – David was **faithful** in the menial, insignificant, routine, uneventful, daily tasks of life.
4. **Reality** – David **remained responsible when nobody was looking!** He had been killing lions and bears when no one was around. He had been facing reality long before Goliath!

None of David's training was \_\_\_\_\_ and no experience was \_\_\_\_\_.

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**Question: Do you believe God keeps his promises?**

**Scripture Text: "And I am certain, that God, who began a good work within you, will continue His work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns." (Philippians 1:6 NLT)**

God continues to work in us through His \_\_\_\_\_, day by day. It is a 3-fold work:

**Salvation:** the work God does **FOR us**, **Sanctification:** the work that God does **IN us**, **Service:** the work God does **THROUGH us**. The **work will CONTINUE** until we **SEE CHRIST** and **then** the work will be **FULFILLED**.

**Scripture Text: "Dear friends, we are already God's children, but He has not yet shown us what we will be like when Christ appears. But we do know that we will be like him, for we will see Him as He really is. And all who have this eager expectation will keep themselves pure, just as he is pure." (1 John 3: 2,3 NLT)**

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God promised David that he would be the next king of Israel many years before David actually took the throne and was proclaimed king. Before his appointment, David had to flee every nation that God had called him to lead.

God was \_\_\_\_\_ to David. God is in control and His purposes will be \_\_\_\_\_.

**Scripture Text: "Wait patiently for the Lord. Be brave and courageous. Yes, wait patiently for the Lord. (Psalm 27:14)**

To wait for the Lord is to \_\_\_\_\_ His answer in action. This passage literally means, “be strong and let your heart be strong”.

**Scripture Text: “So let’s not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time, we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don’t give up”. (Galatians 6:9 NLT)**

David accepted the slow timetable. As he waited over the years, he gained understanding. God’s way is \_\_\_\_\_.

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**Question: Have you acknowledged your sin?**

**Scripture Text: “Finally, I confessed my sins to you and stopped trying to hide my guilt. I said to myself, “I will confess my rebellion to the Lord.” And you forgave me! ALL my guilt is gone! (Psalm 32:5 NLT)**

David brought his failure before God. He is relieved of the cover-up that has kept him in spiritual and physical sickness. Now, rather than having to cover-up his own iniquity, he allows God to cover it for him!

**Scripture Text: “If we claim we have not sinned, we are calling God a liar and showing that His Word has no place in our hearts.” (1 John 1:9 NLT)**

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Nathan prepared David for dealing with his own sin. **God directed Nathan** to choose his words carefully, so they would remind David of what he had said and done. David confessed and Nathan assured David that the Lord put away his sin. **BUT David would not escape the consequences of his sin.**

**Scripture Text: “Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me.” Psalm 51:10 NLT)**

The word “create” means a “radical” new beginning. David wants a total newness so that he will not fall back into the cycle of sin.

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**Question: How do I keep standing in the midst of struggle?**

**Scripture Text: “I lie awake thinking of you, meditating on you through the night. Because you are my helper, I sing for joy in the shadow of your wings. I cling to you; your strong right hand holds me securely. (Psalm 63:6-8 NLT)**

David's heart was at **peace**. David **rejoices**. David clings to God (in **obedience**). As he clings to the Lord, he is upheld by the Lord's "right hand", **the hand of authority and power**.

God will keep you \_\_\_\_\_ in his presence.

**Psalms 91** is a promise of \_\_\_\_\_ for the person who "dwells" (to stay, to tarry, endure—a continuance and permanence) in the secret place of the Most High.

**Scripture Text: "Those who live (dwell) in the shelter (secret place) of the Most High will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty". (Psalm 91:1 NLT)**

The shelter (secret place) is the \_\_\_\_\_ of God's presence. It is here we live in the surrender of unceasing \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

**While we are there—we must BELIEVE!**

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**Question: Are you giving Him THANKS at ALL TIMES?**

**Scripture Text: "I will praise the Lord at all times. I will constantly speak His praises. I will boast only in the Lord; let all who are helpless take heart. Come, let us tell of the Lord's greatness; let us exalt His name together.....Taste and see that the Lord is good. Oh, the joys of those who take refuge in Him. Fear the Lord, you godly people, for those who fear Him will have all they need. (Psalm 34: 1-3, 8, 9 NLT)**

Worship and praise should be your continual \_\_\_\_\_.

The praise of the Lord is always in David's mouth because his words reflect his HEART!

Your **WORSHIP** becomes your \_\_\_\_\_.

Your joy should be infectious.

As you **WORSHIP** in the **WITNESS** of others you should offer them an **INVITATION** for them to join you (regardless of the circumstances) and **MAGNIFY HIM** (to call Him great), and to **EXTOL HIM** (raise His name in PRAISE; FOR IT IS THE NAME ABOVE ALL NAMES!

**Scripture Text: "How great is the Lord, how deserving of praise, in the city of our God." (Psalm 48:1 NLT)**

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**STAY IN PURSUIT!**