

The following sermon was preached at Redemption Baptist Church on Sunday, 8 May 2022. We encourage you to look up the Scriptures that are referenced, and see the context for yourself. May the Lord speak to your heart as you study His Word.

The Faith of a King **Hebrews 11:32**

We are now approaching the final stretch of the “Faith Chapter”! As we have examined the lives of many great men and women of God in **Hebrews 11**, we have seen a beautiful variety of spiritual fruit that God produced in these believers’ lives, all because they placed their faith in Him.

Faith in God is the starting point of Christian growth. All the spiritual virtues that Christ wants to give you can be imparted to you only if you will *trust* Him with your life, and let Him have His way. In **2 Peter 1:5-8**, Peter wrote, “*And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity (love).*” All these spiritual qualities—and many more—begin with *faith* in Christ. He is the Fount of righteousness for every believer; and as we trust Him, He will conform us more to His image.

This morning, we will be studying the faith of another great man of God who lived in Old Testament times. Unlike the judges of Israel, whom we studied last week, this man held the office of king. His name is **David**.

If we were to come up with just one word to describe the faith of David, what would it be? What one word could describe the *fruit* of David’s faith? I’m sure we could come up with many words to describe David’s faith; but for me, the word that comes to mind is “**a tender faith.**” It is my prayer that if you have never placed your faith in Christ for salvation, you will do so before you leave here this morning. It is also my prayer that if you are already saved, this quality of “tenderness” will manifest itself in your faith. The title of this message is *The Faith of a King*.

Read Hebrews 11:32.

Probably the most famous description of David is the one that the LORD gave when he commissioned Samuel to anoint David as king. God Himself said, “***I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfill all my will***” (**Acts 13:22**). What kind of heart would you have to have in order to fit this description, “a man after God’s own heart”? You’d have to have a “tender” heart. God called David a “man after His own heart” not because he was perfect. (He was far from perfect!) Rather, God called him a “man after His own heart” because he had a *tender heart* toward Him. As David exercised faith in his Lord, *tenderness of heart* manifested itself in his life.

Are you walking by faith, Christian? I’m not merely talking about trusting God to save your soul: I’m talking about trusting Him with every aspect of your life. *Do you trust Him with your whole life? Are you walking by faith? If you are doing so, then your faith will produce a tender heart.*

David’s tenderness of heart can be seen in several ways. First of all, David’s faith produced...

I. A tenderness toward the LORD

I would greatly encourage you to read a chapter of the **Psalms** every day, in addition to whatever other Scripture reading you may be doing. Reading **Psalms** will help you to keep a tender heart toward the Lord. The **Psalms**—most of which were written by David—overflow with words of the love and praise to God. It would take months of sermons to touch on all the loving names and expressions that David used for his Redeemer. Let's look at some examples this morning.

Read Psalm 42:1-2.

David said that his soul “panted” after the LORD, just as a thirsty deer pants for water. He could hardly wait for the day when he would stand before His Redeemer. Those are strong words, are they not? This is not an isolated example, either. David wrote such things in his songs continually!

If Christ were to appear in the clouds today to take us home, would you be beside yourself with joy? Or are you uncomfortable at the thought of standing before Him, because you know that you are not really loving Him with all your heart at this point in your life? Do you really mean it when you come to church and sing “O, how I love Jesus”? I'm not asking if you have the eloquent vocabulary that David had to *express* his love for the Lord: I'm simply asking, “Is David's quality of love for God a reality in your life?” Do you long to know God in an ever more personal way? Do you love Him with all you might?

Another example of David's tenderness toward the Lord can be seen in **Psalm 23**.

Read Psalm 23:1-6.

The four simple Hebrew words “*Jehovah ro'iy, lo ekhsar*” (“The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want”) are, possibly, the most beautiful description of loving trust in God that David ever wrote. These words reveal David's implicit faith in God. He viewed the LORD as his loving Provider and Protector. Just as a shepherd provides his sheep with their every need, and protects them from wild animals, so the LORD provides and protects His people. This psalm also reveals how David viewed *himself* in relation to the Lord. David viewed himself as ignorant and helpless. He viewed himself as prone to straying away into danger. Just like a sheep that desperately needs his shepherd, David saw himself as being in desperate need of his God.

Most people despise the Bible's teaching that we are “sheep,” because they want to believe that they are the “captain” of their own soul, and that they can get along just fine on their own. That is why the world rejects God. They don't think they need God; and they resent His offer to be their Shepherd. In recent years, some celebrities and entertainers have begun to refer to God as “the sky bully.” That says it all, doesn't it? The bottom line is that man does not want to be ruled by the Lord Jesus Christ. In contrast, those who are saved *know* that they need the Lord. They *gladly* own Him as their Shepherd. Jesus said in **John 10**, “*My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.*” Peter said in **1 Peter 2:25**, “*For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.*”

If you are truly saved, you know that you need your Lord. There was a day in your life when you realised that Christ was the only one who could save your soul from eternal condemnation; and you trusted Him to save you. However, do you realise how desperately you still need Him for *everything* in your life? Do you *love* Him more day by day? Do you try to fathom the depths of how much He has done, and is continuing to do, for you? David did. His faith in the Lord moved him to love his Lord with all his heart, and to try to comprehend “*the breadth, and length, and depth, and height*” of God's love for him.

David's faith produced a tenderness toward the Lord. It also produced...

II. A tenderness toward God's Word

In **Deuteronomy 17:18**, God told the children of Israel that in that in the future, when Israel would be settled in the land of Canaan, there would come a day when they would desire to have a king over them. Therefore, God commanded that when they did choose a king to rule over them, each king would have the personal responsibility to write, with his own hand, his own personal copy of the entire Law. (That is the first five books of the Bible!) God also commanded that Israel's king was to read the Law (the Scriptures) every single day! I think it safe to say that David not only fulfilled this kingly responsibility, but that he went over and above his duty. David's love for God's Word almost leaps off the pages of Scripture. As you read through the **Psalms**, you can't miss it!

I would encourage you to read through **Psalm 119**, and look carefully at what David had to say about God's Word. The whole theme of **Psalm 119** is "God's words." Almost every verse refers, either directly or indirectly, to God's words. David referred to the Scriptures as "*thy word*" (or "*thy words*"), "*thy testimonies*," "*thy law*," "*thy statutes*," "*thy precepts*," "*thy commandments*," and "*thy judgments*." He called God's Word "*sweeter than honey*," "*an heritage forever*," "*better...than thousands of gold and silver*," "*my delight*," a "*lamp unto my feet*," a "*light unto my path*," and many other endearing names. He couldn't seem to find enough words to describe his love for God's Word. For example, let's look at **Psalm 119:16**.

Read Psalm 119:16.

In this verse, David is describing His love for God's Word in a very tender way. There are several Hebrew words that can be translated as "delight"; but the word for "delight" that David is using here in **Psalm 119:16** is one that is rarely used in Scripture. This word the idea of "fondling," "dandling," or rocking a baby back and forth upon one's knee. This same word is used in **Isaiah 66:12**, where the LORD expresses His love for the nation of Israel. He says that in the future Kingdom age, Israel will be tenderly loved, like a baby that is "*dandled*" upon his mother's knees!

That's a powerful description, isn't it? The "motherly" kind of love that God has for His covenant people, Israel, is the same kind of love that David had for God's Word. He didn't merely "handle" God's Word; he "dandled" it with the deepest love and affection. He treated it with the same tenderness that a mother would have for her newborn baby, as she rocks him in her lap!

Do *you* love God's Word that much, Christian? Do you love it even more than you did on the day when you were saved? Do you love it even more than you did a year ago, or six months ago? Or has your love for His Word grown cold, and been replaced with other things?

Tenderness toward God's Word is a "barometer" of your faith. When you are walking by faith, love for God's Word will blossom in your life. Why? Because you love *God*! Since you trust God implicitly, and love Him with all your heart, you want to know what God has to say to you; and the only way to have this knowledge is by reading His Word. As you trust Him more, His Word becomes more and more priceless and invaluable to you. Do you love His Word, as David did?

David's faith produced a tenderness toward the Lord, and toward His Word. It also produced...

III. A hatred of sin, and avoidance of sinners

Another product of David's faith that stands out like a flashing neon sign is David's hatred of sin. He hated sin in his own life, and desired to avoid it like the bubonic plague. Time and time again, David pleaded with God to keep him from sin, and to cleanse him from his sin. For David, the thought of breaking the commandments in God's Word even produced an adverse *physical* reaction in him. Look at what David said in **Psalm 119:120**.

Read Psalm 119:120.

Those words "*my flesh trembleth*" literally has the idea of one's flesh "standing up." For example, in **Job 4:15**, one of Job's friend told Job about an experience that he had had one night. He said that he saw a spirit pass before him, and the "*hair of [his] flesh stood up.*" (I've never seen a spirit before; but I guarantee you that if I *were* to see one, my hair would stand up, too!) This is the same Hebrew verb that David is using here, when he says that his "flesh trembled." In today's way of speaking, we might say, "The hair stood up on the back of my neck"; or, "I had chills up and down my spine"; or, "I had goosebumps all over." David genuinely feared the thought of God's judgment upon sin—so much so, that he had a physical, bodily reaction to it!

Is that the way you react at the thought of sinning against God, Christian? You should! "But, Pastor, I thought that if you are saved, you can't ever be condemned again!" That is absolutely true. However, the fact that our salvation is secure doesn't change the fact that the Lake of Fire is what you *deserve*. If the thought that you were once on your way to hell doesn't make your hair stand on end every now and then, then you just might be getting calloused about your sin, and losing the wonder of your salvation. When you read, in **Revelation 20**, that "*death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire,*" it should make you shudder. When you read, in **Revelation 14**, that the unsaved will be "*tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: and the smoke of their torment ascendeth up forever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night,*" it should make you tremble. A true Christian needn't tremble at the thought that he might be going to hell, because his salvation is eternally secure. However, it *should* make you tremble to think that you *would* have ended up in the Lake of Fire, had not Christ saved you. It should also make you tremble to think that this is where all your unsaved loved ones are heading!

Christians should also tremble at the thought of the chastisement that they will experience in their lives if they try to get away with sin. God isn't mocked, Christian! Since you are His child, He deals with you as with a son. Simply put, God spans His kids! Yet, many Christians today seem to think that God isn't serious about their sin. "Oh, it's just a little sin. No one else knows about it. And besides, I can handle it." That wasn't David's attitude! Let's see what David had to say about sin.

Read Psalm 119:97-104.

Do you hate *every* false way, Christian? Or do you hate only *some* false ways? Are there sins you secretly cherish, and don't want to give up? Maybe you like a dirty habit, such as smoking, or drinking, or taking a glance at filthy pictures. God's Word says, "*Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging; and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise. Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright. At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder.*" The Bible also says that a Christian's body is the temple

of the Holy Ghost, and that it is not our own; therefore, we are not to defile it. Jesus said that to look at a woman with lust is to commit adultery in the heart. Yet, many Christians seem to think God doesn't mean what He says when He gives these warnings. Many Christians grant themselves such allowances in their lives, and think nothing of it; but *God* knows of no such allowances. He has spoken; and He means what He says. Do you hate what God hates?

Does it make your “hair stand on end” to think of stealing from God that which belongs to him? “Oh, Pastor, you’re not going to talk about tithing again, are you?” Yes, I am, because it is extremely important to God. The Bible repeatedly states that to refrain from giving your tithe is to “rob God.” That’s serious stuff! Have you ever wondered why God commanded the children of Israel not to take any spoil from the city of Jericho? Have you ever wondered why God allowed 36 Israelite men to be killed in the next battle against Ai, all on account of one man, Achan, who had secretly taken some spoil from Jericho, and had hidden it under his tent? If you ever wondered about that, here’s the answer: **Jericho was the “firstfruits” of Israel’s conquest of Canaan;** and because it was the “firstfruits,” it belonged to God. That is why they were not to touch it.

The principle of “firstfruits” is the same throughout Scripture. The principle of firstfruits is that the “first” of our increase *always belongs to God*. Tithing isn’t about “lending others a hand”: it is about *worshipping God*, and giving Him His due. Many Christians have the notion that tithing is about supporting evangelisation, or supporting the pastor, or paying the church’s bills, and so on. However, this idea misses the point. The point of tithing is that the first tenth of our increase belongs to *God*, and we are not to touch it. Have you ever wondered to whom Abraham and Jacob paid tithes? The Scripture tells us that they tithed; yet, there were no temples, or priests, or any kind of religious “system” in which the tithes could be put to use. They either put their increase on the altar and burned it as a sacrifice to God, or gave it to those in need. By giving to others, they gave to God.

Back in the 1950’s and 60’s, there was a Christian Dutchman named Andrew van der Bijl who smuggled Bibles beyond the Iron Curtain, into the communist countries of Eastern Europe. The miracles that God performed so that he might accomplish his mission are simply amazing! For example, in his very first trip to Yugoslavia, he drove up to the border with a Volkswagen that was literally bulging with Bibles and tracts; and he had no idea how he would avoid arrest and confiscation of his literature. So, he silently prayed, “Lord, in my luggage I have Scripture that I want to take to your children across the border. When you were on earth, you made blind eyes see. Now, I pray, make seeing eyes blind. Do not let the guards see those things you do not want them to see.”¹ And guess what? They *didn’t* see them! The guards opened his suitcases, pulled back the thin layer of clothes on top, and looked right at the Slovenian and Croatian tracts, and even handled them; yet, somehow, they didn’t seem to realise that they were handling highly-illegal religious material! They saw, yet they didn’t see; and in a friendly manner, they waved him through the border!²

How did Andrew have the faith to do such things? Well, there were many experiences in his early Christian life which God used to build his faith; but one of them was the evangelization tour that he did during his years of study at Worldwide Evangelisation Crusade in Glasgow. He and a handful of other students were sent out to do a four-week evangelization tour throughout Scotland; and they were given *only one pound* to pay for all their expenses! They were to pay for their own transportation, lodging, and food; and they had to pay the pound back to the school when they returned. They were not permitted to take up any offerings, solicit funds, or make the

¹ Andrew van der Bijl, *God’s Smuggler* (Old Tappan, New Jersey: Spire Books, 1967), p. 100.

² *Ibid*, p. 101.

slightest mention of their monetary needs to anyone. Furthermore, they were to *tithe* whatever funds they did receive. How did they do it? By faith! Money would come to them in the post from friends, family, or churches that had no idea that they were doing an evangelization tour with their own funds! Once a little church in the highlands gave them 600 eggs; and they ate eggs for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Once, when they were putting on an evangelization crusade for youth, they were in desperate need of a cake (which they had promised to provide); and at the very last moment, a fresh, moist chocolate cake arrived in the mail from a Christian lady in London, who had no idea that they needed it! When they arrived back at the WEC headquarters, they not only had the pound to give back to the WEC, but they had ten pounds to spare! How did they do it? Andrew attributed their success to the fact that whenever they received any little bit of money, they tithed *immediately*, and didn't set it aside "just in case" of an emergency. Other groups of students *didn't* give their tithe away immediately; instead, they *did* keep their tithe aside "just in case" there were an emergency. Strangely, there were *lots* of emergencies that arose for these groups; and they came back to the WEC headquarters with debts to hotels, lecture halls, and markets all over Scotland!³ Folks, you cannot outgive God!

I'll be honest with you: I *fear* to withhold my tithe from God. I've learned from experience that when you keep back something that belongs to God (whether it be tithe, missions, or money that you know that God wants me to give to someone in need), sooner or later, God gets it back from you! Many Christians have testified to me that for years they either had not tithed, or had tithed when they thought they could "afford" it; but it finally caught up with them. God allowed them to suffer significant loss in some form or another; and they finally realised that they couldn't afford *not* to tithe.

By the way, I don't mean to apply this truth only to tithing. A Christian's whole *life* belongs to God. If you are saved, you are His property! This means that to take that little glance at a dirty picture is malfeasance against God's property. To use your tongue to spread gossip is malfeasance against God's property. Should there be a sin you are hanging onto, Christian, confess and forsake it today!

By the way, in order to confess and forsake sin, you need to have godly friends. This doesn't mean that we should avoid our unsaved friends and loved ones. However, we should not seek serious life counsel from those who do not know God; nor should we make them our closest, bosom friends. Those who know and love the Lord should be the Christian's closest friends; and those who are intimately acquainted with God's Word are those from whom Christians should seek counsel. David stated this truth at the beginning of the very first psalm.

Read Psalm 1:1-2.

Christian young people, the friends you choose will determine whether you will serve God or not. Do not make close friends of people who use God's name in vain, who speak profanities, who fornicate, who drink alcohol, who use drugs, who watch filthy movies, who listen to the world's filthy rock music, and who try to get you to join them in these things! It is better to have one saved, godly friend than to have dozens of friends who are ungodly, and who will draw you into ungodliness! This doesn't just go for young people; this goes for us "grown-ups," too! Hatred of sin, and avoidance of the path of sinners, is the fruit of faith. Are you fervently avoiding sin, Christian?

The last fruit of faith in David's life was...

³ *Ibid*, pp. 66-68.

IV. True, heart-felt repentance when he sinned

What are the two main events in David's life that everyone remembers? Everyone remembers his tremendous faith when he defeated Goliath; but they also remember his tremendous sin when he committed adultery with Bathsheba, and then arranged the death of Bathsheba's husband, Uriah.

If there be any example of just how far God's grace extends in salvation, David is that example. I wish I had a euro for every time someone has told me, "Well, if salvation can't be lost, then you could go out and do anything you want to do, right? What about if someone commit *murder*?" Well, guess what? David *did* commit murder; yet, God still called him "a man after God's own heart."

Many people cannot understand how David could *not* have lost his salvation. After all, he broke the two "big ones," right? To be sure, David's sin *was* great, and hideous; but if you think that David *lost his salvation* because of the greatness of his sin, you do not understand the seriousness of sin. *Every sin is a capital offense against God, and is worthy of death!* **Romans 6:23** says, "***For the wages of sin is death.***" It's that simple! Murder separates the sinner from God just as much as the "little white lie" does. The reason that David did not lose his salvation and go to hell, even though he committed adultery and murder, is the same reason that *you*, Christian, do not lose your salvation when you disobey the Holy Spirit's prompting to witness to someone about salvation. The reason David didn't lose his salvation is that he was justified by the blood of Jesus Christ, which would one day be shed on the cross! When he placed his faith in Jehovah for salvation, he was justified of all sin.

Maybe you're thinking, "Pastor, I understand why David didn't lose his salvation. However, I still don't understand how God could have called him a man after his own heart, when he committed such a terrible sin!" Well, it all goes back to this matter of tenderness of heart. When David repented, it was not a false or half-hearted repentance. He was not thinking about whether he would be able to remain in his position as king of Israel. He was not trying to get out of punishment by putting on a show of remorse. He did not offer subtle excuses as to why he had sinned. No, he repented with all his heart. He was truly sorrowful over his sin—not because he felt bad about the consequences that his sin was going to cause in his life, but because he had sinned against the God whom he loved. He truly *turned* from his sin. This was a characteristic of David throughout his life as a believer.

Read Psalm 51:1-19.

Do you have this kind of tenderness about your sin, Christian? When you sin, do you repent with all your heart, and ask for cleansing? Does it pain you that you have hurt the God you love?

In closing, I would like to point out one more fruit of faith that manifested in David's life:

V. Tenderness toward his enemies

David had many deadly enemies, both before and after he became king. Throughout much of his life, he was continually crying out to God for protection from his enemies. Though he did often pray for God to *avenge him* of his enemies, he still had an unexplainable tenderness toward them. His attitude toward King Saul is a classic example. Though King Saul spent seven years of his life chasing after David and trying to murder him, David refused to lift up his hand against Saul. Remember when David cut off a piece of Saul's robe while he was sleeping, just to make the

point that he *could* have killed him? David's conscience was actually *troubled* after he did that! I doubt many believers would feel the slightest remorse for doing such a trivial thing against such a wicked enemy! Yet, David did. Let's see what David's attitude was toward his enemies.

Read Psalm 119:158 and 119:134-136.

When was the last time "rivers of waters" ran down your face at the thought of the unbelief and rebellion of unsaved people around you? Does it grieve you to see lost people (including your personal enemies) rejecting God, and heading toward the Lake of Fire? This is a compassion that comes only from God. Jesus said, "***Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbor, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.***" Is it really possible to have such an attitude? Yes! The believer who walks by faith has the power, through the Holy Spirit, to have this kind of love, because it is the love that Christ imparts to us.

Conclusion: This message has been directed mostly to Christians. However, before I close this morning, I would ask, "Do you know for sure that you are saved?" Salvation is a free gift, which every one of us needs. It doesn't matter if you have broken the "big" commandments, or if you have been a good, upstanding, moral person all your life, and never even broken the speed limit. You are still a sinner; and you must have your sin washed away by the blood of Jesus. I urge you to come to Christ today!

If you are saved, I would ask this: "Do you have a tender faith, like David's?" Do you have a tenderness in your heart toward God and His Word? Do you have a true hatred of sin? Do you stay clear of the path of those who would draw you into sin? Do you truly repent and turn back to the Lord when you do sin? Do you have a tenderness in your heart even toward your enemies, and a desire that they would be saved? These qualities *can* be in you, and abound, if you will add to your faith virtue, and to virtue knowledge, and to knowledge temperance, and to temperance patience, and to patience godliness, and to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness charity. Let Christ build up your faith today!