

Going Deeper

Your weekly guide to understanding God with others

David - Part 2 - How to Live By The Spirit

TIM PIESSE

Introduction

Fill in the blanks:

"The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the o_____ a_____, but the Lord looks at the h_____."
(1 Samuel 16:7)

Out of the obscurity of shepherding sheep in the outback, David was anointed as future king. He appeared to be the most unlikely candidate compared to his seven older brothers. Yet, God chose David and he grew to be known as "the man after God's own heart", despite his shortcomings. What can we learn from his anointing?

Read:

1 Samuel 16:1-15

Discuss

1. Have you ever felt that you were judged on your outward appearance? How did that make you feel and how did you respond to that? How do we tend to judge ourselves based on our own appearances?
2. "God looks at our heart, who are really are and who we are becoming. We are not the sum of our failures or the sum of our worst moments." Refer to Psalm 103:12 on God's forgiveness. How does this speak to you?
3. Review 1 Samuel 16:13. This was a pivotal moment in David's life as he was anointed to be the future king in place of Saul. The anointing oil represents the Holy Spirit. Can you share a moment in your life when you felt God called you to do something beyond your comfort level? What is your experience of anointing when you stepped out in faith to obey Him?

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4. Review 1 Corinthians 2:9. How can this promise encourage us to take risks that God is leading us into? What "faith risk" do you think God may be challenging you to take at the moment?
5. Despite his great anointing and calling, David was unable to deal with some temptations in his life. Refer to 1 Corinthians 10:13. What is one way personal temptations can be dealt with?
6. What does "Pray bigger prayers" mean? Refer to Ephesian 3:13. How does this verse encourage us to ask in faith?

Respond

In order to live by the Spirit, we need a heart surrendered to God. This enables the anointing of the Holy Spirit to be released in our lives. Share one "bigger prayer" with your group and support each other in mutual prayer. Pray for an anointing of the Holy Spirit in this matter.

References

1 Samuel 16:7

But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

Psalms 103:12

...as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

1 Corinthians 2:9

However, as it is written: "What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived" — the things God has prepared for those who love him

1 Corinthians 10:13

No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

Ephesians 3:20

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us