

THE SECRET OF GREATNESS

I Samuel 16:7

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I Samuel 16:7 "The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance but the Lord looks at the heart."

(God) "David is a man after My own heart. . . ." Acts 13:22

FOUR TESTS OF A GREAT HEART

1. First test: sin. David's response: A repentant heart.

"O loving and kind God, have mercy. Have pity upon me and take away the awful stain of my sins. Wash me, cleanse me from this guilt. Let me be pure again. For I admit my shameful deed . . ." Ps. 51:1-3 (LB)

"God will not reject . . . a repentant heart." Ps. 51:17

2. Second test: Stress. David's response: He has a trusting heart.

"In my distress I prayed to the Lord and He answered me and rescued me. He is for me! How can I "My mind and my body may grow weak, but God is my strength: He is all I ever need." Ps. 73:26

"I kept on believing, even when I said, 'I am completely crushed'. . ." Ps. 116:10

3. Third test: Service. David's response: Was a servant's heart

"With all my heart I try to serve You . . ." Ps. 119:10

"Keep me from paying attention to what is worthless." Ps. 119:38

"I will not offer to the Lord sacrifices that have cost me nothing." 2 Sam. 24:24

Characteristics of a servant's heart:

1. **He was whole hearted.** Ps. 119:10 "With all my heart I try to serve you."

2. **He was focused.** He refused to be sidetracked by less important things. Ps. 119:38 "Keep me from paying attention to what is worthless."

3. **He was sacrificial.** David was willing to invest his time and his money. 2 Samuel 24:24 "I will not offer to the Lord, sacrifices that have cost me nothing."

4. Fourth test: Success. David's response: A humble heart

"In everything David did he had great success, because the Lord was with him." 1 Sam. 18:14

"To You alone, O Lord, to You alone, and not unto us must glory be given." Ps. 115:1

"For promotion and power come from nowhere on earth but only from God. He promotes one and deposes another." Ps. 75:6 (LB)

"For the eyes of the Lord search back and forth across the whole earth, looking for people whose hearts are perfect toward Him, so He can show His great power in helping them!" 2 Chron. 16:9

Examine your heart!