

A CHURCH THAT COUNTS

How a Church Responds to Defeat and Victory

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February 7, 2010

“Who can understand the human heart? There is nothing else so deceitful; it is too sick to be healed.”

Jeremiah 17:9 (Good News)

“The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance but the Lord looks at the heart.” 1 Samuel 16:7

(Paul to the Philippians) *“You are always in my heart!”*

Philippians 1:7 (Good News)

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

FOUR TESTS OF A GREAT HEART

1. First test: _____

David’s response: _____

“Create a pure heart in me, O God, and put a new and loyal spirit in me.” Psalm 51:10 (Good News)

“Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” They answered, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your family.” At that very hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; and he and all his family were baptized at once.” Acts 16:29, 31, 33 (Good News)

2. Second test: _____

David's response: _____

"In my distress I prayed to the Lord and He answered me and rescued me. He is for me! How can I be afraid?"

Psalm 118:5-6 (Living Bible)

"I want to report to you, friends, that my imprisonment here has had the opposite of its intended effect. Instead of being squelched, the Message has actually prospered. All the soldiers here, and everyone else, too, found out that I'm in jail because of this Messiah."

Philippians 1:12-13 (The Message)

3. Third test: _____

David's response: _____

1. _____

"With all my heart I try to serve You . . ."

Psalm 119:10 (Good News)

"I always pray with joy because of the way in which you have helped me in the work of the gospel from the very first day until now." Philippians 1:4b-5 (Good News)

2. _____

"Keep me from paying attention to what is worthless."

Psalm 119:38 (Good News)

"But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me."

Philippians 3:12 (New Living Translation)

3. _____

"I will not offer to the Lord sacrifices that have cost me nothing." 2 Samuel 24:24 (Good News)

*"Perhaps my life's blood is to be poured out like an offering on the sacrifice that your faith offers to God. If that is so, I am glad and share my joy with you all."
Philippians 2:17 (Good News)*

4. **Fourth test:** _____

David's response: _____

1. _____ **goes to God for any success.**

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

*"I thank my God for you every time I think of you;"
Philippians 1:3 (Good News)*

2. _____ **the truth brings balance.**

*"Judgment does not come from the east or from the west, from the north or from the south; it is God who is the judge, condemning some and acquitting others."
Psalm 75:6-7 (Good News)*

"And so I am sure that God, who began this good work in you, will carry it on until it is finished on the Day of Christ Jesus." Philippians 1:6 (Good News)

**3. _____ for people to use and
bless.**

"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 Chronicles 16:9 (Living Bible)

*"For you have all shared with me in this privilege that God has given me, both now that I am in prison and also while I was free to defend the gospel and establish it firmly."
Philippians 1:7b (Good News)*

**4. _____ of the
timeliness of the times to serve.**

*"For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, died."
Acts 13:36 (Revised Standard Version)*

"Who knows if perhaps you were made queen for just such a time as this?" Esther 4:14 (New Living Translation)

"As for me, my life has already been poured out as an offering to God. The time of my death is near. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful." 2 Timothy 4:6-7 (New Living Translation)