

A Man
After
God's Own
Heart

A DEVOTIONAL

JIM GEORGE



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A Note from Jim



In my earlier books *A Man After God's Own Heart* and *A Husband After God's Own Heart*, I pointed to Acts 13:22 to explain what it means to follow after God's heart. God states, "I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will." Now, David wasn't perfect. In fact, he was far from perfect! But God saw something in his heart. God saw a man who had a heart that, when confronted by God, desired to correct his ways and get back on track with Him. Though David was less than ideal, he was still fully committed to progressing in his desire to follow God.

It is my prayer that this practical book of exhortations and inspirational thoughts will help you remember that God is not looking for perfection. All He asks for is a man who is progressing in his desire to become a man after God's own heart.

Jim George

Taking Your Decisions to God

Every major accomplishment in a man's life requires a high level of commitment. I'm sure you can remember such an accomplishment in your life. Perhaps you were starting your own business. Or you were considering a job change or mapping out a new direction for your company or family. Whatever it was, you probably felt some initial hesitancy. One day you were eager to start...and the next you weren't so sure. But once you made the decision to proceed, all the long hours of effort were worth it because of the joy of seeing the fruit of your labors.

What major decision or change are you facing right now? Have you included God in the planning process? Take time to pray and share your thoughts and concerns with Him, and ask for His leading as you move forward.

God, I commit my plans to You today. Help me to honor You in all I do. Thank You for guiding me so that my decisions will glorify You and bless the people around me. Amen.

The Price of Commitment

King David understood the necessity of pouring himself fully into his commitments. When it came time to obtain land so he could build an altar to God, someone offered to give David some land for free. But David knew that the greater the commitment, the greater would be the blessing. Therefore he declared he would not offer burnt offerings to God “with that which costs me nothing” (2 Samuel 24:24).

David declined what was convenient, and expressed his love and commitment to God through personal sacrifice. In what ways have you recently expressed your level of commitment to the Lord? Have there been costs involved? You will reap blessings as you wholeheartedly follow God and do what He says. Consider what God said about David: “I have found [him]...a man after My own heart, who will do all My will” (Acts 13:22).

God, strengthen me so that when my commitment is put to the test, I won't falter. Help me to be a man of my word in my relationships with others and with You. Amen.

God Looks at the Heart

When God sent the prophet Samuel to look for a new king for Israel, He cautioned him, “The LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart” (1 Samuel 16:7). In everything, God looks on the heart. Your relationship with Him has to do with your heart and your heart’s desire. As happened with King David, you may experience lapses in your walk with God. We all do! But whenever that happened, David always returned to God in obedience. That’s what made him a man after God’s own heart.

Does that describe you as well? No matter what happens, is the deepest desire of your heart to yield yourself fully to Him in obedience? If yes, you’ll become a man God can—and will—use.

God, I'm amazed that You don't give up on me when I fail. I do want to walk in obedience, to be free from sin, and to see You move in and through my life. Amen.

What God Desires in You

David was a man with feet of clay, a man who committed sins that grieved God's heart. Yet over the long haul, he sought to be righteous, and his desire was to do God's will. This is the kind of man God looks for. David wasn't perfect, and he didn't deserve God's blessings. But in his heart he had the right desire—a longing to follow and please God.

Is that your personal longing as well? You may feel that being a man after God's heart is too lofty a goal because of some of your past actions. But remember: God looked at David's *heart*. And that's where He's going to look in your life as well. When it comes to becoming a man after God's heart, you can count on God's grace—a grace that enables and strengthens you at all times.

God, You know my heart better than I do. Help me to open my heart to You every day. Purify my heart, I pray, and renew me from the inside out. Amen.

Seek First His Kingdom

We hear a lot of talk about establishing priorities in our lives. But no one said it better than Jesus: “Do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ . . . But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you” (Matthew 6:31,33). Food, drink, and clothing are important, but they’re not your first priority. Rather, your pursuit of God—and the resulting spiritual growth—is what really matters. When you put God first, He will provide for you and your family. That’s His promise—seek Him, and He will take care of everything else. As C.S. Lewis said, “Put first things first and we get second things thrown in: put second things first and we lose both first and second things.”

Jesus, thank You for inviting me to seek Your kingdom. You are more than just my first priority—all my priorities find their rightful place in You and Your kingdom. Amen.

Yielding to God

When God looks at your life, what does He look for? Not perfection—being a Christian doesn't mean you don't sin anymore. Rather, it means sin is no longer the predominant pattern of your life. As a Christian, you are a new creature in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17). And when you do sin, because the Holy Spirit lives in you, you are convicted and possess a desire to repent so the joy of your fellowship with God can be restored (Psalm 51:12).

God never asks you to do something without providing you with the enablement to do it. With the Holy Spirit's help, you can live as a man after God's own heart. As you yield your life fully to the Lord, the Spirit will produce fruit that is consistent with being a child of God.

Lord, You can do anything—even make me a man after Your own heart. Thank You for forgiving me and for continuing to make me the man You want me to be. Amen.

Planted in God's Word

Just as water is the only thing that can relieve thirst in the desert, God's Word is the only thing that can satisfy our spiritual thirst. It alone can nourish us spiritually and help us grow as Christians.

So if you want to live as a man after God's own heart, you need to make sure you're firmly planted in God's Word. God has much to say about life and your priorities, and if you neglect the Bible, you will find yourself spiritually malnourished and drifting without direction in life.

If you want to live as a man after God's own heart, then there's no better place for you to go for guidance. Don't you agree? What impact is the Bible having on your life right now? What would making the Bible your first priority involve?

*Father, thank You for the Bible! Help me to never take for granted the opportunity to let Your Word shape my thinking, my speaking, and my actions.
Amen.*

The Keys to Your Growth

When it comes to spiritual growth, God doesn't leave you on your own. His Spirit, who lives in every believer, gives you the power and desire to grow. He is your Guide and Helper (John 14:16-17,26).

Between the Bible and the Holy Spirit, you have everything you need to grow spiritually. And the more you grow, the more God can use you. He can work through you to touch the lives of others—your wife, your children, your co-workers, your fellow churchgoers, your friends and neighbors.

Ultimately, if you want your life to count, you need to grow spiritually. And because Scripture offers everything you need for nourishment, it needs to remain top priority in your life. The more you crave God's Word, the more you'll grow and have an impact.

Lord, thank You for giving me everything I need to continue growing more and more like You. Help me to never give up, never settle for less, and always rely on Your Word. Amen.