



## A HEART FOR GOD

**SCRIPTURAL LESSON:** *I Samuel 16:1-13*

**GOSPEL TRUTH:**

God chooses a person for service by looking at the heart and not on the outer appearance. He alone knows what is in the heart of man.

**GOLDEN SCRIPTURE:**

*The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings (Jeremiah 17:9-10).*

**THE APOSTOLIC FAITH CHURCH DOCTRINES:**

1. God's choice for a person of service is not based upon one's physical appearance but upon what is in the heart. God searches the heart as only He can do (*I Samuel 16:7*).
2. Service to God requires a perfect heart and a willing mind because the Lord searches all hearts and understands the imaginations of the thoughts (*I Chronicles 28:9; Psalm 44:21*).
3. The heart of man must be free of hypocrisy for his lips will betray him (*Matthew 15:8*).
4. We must diligently keep our hearts right with God (*Proverbs 4:23*).
5. There is a blessing for the pure in heart, "for they shall see God" (*Matthew 5:8*).

**BACKGROUND SETTING:**

Saul was anointed King of Israel. He was given instructions to hearken unto the words of the Lord and to smite and destroy Amalek in retribution for their treatment of the children of Israel as they were coming out of Egypt. The instructions were to "Now go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have,

and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass" (*I Samuel 15:3*). The instructions were explicit and God expected exact obedience. Saul neglected to obey the word of the Lord and spared King Agag and the ". . . best of the sheep, and of the oxen, and of the fatlings, and the lambs and all that was good, and would not utterly destroy them. . ." to sacrifice unto God. This was in direct disobedience to God's instructions (*I Samuel 15:9*). Saul began to give excuse; but God's word through Samuel was ". . . Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king" (*I Samuel 15:22-23*). Thus, God sent Samuel to Bethlehem to see Jesse the Bethlemites because there would be a king among his sons.

**LESSON SUMMARY:**

King Saul had been the choice of the people. God's choice for a king was David. Surely, God is the righteous Judge who looks at the heart: "For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another" (*Psalms 75:6-7*). David was Israel's best king who truly loved, trusted and believed in God. He was a poet (*Psalms*); a noted warrior; a man of war; a faithful friend (to Jonathan); a husband and father. Although David sinned, he loved God and repented unto victory. David fixed his heart upon God and throughout the book of *Psalms* expressed the feelings of his heart toward God. He was successful because his heart was full of love for God; he trusted in God; and his faith in the almighty power and love of God. He knew and acknowledged that deliverance was always of God. The same applies to us today. We must have our hearts filled with love for God; for the *Word of God*; and full of faith and trust in our almighty God. Truly, David was a man after God's own heart and so should we desire to be.

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