

# THE LIFE OF DAVID

SHEPHERD. WARRIOR. POET. KING.

## WEEK 6: SURRENDER TO THE GOD OF YES AND NO

### Today's Text: 2 Samuel 7

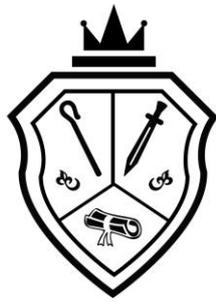
#### I. SURRENDER ALLOWS US TO LOOK BACK AND SEE GOD'S UNDESERVED FAITHFULNESS IN OUR LIVES

- **Read 2 Samuel 7:1-29 & 1 Chronicles 17:4**

For the first time in a very long time, the nation of Israel was at peace, and David was able to dream about things other than winning wars. In his heart he decided that he would build something magnificent and permanent for God to live in, now that His people were firmly established in the land He had promised them. David did not want to rush ahead on the decision and consulted Nathan the prophet, and as it was a good and noble decision, Nathan agreed with David's decision. However, God had other plans. God said no to David's idea and not because his idea was bad. It was a great idea, but God had decided that David's son Solomon would build it instead.

God did not just leave David in his disappointment, he affirmed David and the future of his line. So, although he would not be the one to build the temple, his lineage was secure, and his blessing profound. This humbled David, and he was aware of God's incredible favour towards him that he did not deserve.

- ❖ Q: Why do you think it is important for us to see God's yes and no within the same story?
- ❖ Q: Which dream do you think was bigger and better: David's dream of building a temple, or God's dream of building a legacy through David's line?
- ❖ *Personal Reflection* Q: Have you ever had God smash a dream of yours? How did you react then and how do you think you would react now, knowing what was yet to come in your life?
- ❖ Q: What does this passage teach us about our good ideas versus God's plans, and how does it reveal his sovereignty?
- ❖ Q: Why is humility the only real posture that we ought to have towards God and the decisions that he makes?



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## 2. SURRENDER ALLOWS US TO TRUST GOD RIGHT NOW NO MATTER OUR CIRCUMSTANCES

- **Read Proverbs 3:1-6**

It is important to keep this story in its context. Remember, David had been through extreme trial for 8 years while he fled from Saul, who was constantly trying to kill him. He had been tested again and again by the fire of adversity and had learned to connect with and trust God along the way. By this stage, he had a deep level of confidence in God's character and promises, which allowed him to trust God, even in his disappointment about the temple. His trust allowed him to surrender to the "no" and to accept the "yes".

Compliance and surrender are not the same thing. We all have to accept when a door in life closes - we do not have a choice. But not all of us trust God in the process of letting go. We give up and we reluctantly move forward with our lives. But those of us who do trust God, know that he is good and his "no" has purpose, which allows us to surrender to him in humility.

- ❖ **Q: Why is trust-in-God the big difference between surrender and compliance?**
- ❖ **Personal Reflection Q: When last did a disappointing door close in your life, and what did you do with the disappointment? Did you trust God and believe that his purposes were good, or did you reluctantly accept the answer and harbor distrust/bitterness towards him in your heart?**
- ❖ **Q: Why do you think that trust-in-God is often something that grows through testing and trial?**
- ❖ **Personal Reflection Q: What door are you waiting on God to open in your life right now? How will you respond if his answer is "no"? How do you think this passage should help us in dealing with this kind of disappointment?**

## 3. SURRENDER ALLOWS US TO HOLD ON THE FUTURE PROMISES OF GOD

God promised to make David's name great, and to give him a lineage of great worth. This was a far greater blessing than the building of a temple. David was able to see that the one far superseded the other. Often, our desire to be great makes the dreams and plans for our lives self-focused and short-sited.



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God's plans for our lives are often far more others-focused and have far further-reaching blessing in mind, including the generations to come. We need to ask ourselves what kind of legacy we currently dream of leaving; is it one of temporary value, or one of eternal glory?

- ❖ *Personal Reflection Q:* What kind of legacy are you hoping to leave? Is the focus on finances and achievements, or is it about the impact you make for the kingdom of God?
- ❖ *Q:* How do we know if our dreams for impacting the kingdom of God and leaving a Godly legacy are truly Godly, or if they are just religious versions of selfish dreams?

