A Man’s Heart

Character Traits from the Bible of Great Men
“Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life” (Pr 4:23).

• All life matters of success or failure are in your heart.

• As men ... wife, children, and church ... depend on you.

• You must believe and think godly thoughts at all times.

• You must esteem God’s precepts like David (Ps 119:128).

• Neither God nor men care at all what you say or show.
“Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life” (Pr 4:23).

• It is an imperative command to keep your heart.

• This men’s meeting is to provoke you to keep it.

• As we sing ... your heart is prone to wander. *Feel it?*

• Your heart can be kept ... to greatly enhance your life.

• But it will take all your diligence to properly keep it.
“He that loveth pureness of heart, for the grace of his lips the king shall be his friend” (Pr 22:11).

- Your success before God or men starts in your heart.
- This is no average Christian ... but one loving purity.
- A pure heart will always produce gracious speech.
- This combination is loved by the greatest of men.
- You must believe and think godly thoughts at all times.
“A wise man’s heart is at his right hand; but a fool’s heart at his left” (Eccl 10:2).

- The Bible assumes all men are right-handed.
- A right-handed man uses his right hand for key actions.
- The right hand location is one of control and power.
- A wise man controls and rules his heart for godliness.
- A fool is ruled by his heart for he has no control of it.
“The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are bold as a lion” (Pr 28:1).

- Guilt destroys the courage and initiative of men.
- Guilt breeds weakness and fearfulness of everything.
- Righteousness produces confidence and leadership.
- Your secret sins are known to God ... and destroy you.
- Godliness, starting in your heart, has great benefits.
“Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding” (Pr 3:5).

- First you must esteem all God’s precepts to be right.
- You then apply your entire heart to believe them all.
- This includes flushing every contrary idea you have.
- Your ideas are so bad you cannot even lean their way.
- You must believe and think godly thoughts at all times.
King Saul  (1)

- First king of Israel was picked and prepared by God.
- His father was a “mighty man of power”  (I Sam 9:1).
- He was very tall; he was physically the best  (I Sam 9:2).
- He had a conscience to reward the prophet  (I Sam 9:7).
- He had David’s humility meeting Samuel  (I Sam 9:21).
King Saul (2)

- God turned Saul into another man for his role (I Sa 10:6).
- Samuel told him to use His God-given role (I Sam 10:7).
- God gave Saul another heart to be a great king (I Sa 10:9).
- God fulfilled all three signs to confirm Saul (I Sam 10:9).
- God revealed Saul of Benjamin to be king (I Sam 10:21).
King Saul (3)

- He hid among the stuff in humble modesty (I Sa 10:22).
- Israel rejoiced at Saul, “God save the king” (I Sam 10:24).
- God touched hearts of men to follow him (I Sam 10:26).
- Saul had discretion to ignore sons of Belial (I Sam 10:27).
- Though king, Saul continued to keep his herd (I Sam 11:5).
• God’s Spirit filled Saul with anger against Ammon.

• He hewed a yoke of oxen in pieces for his draft.

• The nation feared their king and came as one man.

• He won a great victory and celebrated with Samuel.

• He spared the sons of Belial again in spite of Israel.
King Saul (5)

• The Philistines faced Saul with a huge army (I Sam 13:5).

• He would not wait for Samuel to arrive (I Sam 13:9).

• He said he had forced himself to do the sin (I Sam 13:12).

• This fearful, profane, weak choice cost him everything.

• Samuel told Saul that God sought a man like Himself.
King Saul (6)

- The Philistines are defeated by the faith of Jonathan.
- Saul’s oath and attempt to kill Jonathan were profane.
- Saul also disobeyed God regarding Amalek (I Sam 15:1-35).
- God moved His Spirit from Saul to David (I Sam 16:1-23).
- David’s godly success aggravated Saul (I Sam 17:1 – 18:30).
King Saul (7)

• Saul lost a potential family dynasty over Israel forever.

• Saul lost both his son and his daughter to his enemy.

• Saul lost God, the man of God, and favor (Heb 13:17).

• If you are only as good as your last game, Saul lost!

• Saul spent his last night with the witch of Endor.
King Saul (8)

• Saul lost all soul tranquility and was plagued by devils.
• Saul knew he would die in his last battle for Israel.
• He chose to commit suicide before Philistine torture.
• He was beheaded and his body nailed to Philistine wall.
• His legacy and reputation? ... a total and terrible loser.
King Saul  (9)

• Saul became a classic example of a castaway  (I Co 9:27).

• He did not learn to rule his spirit and keep his heart.

• He tried to excuse disobedience by good sacrifices.

• He learned God despises rebellion or stubbornness.

• You must keep your heart with all diligence  (Pr 4:23)!
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“The first was like a lion, and had eagle’s wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked … and a man’s heart was given to it” (Dan 7:4).

• This is the first of the four world empires – Babylon.

• It was like the king of beasts – strong and fierce.

• It was like the king of birds – fast and fierce.

• God ended that nation’s conquests and expansion.

• God gave them the fearful heart of a man instead.
"The mighty men of Babylon have forborn to fight, they have remained in their holds: their might hath failed; they became as women: they have burned her dwellingplaces; her bars are broken" (Jer 51:30).

• When God leaves a man, he no longer wants to fight.

• God removed the courage of the Babylonian rulers.

• The Babylonians stayed in their impregnable city.

• Some men are as women when it comes to courage.

• Their lives are burned down and houses broken.
“So that thou **incline thine ear** unto wisdom, and **apply thine heart** to understanding” (Pr 2:2).

- Saul did not incline his ear or apply his heart rightly.
- Great men do both in order to learn and prosper.
- Solomon repeated this mantra over and over for you.
- You arrived messing on yourself … listen to do better.
- **You must believe and think godly thoughts at all times.**
“All the days of the afflicted are evil: but he that is of a merry heart hath a continual feast” (Prov 15:15).

• A negative outlook on life will cloud your entire life.

• Life is too short to waste even one day in affliction.

• God will do what you cannot ... go to sleep  (Ps 127:1-2).

• Happiness is a choice ... choose it for lifelong joy.

• A merry heart is by wisdom ... or it is crackling thorns.
“Let not thine heart envy sinners: but be thou in the fear of the LORD all the day long” (Pr 23:17).

• A great temptation to sin is the prosperity of sinners.

• Asaph almost left the truth until a men’s meeting.

• The wisest man ever ... tells you to ignore the wicked.

• Choose the fear of the Lord ... for he wins (Eccl 7:18).

• The fear of the Lord is all day ... more than devotions.
“Thine eyes shall behold strange women, and thine heart shall utter perverse things” (Pr 23:33).

• Great men control their eyes and hearts at all times.

• They will not do anything foolish to lose their wits.

• Too much booze relaxes eyes to compromise Job.

• Too much booze relaxes hearts to speak wickedly.

• It is not worth it. The pleasure is not worth the pain.
“Rejoice not when thine enemy falleth, and let not thine heart be glad when he stumbleth” (Pr 24:17).

• How gentle and merciful are you in your heart?

• You should not rejoice no matter how enemies fall.

• You lose the Lord’s vengeance, if you do (Pr 24:18).

• Could you eulogize Saul the way David did? Learn!

• This is the kind of heart that distinguishes men.
“Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered” (I Peter 3:7).

- Great men use marital authority with discretion (Col 3:19).
- He has knowledge of a woman’s inferiority and adjusts.
- He honors his wife rather than belittles her for her faults.
- He knows that legally in God’s sight she is his full equal.
- Prayers of great men are heard due to mercy to wives.
“And David said unto him, **How wast thou not afraid** to stretch forth thine hand to destroy the LORD’S anointed?” (II Samuel 1:14).

- This is the third time David spoke this way of Saul.
- David was anointed king ... Saul had tried to kill him.
- Should not providential opportunities be used?
- Your success in life follows your attitude to authority.
- Get your heart right – thanks ... not cursing  (Eccl 10:20).
“Happy is the man that feareth alway: but he that hardeneth his heart shall fall into mischief” (Pr 28:14).

• Happiness is choosing to always fear God and His word.

• If you harden your heart against God, you get hurt!

• You will not see it coming ... for you will fall into it.

• How many warnings must Solomon give to win you?

• You must believe and think godly thoughts at all times.
“He that is of a **proud heart** stirreth up strife: but he that putteth his trust in the LORD shall be made fat” *(Pr 28:25).*

- Do you think you have to fight to protect yourself?
- You call it principle? God calls it pride. Get over it.
- If you have contentions, then you are proud *(Pr 13:10).*
- Humble and good hearts are peacemakers instead.
- Stop protecting yourself – let God make you fat!
“The heart of the righteous studieth to answer: but the mouth of the wicked poureth out evil things” (Prov 15:28).

• A good man has a heart that believes in research.
• He will not speak or act before he studies it out.
• Fools think about folly and blab it without thought.
• Great men are soberly cautious before any opinion.
• If you have not studied it, then you do not know it!
“Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD: though hand join in hand, he shall not be unpunished” (Prov 16:5).

• Do you grasp how highly God thinks of your pride?

• You do not boast or brag? God still abominates you!

• You can join any ally you wish – God will crush you.

• Humility is a trait that guarantees your promotion.

• But note well ... it is humility of the heart that counts.
“When I was a child ... I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things” (I Cor 13:11).

• Real men stop playing like boys to become men.

• Men take responsibility for their actions and do it.

• Men see the future and do not waste much time.

• Men do not play much with toys until they are retired.

• Men are serious and fulfill every duty God has given.
“Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men” (I Cor 14:20).

- Children and men differ in understanding anything.
- It is rightly dealing with God, others, time, money, etc.
- Men grow up and understand everything they do.
- Children and men differ greatly in their relationships.
- Men must forgive and overlook like little children.
“The prince that wanteth understanding is also a great oppressor: but he that hateth covetousness shall prolong his days” (Pr 28:16).

- If you do not understand mercy, you are just a bully.
- You must make allowances for your wife and children.
- Great men love and lead their wives to perfection.
- If you set your goals too high or too fast, you lose.
- Contentment is great gain, and it is great leadership.
“And of the children of Issachar, which were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do; the heads of them were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their commandment” (I Chron 12:32).

• Have you learned enough to understand the times?

• Do you know what to do with real conflicts of ethics?

• Here is how you can tell - how many ask for advice?

• Leadership is created or enhanced by having answers.

• Men learn, review, question, analyze, apply, check, etc.
“Of Zebulun, such as went forth to battle, expert in war, with all instruments of war, fifty thousand, which could keep rank: they were not of double heart” (I Chron 12:33).

- Where are the men willing and able to fight error?
- These men of Zebulon came to make David king.
- Can you keep rank or are you disruptive of rank?
- Single hearted men accomplish the most in life.
- Results and trust by others are for the single hearted.
“Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him. For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust” (Ps 103:13-14).

• Great men pity others rather than themselves.

• They pity women and children and show them mercy.

• They are knowledgeable to adjust their expectations.

• They remember ability or circumstances and adjust.

• They have a heart that loves mercy toward others.
“Dead flies cause the ointment of the apothecary to send forth a stinking savour: so doth a little folly him that is in reputation for wisdom and honour” (Eccl 10:1).

- Those who keep their hearts seldom have dead flies.
- To gain a reputation and then squander it is stupid.
- Great men keep manly progression going upward.
- You are a man – you cannot afford setbacks of folly.
- Others look to you and must be able to depend on you.
“But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God” (I Cor 11:3).

- Do you know this order: woman, man, Christ, God?
- Do you maintain this order by example and authority?
- Do not get out of this order yourself or your wife.
- The woman is to be kept in this place under man.
- The most important role is you under Christ and God.
“Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ” (II Cor 10:5).

• This is primarily a ministerial text of a pastor’s work.

• You should cast down your imaginations before God.

• You should cast down every high opinion against God.

• You should bring every thought into captivity to Christ.

• You must believe and think godly thoughts at all times.
For Further Study

The sermon outline, “Is Your Heart Perfect?” ... www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/is-your-heart-perfect.pdf.
The sermon series, “Delusions of Deceived Christians,” ... not in e-format at this time.

www.LetGodBeTrue.com