

David Inquired of the Lord
By Trey Sullins

Asking for permission is something that we often do not like to do. Most people are more content to decide for themselves rather than ask someone else. Throughout the Bible we find many examples of people who did just that. However, 2 Samuel 5:19-25 shows a time in the life of David when he sought after God's desires before his own. Christians need to understand the importance seeking God for the decisions they make in life.

David inquired of the Lord. This was truly a sign of David's great faith and trust in God. You notice also from the text that this appears to be his immediate response. "The Philistines also went and deployed themselves in the Valley of Rephaim. So, David inquired of the LORD" (2 Samuel 5:18-19a). Notice how as soon as David hears about the Philistines he inquires of the Lord. David's motivation in this was he wanted to know what God's will for him was. This is evidenced by the fact that he had nothing else to gain by asking. His first response was to ask God and he sincerely wanted to know what God desired for him; David puts forth a powerful example here.

When we consider our lives, we should strive to be the same way as well. When we have to make decisions in life, especially the big ones, we should be praying to God about these things. 1 John 5:15 reveals that God hears and answers the petitions of the faithful. Besides prayer sometimes we must remember too that God has already given the answer in His word. In 2 Peter 1:3 the Bible says that it contains all things pertaining to life and godliness. Therefore, when we need to answer to a question of life guidance can definitely be found there.

David was obedient to the Lord. After David asked God what he should do his next move was only to obey. David was told by God, "Go up, for I will doubtless deliver the Philistines into your hand." Then the very next verse says, "So David went to Baal Perazim, and David defeated them there." Notice once more that there is no hesitation or resistance to God. He does a similar thing back in 1 Samuel 23:1-5 where he heard God's response and then went on to do exactly what God had told him to do.

Christians have the same responsibility to be obedient to God. The Bible contains within its pages commands and instructions that are to be followed. If we are to be proper Christians who are truly doing what God wants, then we have to be obedient to these commands. Ultimately, we will be judged on the things that we do. 2 Corinthians 5:10 says, "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things *done* in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad." With this and a great example like David in our minds we should press on strongly every day to be obedient in all things.

David was blessed by the Lord. David's trust and obedience were rewarded in a great way. First God delivered the Philistines into his hand. God told him to go up for he would deliver them in this hand then the following verse says, "and David defeated them there." In fact, this victory was so great that David said, "The LORD has broken through my enemies before me, like a breakthrough of water." Even more reward comes in verse 25: "And David did so, as the LORD commanded him; and he drove back the Philistines from Geba as far as Gezer."

These blessings are promised to us as well. Of course, we won't be receiving great victories in battle, but we will receive victory over sin! "If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward" (1 Corinthians 3:14). Just like David, we have to be obedient and continually built upon this in order to receive the reward. Again, in Colossians 3:24 Paul told the Colossians that they would receive the "reward of inheritance" because they served God.

When we examine our own lives, how well do we match up to this example of David? Are we always seeking what God wants for us even over our own wants? This should be our aim! We ought to be a people dedicated to prayer and study so that our decisions will always be proper. Are you inquiring of the Lord?