

Be Glad God Knows Your Future and You Don't
1 Sam 18:5-9

Raise your hand if you would like to know the future? Keep your hands up. How many would like to know the future if it included you losing your job next week and not finding work for 6 months? Your child dies in a car wreck in one year? Your marriage falls apart in 5 years? That your last years will be the darkness of dementia?

All of a sudden, knowing the future doesn't sound so appealing? Yes, you might make the most of the time between the tragedies, but how would it change who we are to know those tragedies are coming throughout our lives? Could we live our lives fulfilled knowing what is to come? Personally, I'm glad I don't know everything about my future.

God DOES know our future. He knows our future and knows how to help us through it. We don't have to worry about all those things because we don't know they are coming. We live our lives in the blessing of knowing just about today.

As we will see in David's life, God gives us what we need to make it through the difficult times to come. We have his help before we are even aware we need it.

PRAYER

I. David's Story

A. The past

1. Let's bring you up to speed from the Day Samuel anointed David that we talked about last week.
2. David goes to meet up with his brothers in the Army. They are camped on one side of a long valley area and on the other hillside are the Philistines.
3. Day after day the giant Goliath comes and taunts the Israelite army. Day after day, Saul and his army quail in fear and no one stands up to him.
4. David, the boy with a slingshot does what no other man with his weapons of war was willing to do.
5. He took Goliath's challenge and won!

B. The Present

1. Now David is a hero. No longer the shepherd boy nobody noticed.
2. Now David is the man everyone praises. He's the talk of the town, a celebrity.
3. Many people, but even more so young people, fold under instant celebrity. All you need to do is pick up any tabloid and you see young stars and starlets crumbling under the pressures of celebrity.
4. Drug abuse, alcohol abuse, failed relationships, loss of reality.
5. Yet, David doesn't. He has a sense of who he is and who he belongs to that carries him through those heady days, and the dismal days to come.
6. What would David had done if he knew what would follow his great victory over Goliath?
7. Would he have acted differently if he knew about the months and years of volatility, running in fear, being cut off from his people that would soon come?
8. What would he have done if he knew his best friend was going to die?
9. That his king was going to constantly hunt him down and try to kill him?

C. God's Care

1. Someone once said that loneliness is the most desperate of all English words

2. Have you ever been there? I have. When I graduated from college I moved back to Alaska. My family and I almost crossed each other on the Alaskan Highway as they moved to Indiana. That first Christmas I was living alone and was just beginning to know the people of the congregation. On Christmas eve and family invited me over for supper and I appreciated that, but I knew I was a guest in their family celebration. On the way home, a drunk driver ran me off the road and I was buried in 3 feet of snow of some guy's lawn. After a lot of work, he was able to get me to his driveway and I got home. The next morning was Christmas and I got up to an empty apartment and empty heart. I tried to call home, but the lines were too busy, so I just sat there on my couch. The frustration of the

night before sank into me as I experienced a Christmas with no friends and no family. It was a miserable day.

3. Imagine that type of feeling intensified by the things that David was going through. Loneliness.

4. God cares enough about us to make sure we can only live one day at a time.

5. God gave him the way to handle the dark times to come because he knew what David would need the most.

6. David was able to live one day at a time because he didn't have to deal with the knowledge of what was coming.

7. From the moment David killed Goliath, his life changes forever.

8. Never would he go back to the innocent life of the youngest son of Jesse tending his father's flocks.

9. In fact 1 Sam 18:2 tells us Saul didn't even let him return home, but put him into the king's service immediately!

10. He would need help in the days to come. God provides that help in a young man named Jonathan.

a) These 2 young men become instant best friends.

b) Scripture tells us their souls were knitted together.

c) Here's the interesting part, Jonathan was Saul's son.

11. At first, everything was great and they enjoyed their friendship to the fullest, but as Saul began to hate David more and more, their friendship was put to the test.

12. Jonathan was the son of the man who was trying to kill David.

13. He was supposed to be the next king of Israel. The job that God had given to David.

14. As David began to have to constantly watch his back, he found Jonathan already there.

15. 1 Samuel 23:16–17 (ESV) — 16 And Jonathan, Saul's son, rose and went to David at Horesh, and strengthened his hand in God. 17 And he said to him, "Do not fear, for the hand of Saul my father shall not find you.

You shall be king over Israel, and I shall be next to you. Saul my father also knows this.”

16. Throughout the next few years Jonathan was a rock of friendship that David needed so badly.

II. Our Lives today

A. Not knowing the future lets us live one day at a time

1. Matthew 6:34 (NLT) — 34 “So don’t worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today’s trouble is enough for today.
2. David had no idea what each next day would bring. All he knew was that God was there to be with him.
3. We would be crushed by our futures if we really knew what was coming up.
4. It gets hard enough dealing with one day at a time, but that really is a blessing.
5. All I need to deal with is today; God’s dealing with tomorrow.
6. He knows what I will need. He knows what will get me through.
7. He knows and will provide, so I don’t have to worry. I just have to trust.
8. Matthew 6:31–33 (ESV) — 31 Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ 32 For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

B. Having a friend helps us handle whatever comes our way

1. I met Bryan and Rick in college about 35 years ago. We became the best of friends and have stayed that way ever since. When our children

were known, they got the call right after our parents. When I have had difficult times, they are the ones quickly go to for advice.

2. When Mom died, they were among the first I called. At her funeral Rick drove 3 hours to be with me for the day.
3. Having friends like that offers a strength that is unbelievable.
4. Job realized that with his three friends who came and sat with him for 7 days and never said a word, but shared his grief and pain as only friends can.
5. So many of our members have shared stories about how this or that friend from church was there when they need someone the most.
6. God gives us those friends for a reason. Use them.

C. A positive attitude and wisdom are the best defense against an enemy.

1. 4 times in this chapter, it says David has success. The Hebrew word for success had a meaning of “steady favorable progress, or to be prudent, to have insight.”
2. We need to learn to be successful.
3. We need to realize that to have steady favorable progress requires prudence and insight.
4. David’s success came from relying on God.
5. We have the same God and can have the same success!
6. Take strength in knowing that in the right time and right way God will deal with your opposition.
7. Armed with that attitude and wisdom, you would be amazed at how well you can navigate life in a much happier way.

D. Concl

1. We don’t know the future. As we saw this morning that’s a blessing from God in many ways.
2. What we must do is trust him with our future and live for him in the present.
3. Look, I will be the first to tell you that it isn’t always easy to do.

4. I love a quote Mr. Swindoll found by GK Chesterton "the Christian ideal has not been found easy and comfortable; it has been found difficult and left untried."
5. That is so true, but we can grow past that stage.
6. We can live for God every day, easy days and hard days.
7. Remember, God is living for you. He knows your future, and will guide you to your final destination if you will allow him.
8. He will give you the strength, relationships and encouragement to battle the challenges of life, no matter what they are.
9. Will you commit to living for him today?