

Before the THRONE

The Devotional

Volume 1

Books of the Law & History

2 Samuel 11:3-4

“So David sent and inquired about the woman. And someone said, “Is this not Bathsheba...? Then David sent a messenger, and took her....” 2 Samuel 11:3-4

How quickly the old nature returns when we set our hearts to sin! The “old man” can never be reformed – he must be crucified! “And they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lust.” (Galatians 5:24) We may go for long periods of time without grave temptation and so begin to believe that those heart conditions we once had wrestled with and had to deal with on a daily basis have finally been overcome or shall we say, “reformed.” It is in that moment of unguarded vigilance we become vulnerable to its deceptions.

“The heart of man is deceitful above all things, and is desperately wicked; who can know it?” (Jeremiah 17:9)¹ Never make the mistake that the crucified life is a once in a lifetime event – no, it is an on going, daily choice. “I die daily... (1 Corinthians 15:31).

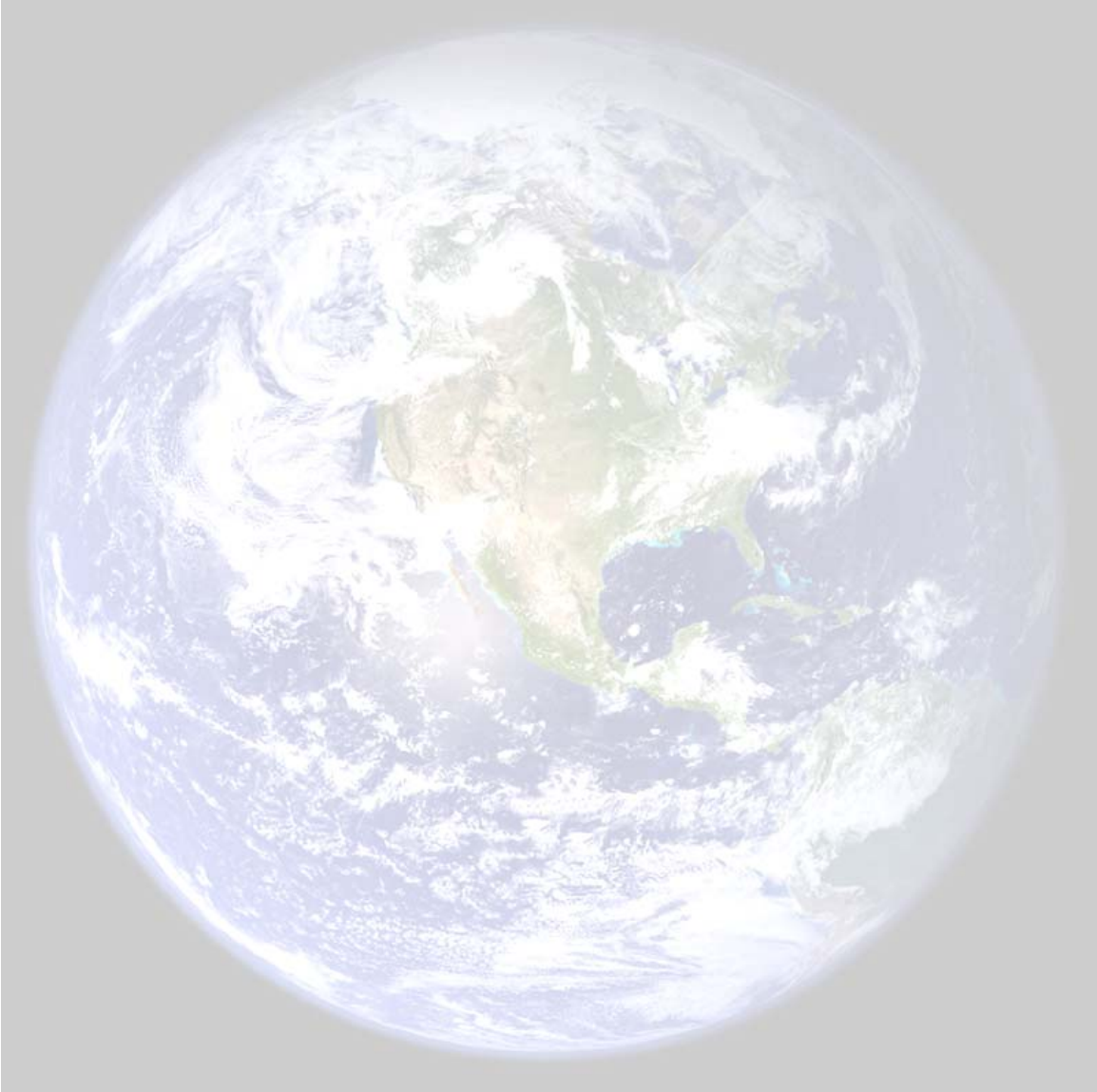
When under great pressure and adversity, David knew the need of the moment by moment dependence upon the Lord and had acted as “a man after God’s heart.” But once in power and subsequently at ease, David’s guard comes down and he fails miserably!

To live in Christian victory is to allow Jesus to live big in you at all times. Only He can live as the crucified and resurrected One. “I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live, yet not I, but Christ lives in me; and the life I live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who love me and gave Himself for me.” (Galatians 2:20)

¹ The doctrine of the heart of man has been a rather controversial one. But it is a simple issue to resolve, if we understand that the heart of man in the Old Testament is more clearly seen in the New Testament as a combination of both the soul and the spirit of man. It is the spirit of man – the hidden man of the heart (1 Peter 3:4) that is born again and regenerated in Christ. (2 Corinthians 5:17; Titus 3:5; 1 Peter 1:22-25). And it is here in the “inner man” that the Holy Spirit lives and empowers us to live. (Ephesians 3:16-17.) By contrast, it is the soul of man – the outer man of the heart”, if you will, that must be renewed by the Word of God (Ephesians 4:23) (Please also see Romans 2:29; 10:8-10 & Hebrews 4:12.)

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