



Are you a “David”? The Future of Nursing Part II

And the Lord said, “Arise, anoint him, for this is he.” Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon David from that day forward. (1 Samuel 16:12-13, ESV)

In the previous devotion, we reviewed how God called Samuel to anoint David as the future king of Israel. We found three key points from Samuel's perspective that apply to the future of nursing: listen to the Holy Spirit, get over the past with King Saul, and go. Let's look at how these three points can guide us as we look for the next generation, or Davids, and the future of Christian nursing.

In 1 Samuel chapter 16, we read how Samuel examined all of Jesse's sons, yet the Lord did not direct Samuel to anoint them. The Lord was not looking for the smartest or the tallest son of Jesse. Instead, the Lord was looking at the “heart” of each son (16:7). David was summoned from the field, anointed by Samuel, and was immediately filled with the Spirit of the Lord. Once again, Samuel had to listen to the Holy Spirit and remove his preconceived ideas of the future, but so did David. David allowed the Holy Spirit to direct his path, which is our first point: Listen to the Holy Spirit. Remember, David was a simple shepherd boy who was made king by listening to the Lord.

This leads to our next point, which is Get over the future. Be willing for the Lord to change your life radically. David went from being a shepherd to “king in training.” I am sure David never imagined being king. He was son number eight! He was probably quite content getting married, having a family, and working for his older brothers. Thankfully for the Israelites and Christians, God had other ideas. David spent 15 years preparing to become king. He soothed Saul by playing his harp, killed Goliath, developed a close friendship with Jonathon, conquered territories for King Saul, and penned many Psalms.

Today, when we look at getting over our future, it may mean modifying our nursing dreams. I will be brave and say that for many cultures, especially here in the West, planning out our life, career, and future is more than expected; it is demanded. Before high school, we are expected to create a career plan, strategize on having 2.5 children, money for a house, etc. We don't leave room for God to direct “his will be done” in how we use our talents in nursing for the Kingdom.

The final step for both Samuel and David is to Go. David had to cooperate with the Holy Spirit and go where the Lord sent him. I can imagine that when David was playing the harp for Saul and having spears thrown at him, he wondered about the validity of Samuel's anointing. Yet, David continued and followed the Spirit wherever it led.

My nursing career differs from what I imagined thirty years ago as a new graduate strategizing to work in the ER or ICU. The Lord intervened when, 20+ years ago, I returned to school for a graduate degree with the original plan of being a clinical nurse specialist. Instead, the Lord called me into academics as a nurse educator.

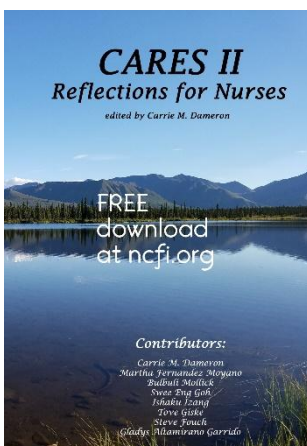
When I came for my job interview, I walked around the campus weeping joyfully. Jesus had done two amazing things that day, and 20 + years later, he continues to do. He brought me back to the place I had met Him, for I became a believer while taking my science courses. I knew He was calling me back to where we had met. Second, Jesus gave me the desire of my heart. “Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.” (Psalm 37:3). When many nurses reflect on their childhood career dreams, they say they want to be a nurse. Not me. I wanted to be a teacher. 😊 So, the Lord took the desires of my heart, weaved my talent for nursing, and created my academic career. This passion and heart reach out to you through my work with NCFI over the past 14 years. Sharing my love with Jesus and passion for nursing.

Whether you are a Samuel, with years in Christian nursing, or a David, who is just entering, follow their example:

- Listen to the Holy Spirit
- Let Go of the Past or the Future—whichever one is getting in your way.
- Go.

As a Samuel, go looking for the future of Christian nursing and find all those creative, talented Davids. If you are a David, let God be radically brave with your nursing career. He may have something amazing in store for you. So, that others can say the following about you:

A servant of Saul described David, “Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, who is skillful in playing, a man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a man of good presence, and the Lord is with him.” (16:18).



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