

Welcome to: - Bible House of Grace.



God, through His Son Jesus, provides eternal grace for our failures and human limitations.

Psalm 25.

(2015)

Teach it, don't demand it.

Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man. As to such I neither claim special knowledge or perfect understanding.

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Psalm 25.

Topics.

- My God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame.
- Those who wait for the LORD shall not be put to shame.
- Those who are wantonly treacherous will be ashamed.
- The steadfast love of the LORD.
- The friendship of the LORD is for those who fear the LORD.
- The fear of God and Christians and love.

INTRODUCTION: Psalms are songs and prayers offered to God by the nation Israel, they cover the range of human emotion, expressing praise, faith, victory, sorrow, despair, depression, frustration and the troubled heart of a mourner. They contrast the righteous with the wicked, and include the wisdom and the treasure of God's word. Psalms were written at the beginning of the 15th century BC and probably collected in their final form in the 3rd century.

FOR INFORMATION: concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

Book One (Psalm 1-41)

A Psalm of David.

O my God, in you I Trust; Let me Not be Put to Shame.

Psalm 25:1-9 ----- ¹To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul. ²O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies exult over me. ³Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame; they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous. ⁴Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths. ⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long. ⁶Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. ⁷Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O LORD! ⁸Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in the way. ⁹He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.

- David praises God with his heart and mind.
- David trusts solely in God for his salvation.
- David fears doing anything that would make him feel ashamed before the LORD
- David desires to know the LORD'S ways and be lead in God's truth.
- David is mindfully conscious of the LORD all the day long.

Those who wait for the LORD shall not be put to shame: (v3) these words immediately take the mind of the ardent Bible student to the following verses.

- As it is written, "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." (Rom. 9:33) (1 Peter 2:6).
- The Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame." (Romans 10:11).

- Sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us. (Titus 2:8).

The Christian life is full of trails, tribulations and hardships and persecutions for many, but those who endure to the return of the Lord Jesus Christ in glory will not be put to shame, but rewarded with eternal life and everlasting glory where joy and happiness dwell forever.

Those who are wantonly treacherous will be ashamed: (v3) in contrast to the faithful those who wilfully act treacherously will be judged accordingly. The King James Bible says, "Those who transgress without cause will be put to shame. (Psalm 25:3), the focus is deliberate and wilful sin against the law of love. Those who wilfully act against the law of love will be put to shame when they stand before the judgment seat of God. There are a multitude of laws in the Bible, but no one needs to know them all. This is because Jesus commanded his followers to "Love their neighbours as themselves," (Mark 12:31).

Next to loving God with all our heart, mind and strength the command to love your neighbours as yourself is not only the greatest commandment in the entire Bible and under sun, the moon, the stars and all the heavenly hosts, but also the greatest commandment before God and the Lord Jesus Christ. To love your neighbour as yourself, (Matt. 22:39) means do not deliberately do harm to other humans. No sane person deliberately does things to inflict pain on themselves, loving others as you love yourself is not about feeling some warm and fuzzy emotion towards others, it is about not hurting others as you would not hurt yourself.

James the brother of Jesus said: -

- If you really fulfil the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself," you are doing well. (James 2:8).

James calls Jesus command, "Love your neighbour as yourself," the royal law and says if we are keeping this one law we are doing well. The thing God hates the most is when we deliberately do harm to another person, physically, verbally, financially sexually, emotionally or spiritually and the thing God loves the most is when we do-good to others. It is interesting to notice that the major crime that God points out in Noah's time and one of the main reasons for the flood was because of all the violence in the land.

- Micah wrote: "What the LORD requires of mankind is to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with their God" (Micah 6:5-10).
- Isaiah says: "The LORD loves justice, hates robbery and wrong doing" (Isaiah 61:8).
- Jeremiah said: "Those who know God practise steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth, because it is in these things that God delights" (Jer. 9:24).

The great prophets Micah, Isaiah and Jeremiah clearly show the law is about doing-good to others and protecting them from harm and hurt. The spirit underpinning the Ten Commandments, is love because each law protects another human from harm.

Paul in his letter to the Romans wrote: -

- Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. (Romans 13:10).

Paul shines a brilliant spotlight on the truth that the spirit underpinning the law is love, because the spirit of the law is to protect the innocent from all types of harm and hurt, whoever keeps the law will do no wrong to a neighbour (neighbour embraces all mankind not just those in God's Kingdom). Those who belong to Christ aim to keep the law not to get saved, but because it honours God and brings a good testimony to the name of Jesus and the Christian faith and because it is the right and loving thing to do.

The faithful in Christ's global Kingdom not only understand that righteousness that leads to eternal life is a free gift of God that comes through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and cannot be earned by self-effort, but also know that from the love of God dwelling within their heart and displayed on the bloodstained cross of Calvary they are called to live a lifestyle that honours the King and Saviour they worship and follow and called to treat others with decency, respect and honest justice.

Jesus famous Sermon on the Mount: the constant theme throughout Jesus famous Sermon on the Mount is doing what is right before God by seeking the way of peace in all situations. Jesus calls Christians to treat people fairly and with respect, dignity, decency grace compassion, kindness, mercy and to be quick to forgive. This means living a life that honours God and the Lord Jesus Christ is about doing right to those in the church and those outside of it.

This is the reason the message Jesus spoke on the mountain is referred to as, "The Famous Sermon" because the principals if followed not only by Christians, but all humanity are the only way to peace (Matt 5). Based on the commandment, love your neighbour as yourself and the law it could be said that a wicked and evil person is one who deliberately and consciously denies the existence of God and deliberately does harm to other humans. For further information on Jesus Famous Sermon see: "Matthew 5" in, Commentary NT (ON WEBSITE MENU).

The steadfast love of the LORD: (v6-7) this is a common expression David uses in all his Psalms and prayers it mattered not to David whether he was surrounded by enemies, suffering terrible sicknesses, depression or despair he always clung to the steadfast love of the LORD and praised God for his love. Today some amongst Christianity judge God's love by their circumstances, but ponder for a moment the majestic beauty of the following Scriptures: -

- God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8).
- While we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, how much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life (Romans 5:10).

These are breath-taking statements and should be an overwhelming comfort to every brother and sister of Christ since they carry an astoundingly and perfect example of love and are some of the most splendid and humbling of all Scriptures since they clearly show how much Christ loves us. Paul in the same letter also wrote the following: -

- While we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly (Rom. 5:6).

This means that even though we were full of sinful dysfunctions and aberrations dwelling within our corrupted earthly bodies (i.e., self, ego, pride, greed, lustful thoughts, envy, jealousies, anger and such like things) Christ died for us he laid down his life down to a brutal, bloody and cruel death that we could be made righteous by faith apart from the law, self-effort and works. In spite of our corrupted fallen nature that we have inherited from our earthly father Adam God counts our faith in Christ as our righteousness it is imputed to us as a pure and free gift. These verses shine a brilliant spotlight on the truth that God loved us long before we loved Him. Though some of us might die for a friend or loved one, Christ died for us while we were ungodly and indifferent to God and His ways and in many cases blasphemers.

Sadly because of a lack of perceiving this great love God has toward us that these verses (and others like them) shine a spotlight on some in the Christian faith tend to determine whether God loves them by their good or bad circumstances. They feel if life is charmed and blessed God loves them, but if it suddenly takes a turn for the worse and trouble comes they feel God has withdrawn his love, but this is superstition and judging God according to the fickle circumstances of this world. When anyone who believes in Christ doubts God's love all we have to do is look back to the bloodstained cross and see what it cost the heart of the Father to save us and how much his Son suffered to redeem us and spiritually crown and cloth us with a royal and majestic robe of righteous so that we could be justified and granted eternal life in everlasting glory apart from self-effort and strictly adhering to

ceremonial rites and holy days or keeping religious customs and traditions. This truth should comfort every faithful brother and sister in Christ since it is certain if God was prepared to sacrifice his Son for us, while we were indifferent and apathetic toward Him and uninterested and unconcerned about what honoured Him and what didn't He will with great joy do everything to keep us for eternal life now we love His Son. (He does this by daily lavishing us with grace)

Good and upright is the LORD: (v8) regardless of whether David understood why his friends betrayed him, why his enemies surrounded him with enormous might and power or why he suffered sickness, depression, anxiety and despair he always saw God as being just and upright meaning no matter what trials and hardships came into his life he never held any bitterness or resentment toward God or ever thought ill of Him. This is great faith and why God said to King Saul: -

- Your kingdom shall not continue the LORD has sought out a man (referring to David) after his own heart, and has commanded him to be prince over his people (1 Samuel 13:14).

David was a man who sought after God's own heart, meaning he feared to bring shame to the name of God and desired to always do what was right. History clearly shows David failed in his desire to live the perfect lifestyle, but it also shows that when convicted of his sin either by conscience or by others he deeply repented and on his knees begged for God's mercy and forgiveness. Now here is the glory of David's faith, he never doubted God would forgive him and this is why he always praised and rejoiced in the steadfast love of God. Now some might say, "If that is the case I will sin as I please because God's grace covers."

This is not true, because God perceives the motive of the heart and though we might fool man we cannot fool God, he knows if we are perverting His grace and using it to our own advantage. There is a tremendous difference between a Christian who has a deep desire to honour God's name, but happens to fall to some kind of temptation to those who wilfully use God's grace to sin. The meaning of enduring faith is not, never falling into temptation or living a life free of sin, but returning to God in honest heartfelt repentance and embracing His forgiveness, mercy and grace when we do fall short. The following words of Paul show the enormous importance of trusting in God's grace in Christ. Paul in his letters wrote: -

- I do not nullify the *GRACE* of God, for if justification were through the law (or any form of religious self-effort), then Christ died for no purpose (Gal. 2:21).

This means, when a brother or sister in Christ begin to justify themselves through the law and self-effort they nullify the grace of God and by their actions declare that Christ's death was of no value.

Equally as horrific as this Paul states: -

- When we forsake *GRACE* we separate ourselves from Christ because it was only by *GRACE* that God made us alive in Christ (Gal. 5:4) (Eph. 2:5).

Paul to highlight even more the majestic glory of grace wrote with absolute boldness that: -

- It is only by *GRACE* that any brother or sister has been saved (Eph. 2:8).

Paul in these verses is shining a brilliant floodlight on the truth that every brother and sister in Christ is saved, solely by faith and by grace and it is not their own doing, but the gift of God. This means that without grace no-one can be united to Christ and whoever is without Christ is separated from God and without God no-one can be saved to eternal life. This means in regards to eternal salvation, Christ, God, grace and faith, are all on an equal par with each other since no-one can be saved to eternal life without any one of them. This is the reason the author in the book of Hebrews spends so many chapters brilliantly and skilfully explaining to the Hebrews that they must stop their sin of trusting in religious works, the Levitical Law and their priesthood to be counted righteous before God and start trusting in the grace of God that is in Christ and in his righteousness to be saved to eternal life.

By extension this means that Christians must stop trusting in attending a church building every week, strictly adhering to ceremonial rites and holy days and keeping religious customs and traditions to be saved. Though the practise of some of these maybe good in themselves they become grossly sinful when believers trust in them for their salvation since not one of them has any power to save to eternal life.

God instructs sinners in the way: (v8) God does this through the prophets, His law and His word. Notice the sinners in focus are humble sinners (v9) in contrast to the prideful. No one should feel disappointed when the prideful reject their witnessing and testimony since not even God can teach the prideful. Jesus himself stood before the prideful religious leaders of his generation (the chief priests, Pharisees and scribes) and rather than accept him as the promised Messiah the Christ all the prophets and Scriptures proclaim would come into the world they plotted his murder.

Remember your mercy, O LORD (v6) David was always mindfully conscious of the following two things: -

1. He fell far short of the perfect standard the law demanded and far short of God's perfect Holiness.
2. It was only by God's mercy and grace that he was counted righteous and saved to eternal life.

The Friendship of the LORD is for those who Fear the LORD.

Psalm 25:10-22 ----- ¹⁰All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies. ¹¹For your name's sake, O LORD, pardon my guilt, for it is great. ¹²Who is the man who fears the LORD? Him will he instruct in the way that he should choose. ¹³His soul shall abide in well-being, and his offspring shall inherit the land. ¹⁴The friendship of the LORD is for those who fear him, and he makes known to them his covenant. ¹⁵My eyes are ever toward the LORD, for he will pluck my feet out of the net. ¹⁶Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted. ¹⁷The troubles of my heart are enlarged; bring me out of my distresses. ¹⁸Consider my affliction and my trouble, and forgive all my sins. ¹⁹Consider how many are my foes, and with what violent hatred they hate me. ²⁰Oh, guard my soul, and deliver me! Let me not be put to shame, for I take refuge in you. ²¹May integrity and uprightness preserve me, for I wait for you. ²²Redeem Israel, O God, out of all his troubles.

At the time of this prayer David is in great distress and anxiety. He feels trapped in guilt this guilt could refer to the following three things: -

1. To some great sin he has personally committed
2. To the inward sinful dysfunctions and aberrations that dwell within all our corrupted fallen bodies of flesh.
3. To the guilt of his kingdom and the entire nation of Israel (v22).

David feels lonely and his enemies hate him with a passion and want to violently inflict harm upon him. From this darkness he prays: -

- God would consider his affliction and trouble and pardon his guilt and forgive him.
- God would be gracious (i.e., kind, merciful and compassionate) to him and return to him. This no doubt is one of the reasons why he is feeling lonely, he feels God's steadfast love is not with him.
- God would guard his heart and mind, and deliver him from his enemies so that he would not be shamed and mocked before them.
- God would redeem and save him from his guilt, his loneliness and his troubles.

- That his integrity (i.e., the honesty of his heart) and uprightness (i.e., his decency, respectability and worthiness) may preserve him as he waits for the LORD.

Now here is the interesting thing, though David feels trapped in guilt and that the LORD'S steadfast love is not with him, his faith is still strong it has not been dented or damaged by David's guilt or his great troubles. He tells God he will take refuge in Him and wait for Him to redeem Israel out of all their troubles. David's faith was not dependent upon his circumstances or his feelings and emotions, He knew God existed and that God loved him whether his circumstance were good or bad and whether he felt God's presence and love in his heart and mind or felt God had forsaken him his eyes were forever toward the LORD, he had confidence God would lift him out of his troubles and always took refuge in God.

The friendship of the LORD is for those who fear him: (v14) God will make his ways known to those who fear him and guide them in the way they should go. He will keep their mind and heart in a place of well-being and make known to them the way of salvation. The fear of the LORD has the following two aspects: -

1. **An eternal aspect:** wisdom teaches that mankind is separated from God because of sin and without God a person has no hope of eternal life and will be judged accordingly. The fear of the LORD in this context is wisdom because it motivates a person to seek God and eternal life.
2. **An aspect for the present moment:** the fear of the LORD in the present moment motivates mankind to obey God's Ten Commandments which are all designed to protect the innocent from harm, physically, financially, sexually, verbally, emotionally and spiritually. The fear of the LORD in this context is also wisdom because if everyone feared the LORD humanity would live in harmony with each other. Sadly there is very little fear of the LORD in the world today and so we see rampant rebellion, crime and wars in most countries.

The fear of the LORD is to have a spirit that is afraid to: -

- Harm another human physically, financially, sexually, verbally, emotionally, or spiritually.
- Deliberately destroy the planet God created that we live on (i.e., arsonists who set forests on fire, companies who pour toxic poisonous waste into rivers and such like things).
- Treat animals with brutality and cruelty.

Having a fear of the LORD is having a fear of doing any of these things, because they are all destructive and bring pain, hurt and harm to others. Having a fear of the LORD means respecting the lives of others, respecting creation and doing what is right before God.

The apostle John wrote: -

- If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us, but if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness, but if we say we have not sinned, we make God a liar, and his word is not in us (1 John 1:1-10).

Fear is about recognising that though we might be a good person in this world we are nevertheless sinners before the Holiness of God and will give an account of our actions and behaviour and be judged accordingly. It is, knowing that there will be a day when we will stand before God and be judged to eternal life or eternal death and allowing this truth to motivate us to seek God and his forgiveness.

Peter said: -

- In every nation anyone who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him (Acts 10:35).

Those desiring eternal life (if they are wise) should be motivated by the knowledge of judgment to seek God and treat others with decency and respect and do the right thing.

This is why the Bible says: -

- The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom and knowledge (Psalm 111:10) (Proverbs 1:7)

The fear of the LORD should motivate a person to seek after God and eternal life.

False fear: is generated by the mind imagining and believing something terrible is about to happen in the future or imagining something is real and true that is not true. These kinds of fears produce real fearful feelings in the emotions even though the fears are fantasies of the mind. This is because our nervous system cannot tell the difference between a real event and a false event that is played out on the screen of our imagination and therefore our emotions respond according to the mental movies we play in our minds whether they are real or false.

Real fear: is fear that is generated by something real such as a family who loses their house in a bush fire and fear having absolutely nothing and no-where to live, or fear of jumping off a cliff and being hurt and such like things. These are very real and justifiable fears.

The Fear of God and Christians and Love.

- Jesus said: “God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16).

Those in Christ understand this great love of God and no longer act from fear, but from love in the same way that a man in love with a woman does not do things to please her from fear, but from the love dwelling in his heart. Likewise it is with those who belong to the Lord's global family.

Once a person is saved in Christ and experiences God's forgiveness and His love and grace their heart is transformed and the mind and passions are changed in such a way that they now desire from the heart to live in a manner that brings honour God and a good testimony to the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Their motivation to follow God is not from fear anymore, but from love because they now know, understand and experience the love God's has for them.

Fear trust and faith: this is about our will being fully surrendered to God's will and trusting that regardless of the circumstance (good or bad) God has our life in his hand and believing that through all our confusion, disappointments and lack of understanding our lives are in his control. Without this kind of faith fear and its allied partner doubt have an open door to attack.

Fear and overcoming it: to shut the door on fear we need to have the same great faith that Job and Habbakuk expressed in the following words: -

- Though he slay me, I will hope in him. (Job 13:15).
- Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, ¹⁸yet I will rejoice in the LORD; I will take joy in the God of my salvation. ¹⁹GOD, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the deer's; he makes me tread on my high places. (Habakkuk 3:17-19).

Those who deny God: after observing mankind the author of Ecclesiastes gave the following advice to those who choose to deny God and live for themselves: -

- Eat and drink and find enjoyment in all the toil with which they toil under the sun the few days of their life that God has given them, for this is their lot. (Eccles. 5:18).

The Law of the LORD.

In verse ten David states, "All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies." (Psalm 25:10). Some might ask, "But what is God's covenant and what are the testimonies that we are to keep?" Jesus summed them all up in the following two commands: -

- You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. (Mark 12:30).
- You shall love your neighbour as yourself. (Mark 12:31).

For further information concerning these laws see the notes following verses (1-9) under the title, "Those who are wantonly treacherous will be ashamed," (above).

End