

Psalm 101

We'll find the 101st Psalm to be a psalm of dedication, determination and decisions. A predetermined position and a ready resolve to follow the Lord both privately and publicly; David dedicates his home to the Lord *personally* then voices his desire to see the kingdom that he reigns over *specifically* function in a manner that's godly as well.

Now many people believe that David must've written this psalm early on in his reign, perhaps when he was longing to have the Ark transported to Jerusalem (because he says in Vs 2, "Oh, when will you come to me" a possible reference to the presence of God being associated with the Ark of the covenant that David longed to have near him). Whether or not that's accurate I don't know, but be that as it may the reason it's believed that it was written early on is because we all know that David's home (ultimately, as it relates to the way things played out practically) was anything but sanctified or set apart to the Lord. Oh that was David's heart, don't misunderstand me, but practically things fell apart radically. He sinned with Bathsheba, had Uriah (her husband) murdered, his own son raped his ½ sister, then was murdered by her brother Absalom, Absalom revolted against him led a conspiracy to overthrow him and was killed by Joab and his men. David had problems with his generals (pertaining to the kingdom), his counselor Ahithophel turned against him; so there was a myriad of practical problems in David's life *personally* and the kingdom he reigned over *generally*, he didn't attain to these standards that we'll read of *perfectly*.

Listen, none of us will, none of us can, yet this was his heart *nonetheless*, the bible declares that David was a man *not* who had *attained* God's heart, but a man who was *after* God's heart. He was reaching for it, pressing for it and pursuing it, he didn't (nor will we) apprehend everything that he was longing for spiritually, yet that didn't stop him from pursuing it diligently. Paul said it like this, "*Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*" Phil 3:12-14 David was *pressing toward the goal*, did he ever stumble, or stagger along the way? Absolutely, didn't he let that deter him? No way, *forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead*. You see it's essential that you have an "aim" in your life, you've heard that the man who aims at nothing will hit it every time. The only person never stumbles or staggers is the person who never takes a step, doesn't justify sin or transgression, but we have to keep moving forward, don't lower your standard because you feel you'll never attain. If your aim is to be like Christ you *will* never attain, it's when you see Him that you'll be like Him, meanwhile keep pressing, keep pressing, be determined, be decisive, be dedicated, be disciplined.

We're going to find this psalm focusing on David's personal/private life, then on his public/high profile life, which is always the proper order. Character is evaluated/established on the basis of who you are, and what you do when no one else is around, your public life should be the mere overflow of your private life.

It's too easy to put up a smokescreen publicly that masks who we really are privately and it ought not be, we should be a "what you see is what you get" kinda people. Hopefully what you see is a reflection of the character of Christ, but what we shouldn't be is a people of hypocrisy who put our mask on publicly then take it off to unveil our reality in our homes privately. Will we fail in that? More than likely but don't let that hinder your resolve to press toward the goal of Christ-likeness through the power of the person of the Holy Spirit in your life.

Vs1-2

As you read through this psalm (as I mentioned) you discover a certain resolve, you find 9 "I will" statements and 6 "shall" or "shall not" statements. What that tells me is that there is some real resolve going on here, some predetermined purpose concerning David's position. David says, "I will" sing of mercy and justice, "I will" sing praises, "I will" behave wisely "I will" walk with in my house with a perfect heart. Can I just state the obvious here? You need to be aware of the fact that a very real aspect of your walk and relationship with the Lord is a matter of your personal will.

God has given you the capacity of "will" of "choice" of being able to determine which direction you will take and what choice you will make. He will not force you to walk *with* Him, to love *on* Him or to follow *after* Him, you've got to *want* to follow Him, you've got to will to follow Him. That is, you've got to purpose in your heart and have a resolve with in yourself that come what may (though none go with me) you're going to follow Him and stay near *to* Him. God's not going to force you to worship Him, or to sing praises to Him, to in anyway glorify or magnify Him, that's a matter of your will.

You entered this place tonight, perhaps you chose to worship the Lord openly, to sing out heartily to the Lord. But then again maybe you chose to sit there quietly, waiting patiently for the time of worship in song to come to an end so that you could get to what you came here for, the word. Now there's nothing wrong being here for the word, but don't thing that worship in song is simply something to endure, it's an integral aspect of our drawing near *to* the Lord and preparing our hearts *before* the Lord so that our heart is open and tender as the word is opened and spoken into our lives. Now I'm not suggesting that if you don't sing you're somehow in sin, we're to worship God in spirit and truth. Having said that the bible exhorts us to speak to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in our hearts to the Lord; David says, "I will sing of mercy and justice, to You Oh Lord I will sing praises."

Vs 2 “I will behave wisely” what does that mean? He goes on, “In a perfect way.” Now when he mentions the word “perfect” if you check the center margin in your bible you might find that the word literally means, “blameless.” What that tells me is that if I want to behave wisely, than I need to behave blamelessly. Over and over again the word of God issues the exhortation to be blameless. That is, to walk in integrity in a manner that accords with truth and honesty, to be wholesome in speech and activity, be blameless. Gen 17:1 “*I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless.*” Ps 19:13, “*Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins; Let them not have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, And I shall be innocent of great transgression.*”

The proverbs tell us, “*Those who are of a perverse heart are an abomination to the Lord, But the blameless in their ways are His delight.*” Prov 11:20 I’ll give you one more, 2 Peter 3:14, “*...be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless;*” In 1st Thess Paul exhorts us to avoid *every form* even the *appearance* of evil. We’re not to place ourselves in situations that invite speculation or amplify ambiguity, we’re to use wisdom, we’re to be blameless.

Of course David realizes that apart from God empowering him he can’t do it on his own so we find here in Vs 2, “Oh when will you come to me?” “Lord I need Your power in my life if I’m to lead my life in a manner that pleases you.” In me, that is in my flesh no good thing dwells, it’s never about what I do it’s always about what He’s done, these things are to be the overflow of His work in our lives. Not a legal regimen or a list of do’s and don’ts to be made right with God; these things are the *reasons* I’m right with God, they’re the *results* of being right with God, they’re the overflow of Christ in my life.

“I will walk with in my house with a perfect heart.” Again a *blameless* heart, a singleness of heart, an undivided heart, a heart that’s not torn between the things of this world Vs the things of the Lord. We note again David’s understanding of the freewill in the equation. He says, “I will” not “You will make me.” God won’t make your television magically shut off when you turn to an inappropriate program; He’s not going to break your finger just before you left click your mouse so that it takes you to that website that you’ve no business being on.

Yet we realize that one of the greatest arenas in which temptation flourishes is in our own homes behind closed doors. When we have a pseudo sense of security thinking that no one is watching, no one knows. So we feel a dangerous sense of freedom to walk where and watch what we ought not. How quick we are to forget the scripture, “*For He Himself has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you.’*” Heb 13:5 God is with you, He’s always watching over you, His eyes are upon you and the things that you do.

Remember the psalmist came into this realization; and he said, *“Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the morning, And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me. If I say, ‘Surely the darkness shall fall on me,’ Even the night shall be light about me; Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You, But the night shines as the day; The darkness and the light are both alike to You.”* Ps 139:7-12 God knows you, He loves you, He refuses to take His eyes off of you; and He has this tendency to bring things into the light that have been done in the darkness. He has a tendency to shout from the rooftops the things whispered into the ear in the inner rooms. You see, how do you walk in your house? What’s the spiritual climate in your home?

I’m not saying that you have to be some hyper spiritual individual whereby every little thing has to be filtered through the lens of “What’s God doing here?” Or you’re always looking for the spiritual “vibe” in everything, we live in a practical world as well, we’re not to be eccentric or weird about things, but are there godly standards in your home? To the best of your ability do you seek to set a standard that honors the word and the ways of God. “I will walk with in my house with a perfect heart.” We might understand this to mean that David dedicated his home to the Lord, we dedicate our children to the Lord, we dedicate our church building, our businesses to the Lord, what about the 4 walls and a roof that you call home? Have you dedicated your house the Lord? David did; and with that he made some decisions, check it out.

Vs3-4

Notice the determination in these decisions that David is making. When it comes to wicked (or worthless) things before his eyes he says, “I will not.” As for the foolish behavior of the fallen David says, “I shall not.” As for a perverse heart; it “shall depart” and as for knowing wickedness David says, “I will not.”

He realizes the need for an already, predetermined resolve if he’s to wage wise spiritual warfare being strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. He says, “I will set nothing wicked before my eyes.” Job said, *“I have made a covenant with my eyes; Why then should I look upon a young woman?”* Job 31:1 Jesus said, *“The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!”* Matt 6:22-23 Paul went on to say that we become like that which we behold. He said, *“But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.”* 2 Cor 3:18 As we fix our gaze *upon* the Lord we’ll become more *like* the Lord as we’re transformed from glory to greater glory as by the Spirit of the Lord.

God help us that we not set wicked/worthless things before our eyes; and don't be deceived into thinking that setting wicked things before your eyes is limited to the *lust* of the eye. It also includes setting worthless goals and striving to reach them, the pride of life, the pursuit of worldly ambitions, set godly goals, seek to be guided by God's will, view the world and the pursuit of your life through the lens of the scripture. Beyond that having godly goals is great, but then make sure that you employ godly methods to reach them, don't compromise in your pursuit, don't seek to stack the deck or manipulate a circumstance, let the Lord lead you and be diligent about what He reveals to you.

"I hate the work of those who fall away; it shall not cling to me." David wants to distance himself from those were once named a brother but have walked away from the family and are engaged in worldly activity. Paul, in writing to the Corinthians said, "...*I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner — not even to eat with such a person.*" 1 Cor 5:11 If you know someone who's in the world, and they party...well that's what worldly people do. Share Christ with them, if they claim to be believers and they're partying, separate yourself from them immediately. Don't condone it or approve of it by putting up with and tolerating it, David says, "I want nothing to do with it, I won't follow the wayward patterns and the works of those who fall away." The slipping and sliding, stumbling and always struggling with sin, never learning what it means to crucify the flesh along with it's passions and desires. He says he's not going to be inconsistent in his walk with the Lord. You see it goes back to the resolve, walking blamelessly, uprightly, with integrity, being privately who you are in the public assembly. Listen, living in a manner that's godly isn't something that comes naturally to any of us, we got to purpose in our heart in advance to do the right thing, if you wait until the moment of temptation to try and fight it you've already lost, you've got to resolve *now* what you're going to do *then* and then do it!

"A perverse heart shall depart from me" "I want nothing to do with perversity of heart, I want *purity* of heart." Jesus said, "*Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God.*" Matt 5:8 Of course it's the blood of Christ that cleanses us, washes and purifies us before the Father, we know that we're washed by water of the word of God, washing us clean from perversity, causing there to be a purity about our heart about our lives.

"I will not know wickedness." Paul told the Romans that he wanted them to be wise in what is good, and simple concerning evil. The word "know" here speaks of considering, becoming acquainted or familiar with. He's saying that when it comes to wickedness he wouldn't consider it, he wasn't going to acquaint himself with it or become skillful concerning it or somehow study it but rather he was stray far from it.

How many people get ensnared because they're curious about evil, "What's all the hype about internet pornography?" They do a few searches and "Boom" they're ensnared, "what's the deal with meth or marijuana, what's so great about getting drunk or partying?" "Boom" they're ensnared and they begin a journey down a slippery slope of destruction that absolutely ruins *their* life and often times the lives of those *around* them. "How close to the fire can I be with out getting burned, how near to the edge can I go with out falling off?" David says, "That's foolishness, stray far from it, have nothing to do with it, refuse to know anything about it."

Vs5-6

Here's the deal, "*Do not be deceived: 'Evil company corrupts good habits.'*" 1 Cor 15:33 We're seeing here the fact that there are certain things we *should* do, certain things we *should not* do; to the positive, sing praises to God, behave wisely being blameless, even in the secret quarters of your own home; to the negative *don't* set anything wicked or worthless before your eyes, don't repeat the patterns of people who fall away, don't see how close the edge you can live concerning sin and still get away with it, flee far from it. Don't befriend or hang out with the proud and haughty person. It's simply not healthy for your spiritually, God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble, do you want God resisting you or giving grace to you? As for destroying the *slanderer*, I don't recommend you take it into your hands to dole out retribution on God's behalf. However I highly recommend destroying the *slander*. You get pulled into a backbiting, full on or subtle gossip session, someone slandering another person, you should be quick to cut it off. Don't give ear to the negative words spoken about another person, in every administration, in every church congregation there will be those who want to slander others, we're not to heed it, or give ear to it, we're to end it.

I think this is a big one in the body of Christ, because we can have a tendency to think, "Well, they're just telling me and I'm not going to blab it around, it's safe with me." Yet we inadvertently entertain slander, drink in poison and even create an environment that facilitates a comfort level for slander for the other person who's talking. They know they can spill into you, now you've got thoughts in your head and in your heart that weren't previously there, there's not a single good thing about it. Say, "Hey, listen, I'm not sure where you're coming from but you should really talk to them about it, not me." End it, don't give ear to it.

Vs 6 Keep *your* eyes on the faithful, imitate those who imitate Christ, have friends that are faithful followers of Christ, people who will challenge you in your relationship with Him, not encourage your compromise. If there are people in your life who are always tempting you to compromise, cut them loose, get friends who will encourage godly growth and a relationship with the Lord; find those *blameless* people and befriend them.

If they're liars, deceivers or people who encourage compromise, minus them out of your life; "*Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you. I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the Lord Almighty.*" 2 Cor 6:17-18 You see what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Keep your eyes *on* and surround yourself *with* the faithful, the one who walks in a blameless way.

Vs7-8

Whether it had to do with his life personally, or the administration of his kingdom publicly David wanted consistency, integrity, God desires truth in the inward parts. Now again we aren't called to "cleanse the land" destroying the wicked and cutting off the evildoers. But we *should* evaluate ourselves personally, and crucify these tendencies with in our own being. We should be faithful to cut off those situations that are turning ugly, to destroy (if you will) the wicked inclinations of our flesh and those situations that are developing as we're talking to someone else and negativity starts to arise about a particular person. Don't entertain perversity, desire purity.

Will you hit every bulls eye in this list of "I wills" "shalls" and "shall nots"? Probably not but don't be discouraged, be determined, decide now and make your resolve, fix your gaze upon the Lord that you might be made more like Him, being transformed *by* Him that you might bring glory *to* Him, be who you are in the Lord, don't play games, let God grow you up and mature you that who you are privately, and who you are publicly will be one and the same...

Prayer Points:

Father help us that we dedicate and consecrate our lives to you from the inward man of the heart. Teach us to lead lives that are separated unto You, given over to the obedience of Your word, not because we feel like we *have* to but because we *want* to because we're so in love *with* You. Give us the ready resolve to flee ungodliness, to do more than *resist* temptation, help us to *run* from it rather than try and fight it. Make us strong Lord in You and in the power of Your might. Be magnified and glorified in us...