

THREE THINGS

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Psalms 25 is a beautiful prayer and psalm of lament, penitence and requests to God. David, its author, had a challenging life. He had his failures. There were people who were after his life. Thus, he offered up this prayer, lifting up to the LORD his soul and being (vv.1-3) because he knew God and he trusted in His power and help.

As a man who feared the Lord, David reiterated three things in verses 12-14.

¹² *Who is the man who fears the Lord? Him will he instruct in the way that he should choose.*

¹³ *His soul shall abide in well-being, and his offspring shall inherit the land.*

¹⁴ *The friendship^[b] of the Lord is for those who fear him, and he makes known to them his covenant.*

But what does it mean to fear God? It is to revere Him and fear sinning against Him. A person who fears God pursues holiness and uprightness. He loves the Lord even in times of need and trouble. He desires to obey the Lord at all times and at all costs for he recognizes the presence and reign of God in his life.

David carefully interweaved these three things that would nurture his fear of the Lord even in the middle of all his troubles.

A. A man who fears the LORD DESIRES THE LORD'S INSTRUCTION (vv. 4,8,12)

A man or woman who fears the Lord is changed by God and His Word. He or she opens the Word of God with anticipation of an ENCOUNTER WITH THE LORD. But this happens only at God's own bidding and timing. Not asking God to speak, but allowing God to do it at His pleasure. And when we do that, we learn that beautiful but difficult word - **UNHURRIED**.

Having unhurried times with the Lord is getting to be more difficult because of the myriad distractions that we face.

Let us give the Lord the best time of His 24-hour gift to us and allow Him and the Holy Spirit to tutor and nurture us in the Word and in prayer. We have to **ALWAYS REMEMBER** to fight for our time with God especially with the many concerns and distractions we face daily.

READ, MEDITATE AND STUDY GOD'S HOLY WORD.

B. A man who fears the LORD DELIGHTS IN HIS ABIDING (vv.5,10,13)

Even in the middle of his troubles, David's desire was to abide in the Lord, being led and taught, and willing to wait all day long. What a desire! What an expression of faith it is to WAIT (v.14-15) - to TRUST THE LORD FOR AS LONG AS IT TAKES!

Abiding in the Lord is to dwell and remain in His presence. One cannot remain in the Lord without obedience. And our total obedience is what truly honors, delights and reveres Him.

David records for us the truth that the LORD indeed blesses those who obey Him. He enjoyed the LORD's steadfast love and faithfulness (v.10) and the inheritance of the land (v.13).

The Lord Jesus is our great rewarder. Not only does He give us the assurance of His presence daily (Hebrews 13:5). He, too, **rewards the one who abides** as He declares in John 15:7, *"If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you."* There is blessing in abiding. But we do not abide just to get a blessing. The reason we abide is because we desire to honor and please God. The greatest blessing of abiding is abiding itself!

C. A man who fears the LORD DEEPENS HIS FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD (vv.7,11,14)

David's third desire is to always be right with God. In verses 7 & 11, he cited his transgression and the love of God. He

was concerned about his friendship with the LORD because he knew God and the Spirit of God was upon Him. His heart was toward God and **his one thing is the LORD, and no one else!** And like David, we are to desire a deeper friendship with the Lord.

As a friend of the Lord, we are to strive to always be right with Him. The work of Jesus at the cross rendered sin useless, making us dead to sin and alive in Christ (Romans 6:5-14; 1 John 1:8-9). As God's own, while we are still in the flesh, **we can never be sinless but we now can SIN LESS** because of the work of Christ and the movement of the HOLY SPIRIT IN OUR LIVES!

As a friend of the Lord, we are to be open to Him and fully surrendered, allowing Him to have full access in all areas of our lives. Giving God total control will allow Him to mend, nurture and change us, which will grow our intimacy and deepen our love and obedience toward Him.

David's situation did not change after this prayer. But his fear of God continually allowed him to desire His Word, delight in His abiding and deepen his intimacy with Him, enabling him to trust and wait in the goodness of God (vv.20-21). ✦

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