

Psalms Chapter 26 Commentary

A Psalm of David

In this Psalm, King David gives us an example of what the life of a child of God should be like, and the full assurance we should have of our God given salvation.

Ps 26:1 "Judge me, O LORD; for I have walked in mine integrity: I have trusted also in the LORD; therefore, I shall not slide."

King David is asking God to judge him, for his own works and the intents of his heart, not by the false accusation of others. It seems very plain that David is being accuse of something of which he is not guilty, which is probably the accusers of David, telling Saul that David is after his head so he can take the throne, and Saul was wrongfully trying to kill David, so he would not take the throne of Israel. David's concern is the sanctity of his own soul. He is telling us that he has walked in integrity, before God and men. What does integrity mean?

Completeness, prosperity, or morally innocence. This is obviously before David committed adultery and murder.

David is so assured in his faith and trust in God, that he says to God ***"I shall not slide"*** (meaning to turn away from) from following God. How could David have such a strong faith? God has protected David and delivered him from enemies so many times, there could be no doubt in David's heart and mind that God was with him. David has complete assurance of God's salvation in his life. David knows that God will judge him with truth. If men judge him, they may not use truth, but false accusations to judge him, as they accused David of aspiring to take the crown from Saul. Can we say with David? ***"Judge me, O Lord, for I have walked in mine integrity."***

2 "Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; try my reins and my heart."

David asks God to examine his heart to prove that it is true to God. David asks God to try my reins (reins means inmost thoughts of the mind and the intents of his heart). David knows that his heart will be found truer to God, because God will see the Holy Spirit dwelling in him, and this will enable him to pass the test.

We have a similar assurance of our salvation in ***1Jo 3:9 "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God."*** Just as David, we have the indwelling Holy Spirit of Jesus Christ in us. Thus, when God searches our hearts, he communes with that Holy Spirit presence in us, and because of the atoning blood of Jesus, God does not see our sinfulness, in the eternal setting, because of the finished work of Christ. When walking uprightly before God, we can also say to God test my reins and my heart. Why? We will be in complete subjection to our King, Jesus Christ, and God's word of truth. Because we will be in sweet fellowship with God's people.

3 "For thy lovingkindness is before mine eyes: and I have walked in thy truth."

Remember when God had David anointed to be king over Israel: from that time forward the Holy Spirit of God came upon King David, seen in ***1Sa 16:13 "Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward."*** David is telling us that because I am indwelt with the Holy Spirit of God, wherefore, I can see God's lovingkindness toward me. David is saying that because of the Holy Spirit presence, the lovingkindness of God is before his eyes, and thereby he has walked in the truth of God. Also, God has anointed and promised David kingship over Israel. David does not desire to overthrow King Saul. David knows that, in his own time, God will bring it to pass. This is why David would not lift his hand against Saul, because Saul was also anointed by the command of the Lord to be king.

The same is true for every child of grace today in the new birth, when the Holy Spirit of God is put into you, you see the lovingkindness of God toward you. Because of this Holy Spirit presence, you can walk uprightly in the truth of God. Likewise, you will have no desire to try to usurp the kingship of our eternal King, Jesus Christ, or another child of God. Why? Because we are already kings and priests to God, and Jesus has promised to return and take us to the eternal place where he lives.

4 "I have not sat with vain persons, neither will I go in with dissemblers. 5 I have hated the congregation of evil doers; and will not sit with the wicked."

David tells God: I have not chosen to sit with the vain people, though I cannot avoid their presence, I do not walk in their ways. Who are vain people? People who put their will ahead of God's will. Dissemblers are people who cause divisions among brethren, through disguise, while luring others into sin. They are trying not to let others see them for what they are. In other words, David is saying that I have never associated with those who keep bringing lies to King Saul, telling him that I intend to kill him and take the crown.

The same should be true in the child of God who has been gifted the new birth and eternal life with Christ, as we are told in **2Co 6:14-18; 14 "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? 15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? 16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, 18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty."** We are to hate evil and those who pander to it. We should not be in communion with those walking in sinfulness and ungodliness, and those who are not professors in Christ.

6 ¶ "I will wash mine hands in innocency: so will I compass thine altar, O LORD: 7 That I may publish with the voice of thanksgiving, and tell of all thy wondrous works. 8 LORD, I have loved the habitation of thy house, and the place where thine honour dwelleth."

What does David mean by **"I will wash my hands in innocency: so, I will compass thine altar, O Lord?"** Every priest, who served in the holy place, had to search his heart and mind for any appearance of sin, before he came into the holy place, to the laver to wash, and put on the clothes of service. If sin was found, he had to have another priest to make sacrifice for his sins to get him right with God, before he could enter the holy place, wash at the laver, and put on the clothes of service. Before we engage in service to God, we should examine our hearts and minds for any appearance of sin, and if any be found, before we wash in the laver and put on our clothes of service, we must first go to God and seek forgiveness and get things right with God, and with any we have offended.

Just as the priests that served in the tabernacle worship had to examine their lives for sin, and then they had to wash themselves in the laver to put on their clothes of service: so, David, having examined his life and found no sin, could wash his hands in innocence, enter into the habitation of the Lord's house, and declare with thanksgiving the wondrous works of God, and God's salvation.

We can identify with King David in **1Co 11:28; 26 For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come. 27 Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. 28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. 29 For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. 30 For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. 31 For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged."**

"so I will compass thine altar, O Lord?" Compass means to surround or to pass around completely. This is the picture of the priests, as they made sacrifice offerings upon the altar, they were to dip their finger in the blood of the sacrifice and place it upon the horns of the altar. Because of its size, to do this they would have to go all the way around the altar of sacrifice. The same was true for the altar of incense. What would that have to do with us today in this age of salvation by the grace of God? Jesus, our High Priest, has applied his blood to the horns of both altars, on our behalf, and completed the work of the eternal forgiveness of our sins before God.

We can examine our own lives for sinfulness, and if we find no willful sins, or no intent to sin, against God; we can declare we have been washed by the blood of Christ and found innocent before God. Then we can come to the altar of the sacrifice of praise and enter into the congregation of the saints of God, praising and thanking God, without sin, for the salvation that God has gifted to us, through the name of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

"LORD, I have loved the habitation of thy house, and the place where thine honour dwelleth." David declares that he loves the house of God, Especially the most holy place where the mercy seat is, where God has placed his name and his Holy Presence. Every time we assemble with God's people in a congregation, we are

telling God: we love the habitation of His house, especially the mercy seat, of the most holy place, which is representative of our Saviour and Lord, and the place where God has caused His name to be known.

9 "Gather not my soul with sinners, nor my life with bloody men: 10 In whose hands is mischief, and their right hand is full of bribes."

David asks of God to not count him among the sinners, who have not received the Holy Spirit of God in them. David does not want to be found with those who reject God and willfully disobey his commandments. David knows that their lot will be eternal damnation, and he does not want to be damned eternally. This portion of David's prayer was answered when he committed adultery with Bathsheba and had her husband Uriah murdered, in an attempt to cover his sin. Both of these sins had a death penalty, but God in his mercy forgave David, and granted him life instead of death.

The judges, and priests of God, were told to not take bribes, nor to give false judgments, with their eyes being blinded with the love of money, which is the root of all evil.

This same principle should be applied in the life of every child of God after the new birth. Total abstinence from sinfulness and ungodliness. Neither are we to accept bribes to turn us from righteous judgment. Where would these bribes come from in the life of a child of God. They will come from the devil as he appeals to the fallen and inherited sin nature of the flesh. He will put sin before you, using lies and deceitful means, making sin look pleasing to the flesh, to attempt to turn you from God and the paths of righteousness.

11 "But as for me, I will walk in mine integrity: redeem me, and be merciful unto me. 12 My foot standeth in an even place: in the congregations will I bless the LORD."

David says that he will walk in his integrity, meaning that he will walk uprightly before God without turning from God to sin, because he is indwelt with the Holy Spirit of God, and his heart and mind is filled with the word of God. David asks God for his redemption and mercy. Why? David knows his inherited flesh nature, and his need of that Holy Spirit power that God has given him. David is saying: in the Holy Spirit power you have put in me: I ask you to redeem me from even the temptation of sin, and keep my feet planted on the solid rock: whereby, I will bless the Lord in the congregations of his people.

"My foot standeth in an even place:" Because David has been indwelt with the Holy Spirit, as a chosen vessel to God, he is as one who has been weighed in the balances of justice, and he was not found wanting. The scale was perfectly balanced by the grace of God in his life, and the same is true for us today.

This is true for every child of God who has been reborn. We sometimes lose sight of God and need to be regenerated in Spirit. We need the Holy Spirit of God, and the Word of God, to keep us from the paths of the ungodly. We can rejoice in the fact: Jesus has given us eternal forgiveness of sins and eternal life: wherefore, we will praise God, and we will gather together with God's people, walking uprightly before God.

Having full assurance of our eternal remission of sins, and our eternal life in Christ, we can come before God as seen in **Heb 4:14-16; 14 "Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. 15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."** Praise God for giving us **"a great High Priest"** and for eternal salvation in Christ Jesus. Hallelujah!

Also, we have the promise of the resurrection of the dead in Christ, when Christ shall return and gather all those whom He saved, when he sacrificed himself for our sins. This will be an eternal gathering of God's people, and we will spend a sinless eternity; blessing and praising our Saviour and King as seen in **Re 7:9-10; 9 "After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; 10 And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb."** Hallelujah! Amen!