

Guided in Grace

Psalm 25: 4-10

The psalm we have read today is another psalm of David. It is included in the Hebrew hymnbook as an acrostic psalm. Although it is largely recognized as a hymn, it also reveals a passionate prayer David offered unto the Lord. Many agree this psalm was likely written during Absalom's rebellion, a time when David needed, and desired, guidance from the Lord. As one reads the entire psalm, guidance comes to light as the underlying theme.

Our world is rapidly changing. We all face an uncertain future with seasons of adversity and doubt. We have all found ourselves at a crossroad in life, pondering which path to take. It is during those times we need guidance. The key to victory is obtaining guidance and direction from the right source. Many among us seek guidance from the world, but we must seek guidance from the Lord if we are to find the right path and prosper in this journey of life. Abraham Lincoln once said, "I have often been driven to God by the overwhelming sense that I had nowhere else to go."

As David prayed unto the Lord, he fully expected to receive all he needed from the Lord. Let's examine his [expectations](#) as we consider: [Guided in Grace](#).

I. The Guidance of the LORD (4-5) – As David prayed, he fully expected to receive guidance. Consider:

A. His Desire (4) – [Shew me thy ways, O LORD; teach me thy paths](#). In his times of despair and uncertainty, David desired the Lord to show him His ways and teach him the path to follow. Show has the idea of *making one know*. Teach speaks of *causing one to learn and has more to do with training than mere education*. David desired to know the ways of God and he longed to be trained with the knowledge of seeking the right path. He knew as long as he walked in the ways of God, his life would be fulfilling and victorious. When he strayed from the Lord, his life faced uncertainty, and often defeat.

B. His Discernment (5a) – [Lead me in thy truth, and teach me](#). David had walked in disobedience and rebellion in the past. He knew that path was not prosperous and always led to rebuke and chastisement. He longed for the ways of God, being led in truth and taught of the Lord. He was not resting in his own wisdom or desires, but fully trusted in the Lord to guide his path.

- This is a simple truth, and yet many times we have difficulty with it. I am sure we are all aware that God's way is always best. How often have we found ourselves in a difficult situation,

brought on by our desire to have our way rather than seeking God's will? Honestly, we need God's guidance and instruction each day we live and in every situation we encounter.

C. His Dependence (5b) – *for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day.* David was fully aware of his need and dependence on the Lord. He had followed his own way in the past, and had to deal with the consequences of his sin. David knew he lacked the wisdom necessary to make his way through life. He had learned to depend upon the Lord for guidance. He was patient, willing to wait as long as it took to get a word from the Lord. If God hadn't spoken, or revealed the right path, David chose to wait until he received direction.

- This is a profound lesson many of us have learned the hard way. No doubt we all have grown weary of waiting, or didn't like the direction God was leading, and chose to follow the path of our choosing rather than the Lord's direction. More often than not, such a decision brings unwanted consequences. While patience is difficult for us at times, we must learn to wait on the Lord. If He hasn't provided clear direction, we must continue with the last word we received and wait until He provides additional guidance.

II. The Grace of the LORD (6-7) – Here David is mindful of the grace he has received and expects the Lord to continue providing for him. He desired the Lord to deal graciously:

A. In Remembrance (6) – *Remember, O LORD, thy tender mercies and thy lovingkindnesses; for they have been ever of old.* Bear in mind, David is dealing with a moment of great adversity. He is in desperate need of the Lord's guidance and grace. It is evident that he is mindful of the Lord's gracious provision during seasons of difficulty in the past. He longs to experience such grace again. He cries out for the Lord to remember his tender mercies and loving-kindness, as He had shown in the past.

- I am certain the Lord has been gracious in all our lives. He provided the means of our salvation, loving us while we were yet in sin. He came to us through His grace, with loving-kindness, drawing us to Himself. He has been faithful throughout our lives. We can trust in the Lord to remain faithful, regardless of the struggles we face.

B. In Remission (7a) – *Remember not the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions.* While David longed for the Lord to remember His mercy and grace, he wanted Him to forget the sin of his past and his present transgressions. David desired the Lord to forgive his sin, and deal with him in grace rather than in justice.

- I am glad we serve One who chooses to have a selective memory. He chooses to forgive and forget the sins of our past. It isn't that He is unable to remember them, but that He chooses not to remember them. He is faithful and just to forgive us of our sin and cleanse us from our unrighteousness. He removes our transgressions as far as the east is from the west through Christ our Lord, burying them in the sea of His forgetfulness. I am thankful for the cleansing power in the blood of Christ. The saved are viewed in light of the imputed righteousness of Christ instead of the guilt and condemnation of our sin!

C. In Righteousness (7b) – [according to thy mercy remember thou me for thy goodness' sake, O LORD.](#)

David knew the Lord would deal with him according to His righteous mercies, not according to his faults and failures. While he was deserving of judgment, God chose to extend mercy and forgiveness. God would have been just and right to have punished David, but instead He offered grace and pardon. God's divine nature caused Him to respond in grace instead of condemnation.

- I am thankful the Lord offers grace instead of what we deserve. David lived long before the death and resurrection of Christ, but he spoke the truths of the Gospel. God's mercy withheld the judgment we deserved because of sin, and His grace offered the pardon we could never deserve. The goodness and grace of God brought salvation to those who were undeserving. We have hope and life because Christ was willing to bear our sin, suffer in our place, and provide eternal life!

III. The Goodness of the LORD (8-10) – Finally David rejoiced in the goodness of God, having experienced it in the past and fully expecting it to continue. Consider:

A. The Guidance (8) – [Good and upright is the LORD: therefore will he teach sinners in the way.](#) Again David pondered the guidance of the Lord, knowing it resulted from His goodness and grace. Although undeserving, God offered grace and guidance to one who was sinful and rebellious.

- When we take the time to consider it – that is really an overwhelming thought. While living in sin, we wandered aimlessly through life. Our path was directed by the lusts of the flesh. We had no desire for God and were unable to find Him through our own efforts. Through His goodness and grace, He came to us, where we were, saved us by His grace, and led us in the paths of righteousness. At that moment we began a wonderful journey with the Lord, and He continues to faithfully guide us according to His divine will. Isn't that amazing? He is willing to reach out to lowly sinners in love and grace, change our lives and eternal destiny, and then continue to walk with us!

B. The Obedience (9) – *The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way.* While God is good and gracious, David knew obedience was required for continued guidance. He knew he must be willing to follow the Lord, according to His will, if he was to enjoy fellowship with God. It is interesting that David speaks of two forms of guidance for the meek. He reveals that God will *guide in judgment*. This refers to “*walking alongside, while directing in the right way.*” He also says that God will *teach* the meek His way. This actually refers to “*a goad or prod to keep one on the right path.*”

- We like to rejoice in the fact that our Lord walks alongside us in the way, but we aren't as fond of the idea of Him prodding us to keep us on track. In reality, we ought to rejoice in both. As our Good Shepherd, He knows the path we ought to take. There are times when He has to lovingly prod us to keep us from straying from the right path. *Prov.3:5-6 – Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.* ^[6] *In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.*

C. The Confidence (10) – *All the paths of the LORD are mercy and truth unto such as keep his covenant and his testimonies.* David knew the Lord's ways were always best. He would never lead down a path that was unfavorable or lacking. As long as he followed the Lord, David knew his path would be fruitful and victorious. A life lived for the Lord would result in a life filled with goodness and mercy. Each step would be guarded in wisdom and truth. While David lacked the wisdom he needed at times, God was always faithful to provide. As long as he walked with the Lord, he knew he would be on the right path.

- We have no way of knowing what our future holds. At times we are even unsure where the Lord is leading, but we can follow Him with confidence. While we walk with the Lord, we are assured of His guidance, provision, and grace. There is great comfort walking with the Lord. I don't have to worry about where we are headed; I just have to keep my eyes on Jesus as I closely follow Him!

Conclusion: While David faced an uncertain future, he served a wise and gracious Lord. He knew the Lord had been faithful in the past, and he was certain He would continue to guide him according to His good grace. God had never failed, and David had no fear.

These expectations have been rather easy to understand, but they are often hard to put into practice. We know God leads in the right way, but at times we lack the patience and desire to follow. If you are struggling in life, seek the Lord. He is willing and able to provide the guidance you need. If you are unsaved, respond in repentance and faith to His call for salvation!