

PSALM SIXTEEN, EIGHT

Intro: This verse is one of the many verses in the Word of God which expresses the greatest possible assurance --a verse which strengthens us just by reading it. We want to believe that such a verse can be just as true for us as it was for David.

PSA. 136:3 - "IN THE DAY WHEN I CRIED, THOU ANSWEREST ME, AND STRENGTHENEDST ME WITH STRENGTH IN MY SOUL."
If we know the story of David, we realize that he did not have an easy life. In fact, he had more than his share of trouble. There is even a note of peril in this Psalm--as there is in many of the Psalms. BUT THE JOY OF DAVID SO COMPLETELY OVERSHADOWS THE DANGER THAT IT IS ALMOST LIKE THE DANGER DID NOT EVEN EXIST--ALTHOUGH THE DANGER SEEMS TO HAVE CONTAINED THE POSSIBILITY OF DEATH!

Can we believe that such a life is for us today? THERE IS NO QUESTION ABOUT IT. Perhaps this is one reason David was taken through all that he experienced--to let us know that God can do and will do the very same for us!

BUT--there are reasons why this was true in David's experience. We must discover what those reasons were, and then follow David in what he did.

I. AN OBSERVATION.

It would take a very superficial reading of the Psalm to fail to see that, this is not just the way David faced emergencies, BUT THIS IS THE WAY HE LIVED "always," lit. moving on from day to day without interruption.

Many of us are not like that. We coast from one emergency to another. LET US REALIZE THAT DAVID IS TELLING US HOW HE LIVED--EVERY DAY!!!

Now to the verse . . . We note, first of all,

II. THE PRIORITY OF THE LORD IN HIS LIFE: "I have set the Lord always before me."

David never thought about anything or anyone more than he did the Lord. He had formed the habit of turning his thoughts to the Lord continually. It means that He put the Lord out where He could be seen--seen by David himself!

Cf. Psa. 25:15, "Mine eyes are ever toward the Lord."

The name he uses here is Jehovah, the ever-living, unchanging God.

However, he uses this and two other names in vv. 1, 2:

- 1) V. 1 - God, , the Almighty One.
- 2) V. 2 - LORD, Jehovah.
- 3) V. 2 - Lord, Adonai, Master, Owner, to whom we are to be submissive and obedient.

Throughout David's life he had been learning things about the Lord. Where did he learn them? From the Spirit of God. How do we learn them? There is only one place--the Spirit of God is also our Teacher, and the Word of God is what He teaches. THEREFORE, IF I AM TO LIVE LIKE DAVID DID THE WORD OF GOD MUST BE A MAJOR PART OF MY LIFE EVERY DAY!

What place does the Word have in your life? How much do you read it? When you do read it, do you ask the Lord to help you to understand it?

We may have a lot of excuses, but do we have any excuses that would satisfy King David if we were talking to him about this? Are you as busy as the King of Israel?

But, now you can see what happened!

David was learning about the Lord each day so that it became the most normal thing in his life to be thinking about the Lord. What a delightful thing this is when it begins to happen to you!

And so David sought to see everything in the light of the Lord's presence and His purposes.

Next we see

III. THE PLACE THAT THE LORD HAD WITH HIM: "Because He is at my right hand."

Did David place the Lord there? No. He could not place the Lord anywhere. BUT AS HE LEARNED ABOUT THE LORD, THIS IS WHERE HE LEARNED THAT THE LORD ALWAYS WAS--AT HIS RIGHT HAND!

This immediately tells us that He is very near.

But what else does it tell us?

Look at the following Scriptures:

- 1) Psa. 73:23. Then read v. 24. It means He will keep us and guide us--right into heaven itself.
- 2) Note how David ends Psalm 109 (v. 31). The Lord delivers.
- 3) Psa. 121:5. Read the whole Psalm.

What peace and joy are to be found in knowing WHERE the Lord is and where He stays! He does not come and go; He is there all of the time! AND THIS IS TRUE OF EVERY CHILD OF GOD THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE WORLD!

IV. THE PROSPECT FOR SUCH A LIFE: "I shall not be moved."

This expression has many meanings: to slip, to fall, to slide, to be removed, to fail, to yield, to be overthrown.

Note the absolute confidence of the King!

But can anyone really say this? He can if the Lord is to him what He was to David. A man would be making the most ridiculous claim if he were saying this about what he could do for himself. How easily we can fail! BUT NOT THE LORD!

Note the following verses in the setting in which each is found:

- 1) Phil. 4:13--the Apostle Paul, Eph. 3:20; 2 Cor. 2:14.
- 2) Jude 24, 25--Jude, a half-brother of the Lord Jesus.
- 3) 2 Pet. 1:10--Peter, the Apostle, who knew what failure was.

"Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure; for if ye ^{do} these things, ye shall never fall.

- 4) Heb. 12:1, 2--after the tremendous record in Heb. 11.
- 5) Psa. 37:23, 24--David.

"The steps of a good man are ordered of the Lord, and he delighteth in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; for the Lord upholdeth him with his hand." Also - Psa. 15:5b.

Concl: Does this mean a perfect life? No. Not now. But it does mean deliverance where we have failed before and help in circumstances where we would be overwhelmed if the Lord did not help us.

But this must be a way of life--not just what we do in emergencies. Cf. Psa. 1:1-3.

By the grace of God, do not delay any longer in giving yourself to the Lord and His Word--reading, meditating, comparing Scripture with Scripture, obeying, and praying. THEN WE WILL BE DOING WHAT DAVID DID, AND THEN WE WILL SEE THE BLESSING IN OUR OWN LIVES WHICH DAVID SAW IN HIS!