

LIVING 'ON THE LEVEL'

Psalm 26:1-12

Psalm 27:11-14

I Kings 15:5

PSALM 26

Protestation of Integrity and Prayer for Protection.

A Psalm of David.

1 Vindicate me, O LORD, for I have walked in my integrity, and I have trusted in the LORD without wavering.

2 Examine me, O LORD, and try me; test my mind and my heart.

3 For Your lovingkindness is before my eyes, and I have walked in Your truth.

4 I do not sit with deceitful men, nor will I go with pretenders.

5 I hate the assembly of evildoers, and I will not sit with the wicked.

6 I shall wash my hands in innocence, and I will go about Your altar, O LORD,

7 That I may proclaim with the voice of thanksgiving and declare all Your wonders.

8 O LORD, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.

9 Do not take my soul away *along* with sinners, nor my life with men of bloodshed,

10 In whose hands is a wicked scheme, and whose right hand is full of bribes. 11 But as for me, I shall walk in my integrity; redeem me, and be gracious to me.

12 My foot stands on a level place; in the congregations I shall bless the LORD. **Psalm 26, NASB**

- David makes some incredible statements; he describes some very undesirable characters that surround him and in the midst of all the 'swirl' he says that he still stands in a level place.
- If David found 'level ground' among all the evil characters and their lies and threats, then we too can claim that same level place, that same sound thinking and balanced heart...and we can help others find it, too.

1 VINDICATE ME, O Lord, for I have walked in my integrity; I have [expectantly] trusted in, leaned on, *and* relied on the Lord without wavering *and* I shall not slide.

2 Examine me, O Lord, and prove me; test my heart and my mind.

3 For Your loving-kindness is before my eyes, and I have walked in Your truth [faithfully]. **Psalm 26:1-3**

AMPC

- David asks to be tested, evaluated, and vindicated based on his integrity. He is not claiming to be sinless but what he does claim is that he has an un-wavering heart. He is 'all in' for God even if he is not always completely 'right'.

After He had removed him, He raised up David to be their king, concerning whom He also testified and said, 'I HAVE FOUND DAVID the son of Jesse, A MAN AFTER MY HEART, who will do all My will.' **Acts 13:22 NASB**

11 Teach me Your way, O LORD; I will walk in Your truth; Unite my heart to fear Your name.

12 I will give thanks to You, O Lord my God, with all my heart, and will glorify Your name forever. **Psalms 86:11-12 NASB**

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because David did what was right in the sight of the LORD, and had not turned aside from anything that He commanded him all the days of his life, except in the case of Uriah the Hittite. **1 Kings 15:5 NASB**

- David asks to be tested and refined, not because his heart and mind are totally pure, but because they are precious...because they belong to God. (He is sold out)
- David knew the grace and mercy of God...God gives grace to the humble. (Grace and mercy are amazing 'leveling agents')
- David is surrounded by deceitful people, worthless men, pretenders, men of falsehood and bloodshed, men wicked schemes that used bribery and all sorts of sinful scenarios...a very crooked culture. He is in a 'slimy' place where there are a lot of 'slick' people and lots of slippery slopes...He is endangered and at risk. (Sound familiar?)
- All this is true and yet David says that his feet are on 'level ground'...a place that is solid and sure...and 'even place'.
- How can he be so rooted and grounded in such a vile and 'toxic' environment?

6I shall wash my hands in innocence, and I will go about Your altar, O LORD,

7That I may proclaim with the voice of thanksgiving and declare all Your wonders.

8O LORD, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells. **Psalm 26:6-8 NASB**

- He gets into the cleansing presence of the Lord.
- He comes into God's manifest presence where others pour out their hearts to God. He is tasting God's glorious presence
 - Corporately (the temple)
 - Personally (we, too, are the temple)
 - God's presence has the power to bring equilibrium and balance to our lives and give us the ability to stand on a 'level place'...not overwhelmed or undermined by the epidemic of darkness around us.

Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God; let Your good Spirit lead me on level ground. **Psalm 143:10 NASB**

11 Teach me Your way, O Lord, and lead me in a plain *and* even path because of my enemies [those who lie in wait for me].

12 Give me not up to the will of my adversaries, for false witnesses have risen up against me; they breathe out cruelty *and* violence.

13 [What, what would have become of me] had I not believed that I would see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living!

14 Wait *and* hope for *and* expect the Lord; be brave *and* of good courage and let your heart be stout *and* enduring. Yes, wait for *and* hope for *and* expect the Lord. **Psalm 27:11-15 AMPC**

- ❖ You can see God's promised fulfillment in the 'Land of the Living' from level ground?!

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Save Your people and bless Your heritage; nourish *and* shepherd them and carry them forever. **Psalm 28:9**
NASB

- ❖ God's carrying power has the greatest leveling capacity ever! His powerful 'carrying' presence brings us to a large place where we can all land safe and sound and where we can live and grow into that fullness of heart and mind that is our destiny.