

The Journey of Faith Ps 16 *"Thou wilt show me the path of life"* *Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, March 17th*

We recently discussed how that finding God's promised "path of life" (Ps 16:11) requires:

- **Repentance** (Mt 4:17) *"Repent: (metanoe'ō: meta {differently} noe'o: {think}) for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."*

Lk 13:3 *"I tell you... except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."* (apol'lymi: destroy, lose) (Mt 7:13; Rev. 9:11)

- **Faith** (Heb 11:6) *"Without faith (pistis: conviction, reliance: from peitho: convince, trust, rely) it is impossible to please Him. For he that cometh to God must believe that he is! And that he's the rewarder of them that diligently seek him."*

In expecting our Repentance and Faith God is in essence asking us to Elevate (trust) His Holy Revelation above our Human Reasoning. (See Pr. 3:5,6)

One of the things that makes such a "transfer of trust" (from us to God) particularly difficult is overcoming our past pain, confusion and disappointment. Most can relate to losing some "dream" and feeling disappointed/disoriented at some point. This cycle of failure and frustration leaves us distrustful of ourselves, others, and even our God! In such seasons the thief of Jn 10:10 comes to convince us to give up on God and faith and make/trust our own way. (Gen. 3:1; James 3:15)

Many of the Psalms reflect the cry of a soul in such a season. (13; 16; 18; 22; 25; 51; 56; 143)

God seems to operate in fairly consistent ways when it comes to redirecting people who have lost their way and their dream. (See Ps. 32:1-8) God comes to us in our failures, fears, and frustrations and invites us to embrace His dreams for us; even in the midst of our confusion! Jer. 29:11

Let's look at Ps. 16 for an example of how God grows & guides us toward His Dreams!

- It's a Specific Psalm (Song) of David, *reflecting real life circumstances!*
- It's a Symbolic (Prophetic) Psalm, *reflecting Jesus' suffering and Triumph!* Vs 10 quoted in NT.

Notice God's

1. Recognize our (need for) Refuge. Vs 1 *"Preserve (Shamar: guard, protect, hedge) me"*

A. Whatever the specific circumstances David was experiencing:

- 1) He was aware he was under attack!
- 2) He knew where his hope/help came from! *"O God (אלהים {ēl}: God 213x; god 16x; mighty 5x) (from'ayil: "strength") for in thee do I put my trust."* (hāsâ': confidence)

B. Righteousness/obedience brings God's:

- 1) Peace (1351x in Bible) Ps. 29:11
- 2) Partnership (Shalom and Eriene: to join) 1Co 3:9
- 3) Protection (Hedge) Ps. 34:7; Job 1:8-10
 - a) Satan can't breach this without God's specific permission/purpose. (Job 1:11-12) (Gen. 50:20; 1 Cor 10:11; Rom 8:28; James 1:3-5)

C. Disobedience / Rebellion infects & destroys Peace, Partnership, and Protection.

- 1) This gives Satan ground, influence, & opportunity! (1 Sam. 15:23; Romans 6: 16; Eph. 4:25,26)
- 2) When we "surrender" to Satan, (Sin) God removes His hedge, allowing the consequences of our sin to affect us, as well as others, in an attempt to bring us to repentance. Isaiah 5:1-7 5 *"I will take away the hedge"* See Pr. 6:23; 1 Cor. 5:5; Heb. 12:4-15

2. Recognize our Resources

A. YHWH; the Holy, Self existing one. Vs 2 *"O my soul, thou has said unto the LORD,..."* (יהוה yhwh) The sacred tetragrammaton.

- 1) Translated: LORD (6510x) GOD (4X); Jehovah (4x)! (See Ex. 3:14)

B. Adonay: The Sovereign Lord of all. Vs 2 “*I will say to the LORD, thou art my Lord...*” (אֲדֹנָי {adōnāy})

1) Translated: Lord 431x; lord 2x; God 1x. From ’adôn: lord 197x; master 105x; Lord 31x

3. Recognize our “Resister” Ps 16:4

A. Satan is the adversary (1 Pt 5:8) who subtly seeks to get us to transfer our trust away for our LORD (and our Lord) *with terrible consequences!*

Ps 16:4 “*Their sorrows* (aššeb’et: wounds; idols!) *shall be multiplied that hasten after another* (aḥēr’: strange) *god.*”* (Comes from ’aḥar’: to loiter, procrastinate)

1) 1 Chr 21:1 “*Satan* (šāṭān: adversary) *stood up ...and provoked* (sût: pricked, seduced) *David to number Israel.*” Note: God had give specific instructions about taking a census. Ex 30:12

a) This act of prideful disobedience cost the death of 70,000 Israelites. Vs 14

b) It was ended only after repentance and sacrifice. Vs 15-30

Conclusion:

Satan still seeks to get us to transfer our trust away for our LORD (and our Lord)

Vs 4 “*Their sorrows shall be multiplied that hasten after another god.*”* (Italicized in KJV)

The Old Testament is the record of Israel “hastening after another god”. (See 1 Cor 10:11.12)

And History is a record of everyone else doing the same!

Example: US Congressional concurrent resolution #60 1954 “*That the Architect of the Capitol is hereby authorized and directed to make available a room, with facilities for prayer and meditation, for the use of Members of the Senate and House of Representatives.*”



Top and Bottom: Great Seal of America

“*This Nation Under God*”
from Gettysburg address

Central figure is George Washington
Praying in Valley Forge Dec. 1777.

<https://www.mountvernon.org/library/digitalhistory/digital-encyclopedia/article/valley-forge/>

Ps 16:1 “*Preserve me O God, for in thee do I put my trust!*”

Two lower panels show bibles with candles (Ps 119:105)
On the table is a bible turned to Ps. 23

Application:

Ps 16:1 “*Preserve me O God, for in thee do I put my trust.*

2 ... thou hast said unto the LORD, Thou art my Lord:

4 *Their sorrows shall be multiplied that hasten after another god.*”

Who (which god) is America “hastening after”?

Who (which god) are you hastening after?