

COVENANT COURAGE

“The secret of the LORD is for those who fear Him, and He will make them know His covenant.” (Psalm 25:14, NASB)

Now we shall look at four major themes David lifted up to the LORD in Psalm 25 giving us some insight into his confidence in God and the covenant. I believe there is a four-fold covenant blessing in Psalm 25 we can receive for ourselves. I see David asking God and/or trusting God to, “Defend me, Direct me, Deliver me and Develop me.” We will look at his plea for God to defend him in this chapter and the next three requests or themes in the three subsequent lessons.

Our confidence in the covenant grows as we learn about and increase in covenant courage, covenant counsel, covenant comfort (based on covenant cleansing) and covenant contentment. The flip-side is also generally true. For instance, covenant confidence brings covenant courage. As we walk in the truths of God’s covenant and see them proved to be true in our daily experience we grow in confidence and courage.

Life can be a struggle. Many times we need courage to fight the battle we are in. This life is seldom a soft and easy path. We are challenged often. It takes courage to face these challenges and not shrink back into our old ways of coping. It takes covenant courage to believe that, “Thou I walk through the valley of death, I will not fear any evil because I am confident

that You, O LORD, are with me” (Psalm 23:4, my paraphrase).

Recognizing that He is with us in this way is a precious secret of the covenant. We can call upon Him at anytime. Knowing this inside information causes covenant courage to rise up within us guarding our hearts and minds. When we begin walking in the covenant courage of the Lord we realize that “**nothing can separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**” (Romans 8:35) This is an aspect of the covenant confidence revealed in Psalm 25 and goes along with an understanding of the overarching theme that, “**The secret of the Lord is for those who fear Him.**” As a humble God-fearer you realize that God is on your side because you are on God’s side. You are on God’s side because Jesus spilled the blood of the covenant on your behalf and represents you in heaven. You are in an everlasting covenant with the all-powerful God. Therefore, you have nothing to fear.

DEFEND ME

“¹To you, Yahweh, do I lift up my soul. ²My God, I have trusted in you. Don’t let me be shamed. Don’t let my enemies triumph over me. ³Yes, no one who waits for you shall be shamed. They shall be shamed who deal treacherously without cause... ¹⁴The friendship of Yahweh is with those who fear him. He will show them his covenant. ¹⁵My eyes are ever on Yahweh, for he will pluck my feet out of the net. ¹⁶Turn to me, and have mercy on

me, for I am desolate and afflicted. ¹⁷The troubles of my heart are enlarged. Oh bring me out of my distresses. ¹⁸Consider my affliction and my travail. Forgive all my sins. ¹⁹Consider my enemies, for they are many. They hate me with cruel hatred. ²⁰Oh keep my soul, and deliver me. Let me not be disappointed, for I take refuge in you. ²¹Let integrity and uprightness preserve me, for I wait for you. ²²Redeem Israel, God, out all of his troubles.” Psalm 25:1-3, 14-22)

The secret of covenant courage is seen in verses 1-3 and 14-22 of this Psalm. Remember, we noted that the Psalm sort of bounces around somewhat with its ideas. Here he begins and ends with the same kind of concept, “covenant courage.” He is asking for and acknowledging God’s defense and protection. This is something that is promised in the covenant. For instance, when two tribes cut-the-covenant together the weaker tribe would then have the protection of the stronger tribe should they ever need it. God promises the same thing to His people in the covenant. David knew that the old covenant promised him God’s protection and defense. That is why he was confident when facing the giant. He knew he was connected with God through the covenant and therefore God would defend him in battle.

We will look at many of these verses in Psalm 25 in more detail later in a subsequent lesson. At this point, I want to introduce you to the major petitions or themes of David in this

Psalm and make a brief application to our present experience in the new covenant.

NEW COVENANT PROMISES FOR YOU

Let’s look now at a passage from Second Peter, chapter one regarding the blessings of God for us in the new covenant.

“³Seeing that his divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and virtue; ⁴ by which he has granted to us his precious and exceedingly great promises; that through these you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world by lust.” (2 Peter 1:3-4)

Because of Jesus and the new covenant in His blood, we are partakers of His divine nature and able to receive all of the blessings of God. We should all make the choice that we will not settle for less than God’s best in our life. He has granted us everything we need. We can receive the precious and magnificent promises He has made to us. I am writing here in the hope of helping you see this more clearly, to believe it, and to receive everything God has promised to you in Christ.

I encourage you now to begin to look at the promises of God as promises made to you. Maybe you have never looked at it

this way before. Maybe, you have already. If so, then allow me to remind you that you are in a covenant relationship with God through Jesus Christ. In the new covenant you are assured of God's protection. Believe His promises are for you. Say about yourself what the covenant says about you.

“^{5b}For he has said, “I will in no way leave you, neither will I in any way forsake you.” “So that with good courage we say, “The Lord is my helper. I will not fear. What can man do to me?” (Hebrews 13:5b-6)

We are in a continuous spiritual battle in this life (2 Corinthians 10:4, Ephesians 6:11-12). The believer is safe because he is in right relationship with God through the new covenant. We can say, **“with good courage”** that, **“The Lord is my helper.” “I will not fear.”** We know He is with us and nothing can come our way that He isn't there to walk with us through. We have great security in the covenant. Notice below how Paul explains to Christians the security they have in Christ in this world.

“³¹What then shall we say about these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³²He who didn't spare his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how would he not also with him freely give us all things? ³³Who could bring a charge against God's chosen ones? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, yes rather, who was raised from the dead, who is at the right hand of God, who

also makes intercession for us. ³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Could oppression, or anguish, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶Even as it is written, “For your sake we are killed all day long. We were accounted as sheep for the slaughter.” ³⁷No, in all these things, we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:31-39)

This is a covenantal promise in the new covenant for the believer. God went as far as giving up His own Son because we needed it. Therefore, we must not be limited in our thinking of just how far He will go for us. These words of covenant give us courage to face any situation. We know that God is with us and loves us. God is our friend by the covenant. He encourages us. He gives us the words we need during difficult times. **“The friendship of Yahweh is with those who fear him. He will show them his covenant.” (Vs. 14)**

Jesus is the friend that sticks closer than a brother (Proverbs 18:24). Jonathan and David had this kind of relationship because they had made a covenant between them. Therefore, Jonathan protected David against Saul. David and Jonathan had a secret. The story is told about Jonathan shooting arrows for David's deliverance in First Samuel, chapter 20. Jonathan protected David. They were covenant friends.

Later, David honored Jonathan's crippled son, Mephibosheth, bringing him from the town of Lo Debar and sitting him at his own table. This was because of the covenant between he and Jonathan. David protected Mephibosheth the rest of his life. Mephibosheth no longer needed to fear. He experienced the benefits of a covenant relationship between his father and David. He was included in the covenant, even though he wasn't there at the time it was made. David let others in the palace know that Mephibosheth was included in the covenant between he and Jonathan. All Mephibosheth could do was receive the kindness and blessings offered to him with thanks.

Jesus has protected us from so much. We have a friend who, **“never leaves us or forsakes us.”** He is our best friend. We can take courage in knowing He is with us. He died to save us. We were included in everything He accomplished when He poured out His blood dying for us, even though we were not physically there when it happened. We receive the benefits of His death on our behalf. He protects us from all harm and from an eternity in hell. He died for us and lives for us. We can take courage in this life. We should tell others of His grace in our lives. It will give them courage to face their troubles.

GOD'S WITNESS PROTECTION PLAN

“¹⁷The seventy returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!” ¹⁸He said to them, “I saw Satan having fallen like lightning from heaven. ¹⁹Behold, I give you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and

over all the power of the enemy. Nothing will in any way hurt you. ²⁰Nevertheless, don’t rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.” (Luke 10:17-20)

Jesus is the kind of friend you just have to tell others about. However, sometimes this results in certain difficulties and challenges. You can handle it though. He doesn't call us to do anything He doesn't equip us to accomplish.

You see, we are a part of God's witness protection plan. He saves us and keeps us and we witness to others of His love, mercy and kindness in our lives. We sit us at His table. We receive of His grace. We proclaim His death. We have nothing to fear. May we all learn to walk in covenant courage keeping our focus on the right things.

I remember different times when folks were gunning for me because of my faith. God never failed me. I recall one boss, a Major in the Army, beating his fists on the table and screaming, “I am going to send you back to the farm.” Behind this was a disdain for my faith in Jesus as I was not his denomination. I certainly felt the pressure. It was not easy, but we trusted God. In around six-months of a three-year assignment, he was gone. God delivered us and everyone close to the situation knew it. Take courage, my friend. He will not fail you.