

"He who does these things will never be shaken."

Psalm 15:5b

Is It Safe?

Integrity – Psalm 15 – Security in Integrity

Thunderstorms can be scary.

As children, some of us feared thunderstorms and the booming noise that followed the lightning. We would hide under the covers right when the lightning hit. Once the thunder rolled through we would poke our heads out wondering if it was safe.

One of the primary needs in the heart of mankind is the need for personal security. Security is defined as the idea of being free from fear of apprehension; to be secure is that state of not being alarmed or disturbed. It has the idea of safety, of being certain, of being assured. Do you need that? I do.

It is so easy to start looking for security in all the wrong places. For instance, we look for:

- Relational security (relationships you have) - But friends move, girlfriends and boyfriends break up, spouses may be unfaithful, neighbors move.
- Accomplishments (what you've done) - Someone will always come along who is better, stronger, bigger, smarter.
- Financial security (how much money you make) - Oil prices change, natural disaster strike, the stock market fluctuates, you could go bankrupt.
- Physical security (the way you look) - Oil of Olay will not work forever, your hair will eventually turn gray (or you may lose it), your good figure will not last forever, and in Ecclesiastes 12 it says, "a day will come when grinders will cease", in other words your teeth will fall out!
- Job security (your occupation) – Businesses relocate, or a corporate merger could terminate your job.

All of these external things will sometimes fail. You are healthy today, but a car accident could change all that.

Have you placed your security at one time in one of these things? How did it let you down?

The only real, authentic, genuine place of security for you and me is inside the will of God. David gives a wonderful promise of security at the end of Psalm 15. He tells us in the last phrase "he who does these things will never be shaken." He will never be insecure.

Now let's look first at the one who obtains the promise. Note the wording "he who does these things". It doesn't say "one who thinks about these things," or "he who believes these things", no, it says "he who does these things." Now, the question is, what things?

There are two elements about this person I want you to take notice of: the characteristics of a true worshipper and the commitment of this person's life. This individual demonstrates internal integrity in one's heart, interpersonal integrity, and financial integrity. The person's commitment can be seen in David's focus on those who abide in God's tent, on God's holy hill, the one who knows God. David is describing the one who experiences His intimacy in a relationship that is real and vibrant. Salvation, that personal intimate relationship with Jesus Christ, is a must. And that relationship with Jesus Christ, that commitment, is the source of all the fore mentioned characteristics.

It's important to realize that both the commitment and the characteristics are necessary to receive the promise of security. Commitment without the characteristics will reveal you to be a disobedient believer who has the presence of God but is not obeying, and you will feel very insecure because you will know you are living in disobedience. Or, you may just be a false professor, talking about salvation without dwelling in God's Holy tent. Without a personal relationship with Christ you will not be secure.

Now the flip side is also true. Just having the characteristics, trying to guard your tongue and not slander, are not going to make you secure either, because in essence you are the one who is trying to get to heaven by your own self-righteousness and works. It is a fruitless effort, wind without rain, labor without profit. It is a form of godliness without the power thereof.

Do you fall into one of the categories of righteousness without initial commitment or commitment without the characteristics?

If so, what do you need to do about this?

Now let's look at the outcome, or ramifications, of this promise. In the second part of this phrase what does it say? "He shall never be moved."

The word never means, well, never.

Now, that is a pretty bold promise God makes. However, it can be confusing. It does not mean that as a believer of Jesus Christ you will never have any pains or problems. It does not say you will never have any struggles or storms.

Some have been giving us the impression over the years that as a Christian you will never struggle, that you will always be healthy and wealthy, that you will have a life without hassles, and that it is always God's will to heal, but that's not true. Christians do lose their jobs. Christians do get cancer. Christians do get in accidents. Christians do experience rejection. That is reality, but lest we feel discouraged, let me tell you what God is promising because this is the good news of what it means to never be shaken.

Psalm 34:19 says, "Many are the afflictions of the righteous but the Lord delivers him out of them all." In the midst of the pain and storms God grants

*"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."
John 16:33*

*“Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock.”
Matthew 7:24-25*

deliverance and gives security and strength and peace. In John 16:33 Jesus said we will have tribulation but, before He said that, He said, “These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.”

In 2 Corinthians 4, Paul gives commentary on the afflictions of the righteous. He reminds us that the Lord delivers the righteous in the midst of them all. He says in vs. 8, “we are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed.” It doesn't get to us. We are never out of kilter. We are never shaken. We never fall apart.

Paul says we are not depending on security from the outside, those things that are temporary. Those who do not know God, who are not walking in the light of His presence, are always seeking security. But they can't find it. They are always trying to create security from without by their own performances, their own financial achievements, their own relationships. They are always scurrying about trying to be secure.

The one in Psalm 15 that this promise speaks of is the one who is secure within. Because he knows and walks with his God, no matter what happens in the external sectors of his life, there is always security from the inside out. That is the promise that God gives to those who know him.

Jesus' words in Matthew 7:24-27 give us a picture of this security when he compares those who listen to his words to one who builds his house on the foundation of a rock, which is a symbol of security and stability. Does he imply that there will never be storms? No! In the illustration the rain did, indeed, descend, and yet the securely built house did not fall.

What is the foundation of your life? Are you building it on the sand of external security (finances, relationships, popularity)? Or are you building on the Rock?

Do you have that commitment, that intimacy, that relationship with God, and those characteristics, that obedience, those works that are produced by faith through Christ?

God is extending that promise to you today. It is a road of integrity.

On that road, you can be secure.

What do you need to do in response to this lesson?
