

It's Your Move...

Taken from Psalm 101

Foundation

Don't read any further until you've stopped to pray and commit this time to the Lord. Praying isn't merely a nice idea or a good habit—it's a necessity! The only way we advance against our enemy is by advancing on our knees—in prayer. Give today into God's hands and let Him help you fight your struggles.

FOCUS

Do you ever find yourself slipping into old habits and doing what you know you shouldn't?

David knew the path that lay before him. He had seen other rulers travel it—some with success and others with disaster. He knew the road ahead could be treacherous, for it was full of choices, temptations, and raw power. And if he wasn't careful, David could end up making the same foolish mistakes Israel's first king—King Saul—had made. That thought made David shudder. As the new king of Israel, David wanted to be all God wanted him to be, so he could lead the nation of Israel in the ways of the Lord. David knew that in order to do this he had to make a commitment to live a life of integrity.

***It has been said
that failing to plan is the
same as planning to fail.***

Plan ahead!

P – Pray for your day before your feet hit the floor in the morning.

L – Learn to rely on God’s wisdom—not your own. (Read your Bible and memorize key verses that speak to your heart and help you.)

A – Admit your weaknesses and realize where you are most prone to fall.

N – Never kid yourself into thinking you can live the Christian life in your own strength.

“O Lord, I want to sing about Your love and fair judgment,” David proclaimed. “I want to take care to live a life without fault and have a heart that is pure. Because of this desire and commitment, I won’t let my eyes look upon anything vile or offensive that could pollute my mind. Actions that are crooked or evil I will despise, and I’ll refuse to participate in or condone them,” David vowed. He knew the standards he set now would help to keep him on track in the future when he would face tempting choices or difficult situations. King David didn’t want to fall into any traps or cause dishonor to God’s name. As a result, he would turn from all appearances of evil and seek to live his life according to a higher standard. David knew the danger that was out there.

“Wicked men will not be welcome in my life. Neither will I tolerate those who slander their neighbors or live a life of conceit and pride,” he stated. “I’ll have absolutely nothing to do with their evil ways. Only those who are blameless will be allowed to serve around my throne. Deceivers and liars will not be allowed to serve me, nor even come into my presence.”

Footwork

At first look, David’s words seem pretty harsh and judgmental toward others—but a closer look reveals great wisdom! In your Bible, turn all the way back to Psalm 1 and read it. (Go ahead; it’s only six verses long!) The key to understanding why David made the commitment he did is found in this psalm.

Now go back and reread the first verse of Psalm 1. Who is blessed? Next, take a close look at the words: “walk,” “stand,” and “sit.” Do you notice anything interesting about these words?—Do you see the downward spiral of bad influences (walking, then standing, then sitting among the wicked)? These steps come almost unnoticed! It begins in simple ways such as: listening to the wicked, then identifying with them, then becoming like them yourself—without even knowing it!

According to verse 2, what is a way to avoid falling into this trap? Verse 3 describes the results.



It's so easy for us to fool ourselves into thinking we have everything under control. We make friends without even considering their influence upon us. We compromise, cheat, or lie without thinking of the consequences upon our lives. Soon, we don't realize the company we are keeping. We get caught up in patterns of bad behavior and old habits that are hard to break. Without a plan, we tend to fall right back into what comes easily or naturally for us (see Psalm 1:1). David realized the danger of this and set up “roadblocks” to keep himself from traveling down the wrong path. David had a plan, and he relied on God to help him. Do you? What will your plan be? It's now your move....