

“Trusting God” Psalm 131

Intro and Context: Song of Ascents 12

(Coffman Commentaries)

This is the twelfth of the Songs of Ascent, and it is ascribed to David in the superscription. "This is in full accordance with both the language and the contents of the psalm."**[1]** We agree with Kidner who wrote that, "This psalm awakens memories of David's early modesty, simplicity and lack of rancour, the same being among the qualities that made him great."**[2]** It is regrettable that his middle and later years did not fully conform to the beautiful spirit manifested here.

In view of this, the occasion for the psalm must have come at quite an early period in the life of David.

(Enduring Word Commentaries)

*This psalm is titled **A Song of Ascents. Of David**. Commentators suggest two possible occasions for its composition. The first may be when Saul hunted David, and David was repeatedly accused of ambition for the throne of Israel. The second may be David's in response to his wife, Michal, when she accused him of being vulgar and undignified after he danced in the procession of bringing the ark of the covenant into Jerusalem (2 Samuel 6:16-23).*

Whatever the occasion was, this short psalm is a beautiful denial of pride, arrogance, and selfish ambition.

"It is one of the shortest Psalms to read, but one of the longest to learn. It speaks of a young child, but it contains the experience of a man in Christ." (Charles Spurgeon)

Grey's Commentary:

Surely this refers to the oldest problem of man. Pride comes before destruction. We are given the writer, and the comments of the writer. David, whenever he wrote this gave us some great advice. Stay humble and gentle. I must admit this has always been difficult for me. I suffer fools very little. Arrogant men rile me up.

David has spent much time running for his life from Saul. David treated the king with respect because he was God's anointed. Maybe this time of his life was when God taught him these lessons. The Lord prepared David for many years before He took the throne, as he does to all men and women that He plans to use in a mighty way. God forgive me for forgetting these lessons at times. The lessons of mercy, submission, and humility are hard to learn and hard to keep. The human heart wants to be prideful and it has a mind of its own. God saves us and immediately begins to rope it in.

In verse 1 David says he is not proud. If I were David, there would have been a time that I would have had a lot to say about my ability. Do you remember the story when David went to the battle front when Goliath was showing out? Do you remember how David was treated? Let me remind you.

Do you remember that God asked Samuel how long will you mourn over Saul being king? He had been rejected. Then God sends him on a mission.

1 Sam 16:2-3

The Lord said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' 3 Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what to do. You are to anoint for me the one I indicate."

1 Sam 16:5-13

5 Samuel replied, "Yes, in peace; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. Consecrate yourselves and come to the sacrifice with me." Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

6 When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed stands here before the Lord."

7 But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

8 Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, "The Lord has not chosen this one either." 9 Jesse then had Shammah pass by, but Samuel said, "Nor has the Lord chosen this one." 10 Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, "The Lord has not chosen these." 11 So he asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?"

"There is still the youngest," Jesse answered, "but he is tending the sheep."

Samuel said, "Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives."

12 So he sent and had him brought in. **He was ruddy, with a fine appearance and handsome features.**

Then the Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; he is the one."

13 So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came upon David in power. Samuel then went to Ramah.

NIV

In 1 Samuel 17, a real champion showed up: His name was David. The Hebrew word for Champion is "a man between the spears." A man between the armies.

Look how David's brothers talked to him in verse 28ff

1 Sam 17:28-31

28 When Eliab, David's oldest brother, heard him speaking with the men, he burned with anger at him and asked, "Why have you come down here? *And with whom did you leave those few sheep in the desert? I know how conceited you are and how wicked your heart is; you came down only to watch the battle.*"

29 "Now what have I done?" said David. "Can't I even speak?" 30 He then turned away to someone else and brought up the same matter, and the men answered him as before. 31 What David said was overheard and reported to Saul, and Saul sent for him.

NIV

What happened was death of a giant. David was not prideful or arrogant. He only had spent time with God and now God was teaching him to not brag about what God was doing behind the scenes. David was actually on a mission from God.

David writes in this psalm that his heart was not prideful and his eyes not haughty. But he was anointed already to be God's king. 1 Sam. 16

David did not concern himself with great matters. At this time in his life he was quite humble and was not seeking positions. He was only seeking to honor God. The greatest leaders are humble but certain about the ability of God. God will test a man, and train a man, before He places a man. Pride was the difference between David and Saul.

This does not mean that a man of God is not supposed to deal with great matters of better himself with knowledge. Jesus speaks of this in the gospels. Do not put yourself at the best place at the table or a guest may come in that is more important than you and you may be asked to move. Be humble and let God raise you up in His timing.

You may be doing great work for the King where you are, don't take a step down just to have a title.

Prov 16:18

18 Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.
KJV

1 Peter 5:5-7

All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because,
"God opposes the proud
but gives grace to the humble."
6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.
NIV

A person is often in a place of influence because God has taught him or her how to lead through humility. They have to earn the right to be in that position. They earn it through trials and difficult situations. We learn fairness and equity through humility.

The key to verse two is the past tense verb weaned. A weaned child was not always quiet. The mother has had to fight and scrap and scrape to get the child weaned. There have been tense and painful moments to get that child on solid food. If you have seen a cow getting weaned or a kitten weaned you will understand this saying. Once the child realizes that solid food is best he becomes quieted. This will take time.

The soul must be weaned just like the body. Spiritually speaking, this is a tremendous spiritual lesson. This is the next level of Christian maturity. Once we get the flesh under control, then we learn to quiet the spirit. May I say I am not there yet, but I have tasted of the blessings that are there. This is a goal of mine. As a matter of fact, it is ***the*** goal right now.

David had learned to trust God in quietness of soul and body. The heart of the king was settled and ready to trust. David never fought for the position of king. God raised him up and put him there. And may I say it took a long time. David went through a lot before, during , and after he was made king.

If I can died with a quiet heart that is humble and trusting, I will be satisfied. The hardest thing a person of God has to do is do the business of his master in leading people to maturity and stay humble. To exercise authority and discipline, and learn to lead, can be very difficult. Authority and position does strange things to people.

Remember that if God lifts you up to serve in a unique place, He has trusted you with the task... so trust Him with His will. The scripture says that if it is in your power to do good, then do it. If God gives you influence, it is not for your own purposes, but His.

Prov 3:27

27 Do not withhold good from those who deserve it,
when it is in your power to act.

NIV

Illustrations:

- Having the authority to fire people.
- Sending soldiers into battle.
- When do we send a drone or an air strike?
- Okaying medication releases to the public.
- Think of being a Supreme Court Justice.
- Think of having 100 employees and having to revamp the company... will it work or destroy 100 jobs?

Verse 3: This is great advice. We have to trust God.

Illustration: Cuban missile crisis. JFK had a tuff decision. Wouldn't it be nice if we knew that when he went to the church to pray that he really had God's ear? Was it a photo opt or was he really seeking God?

Look at the mess we are in now. David tells Israel to hope in God. Do it now, and don't stop doing it. A leader that has not learned humility will not seek the advice of others and will not speak with God. He will make worldly and manmade decisions.

Prov 3:5-6

5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;

6 in all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make your paths straight.

NIV

Closing: I remember the first person I had to fire. I have never gotten over it. Didn't enjoy it. Hated it, and pray I never get used to it. It took me a long time to understand that God put me in the

position to protect His business. The church is His business. I am the gate keeper. When you are in that position you must learn to be free from nepotism, anger, pride, prejudice, personal preference, and you must seek what is best for all involved. The name of the Lord our God is what is at stake. When we make tough decisions we must be swift, certain, fair, kind, but forceful and honest. They are called tough decisions because they are tough. Leaders, called of God, have to make these calls. The more humility you have, the better you will be. Humility breeds a quiet spirit which allows you to keep your head in all situations. Then you can be a Champion for Christ.