

PSALM 101  
A PSALM OF DAVID

<sup>1</sup>I will sing of lovingkindness and justice, to thee, O Lord, I will sing praises. <sup>2</sup>I will give heed to the blameless way. When wilt thou come to me? I will walk within my house in the integrity of my heart. <sup>3</sup>I will set no worthless thing before my eyes; I hate the work of those who fall away; it shall not fasten its grip on me. <sup>4</sup>A perverse heart shall depart from me; I will know no evil. <sup>5</sup>Whoever secretly slanders his neighbor, him I will destroy; no one who has a haughty look and an arrogant heart will I endure. <sup>6</sup>My eyes shall be upon the faithful of the land, that they may dwell with me; he who walks in a blameless way is the one who will minister to me. <sup>7</sup>He who practices deceit shall not dwell within my house; he who speaks falsehood shall not maintain his position before me. <sup>8</sup>Every morning I will silence all the wicked of the land, so as to cut off from the city of the Lord all those who do iniquity.

Most of the psalms face us with the qualities of God - His power, covenant love, availability, protection, forgiveness, and redemption, to mention only a few. It is vital for us to understand these qualities for two reasons. They are a comfort to us and they are a challenge to us. They face us with the qualities God exhibits and therefore expects to see growing in our life if we belong to Him. Some of the psalms speak directly to such issues in our lives, shaping us by precept rather than comparison. Such is Psalm 101.

David, the King of Israel, was inspired to write such a worthy resolve in an earnest desire to see a clean administration from the top down.

God has said that as believers we are to "reign in life" and in this sense there are applications to our personal, family, and church life from Psalm 101.

Pray that God will make you open to change, to add or subtract qualities brought out here.

Read Psalm 101 three times. (Multiple reading is *not* a magic wand but rather a capable tool in understanding what a text *really* says.) 1 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_

Memorize the verse with the concept you most want to remember. Write it out here.

Review your memory verses. Write out one that is particularly helpful to you.

Read Psalm 101 again.

1. Write down words or phrases that you see repeatedly mentioned.

2. To whom do all the "I" and "my" words refer historically?

3. What does David say he will do in verse 1?

"Lovingkindness" is the translation of the Hebrew word "hesed." It is a strong word, tied in with God's covenant love to us.

4. Why would David (or you) praise God for his

a. lovingkindness (covenant love)?

b. justice?

5. In what ways can you demonstrate (Give some examples.)

a. covenant love to others?

b. justice to others?

6. Why might the covenant love or justice you show another elicit praise to God?

7. What is David's vow in verse 2? Put it into your own words.

8. How do you know what the blameless way is? Can you support your answer from Scripture?

9. "When wilt Thou come to me" is a personal thought prayed by David. If you were composing this psalm with its great resolves, why would you pray such a phrase?
10. How does the concept of the first line of verse 2 differ from the concept of the last line? In choosing integrity of life which comes first?

Read verses 3-5. Think about these verses as a way to help carry out verse 2.

11. What steps will David take to help achieve his goal of walking in integrity?
12. What are some "worthless things" that you *won't* gaze on? How will that help you?
13. What is the "work of those who fall away" and how can you keep it from getting a grip on you? (Does he hate the people?)
14. A perverse and evil heart he doesn't want. Define perverse and then tell what kind of heart *would be* desirable.
15. Define:
- a. slander
  
  - b. haughty
  
  - c. arrogant/proud

16. How can each manifest itself?

Slander of another -

Haughty look -

Arrogant or proud heart -

Why is each so unacceptable to you as God's servant?

Read verses 6-8.

17. What does verse 6 teach?

18. Why is the practice spoken against in verse 7 so destructive and wrong?

19. What is David's vow in verse 8? (See Exodus 18:13-18.) Want an additional insight?  
Read II Samuel 15:1-6.

20. How can the concept in verse 8 help you to reign well over the kingdom you are responsible for (that is, your own life)?

21. Summarize the teaching of this psalm and relate it to:

a. Colossians 1:29

b. Luke 18:9-14 (Think especially about verse 13.)

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