

## We continue to look at **PSALM 25 – Discerning God’s path for life**

Last month we explored v1-7, letting God direct our paths then knowing God’s direction for our lives. Let’s continue :

**3** Not only do we see that we need to let God direct our paths in v1-7 but we also need to let God be trusted in all situations v8-14. Now why is this so important? Well again we come back to the characteristics of God as we see in v8 that first of all God is good and upright in all that He does. I think there are times when we as the Lord’s people may question God’s motives for doing certain things but we need to recognise that His character is always good and everything He does is always upright with no exemptions to that. Also we need to recognise that when we are looking to the Lord for His direction He does not want to make it difficult but rather He wants to make it as simple and clear as possible because all that He desires for us is good and upright.

**4** Then we need to realise that God desires humility as we see in v9 where He states the humble He guides in justice or in just ways, and the humble He teaches His way. It is interesting to see particularly in the world of sport these days the amazing level of arrogance that is expressed in how well someone has done. In the Christian life it is very important to come with an overwhelming sense of humility because we want to know that first of all we are seeking to do God’s will and not our will and that we want to be

Christians that really count for God as He directs us. Then we need to see also that humility is the soil in which God directs out paths. God is not interested in speaking into the life of a person who is arrogant or who is set by pride because this just illustrates the fact that self is their God and not Jehovah. In 1st Peter 5v5 it says *“God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.”* It continues in v6 *“Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God that He may exult you in due time casting all your care upon Him for He cares for you.”* Then we need to see that in humility we pray and honour God’s word as v10 states *“All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth to such as keep His covenant and His testimonies”* and then lastly we see that in humility we can know God’s forgiveness. This is such an important aspect of understanding the fear of the Lord and what it means to walk in obedience to the Lord that indeed we might experience God’s blessing.

The word secret there in v14 means intimate conversation plans and

### **PRAISE the Lord for:**

- Impact WA trip Boupou Brook. A team of 4 spent 9 days distributing over 1000 papers throughout the community – 1 commitment to Christ and 50 gospel conversations
- The regular responses coming from prisoners throughout South Africa. We visit 252 prisons
- The additional 8 new regular orders received from our South African office
- A new editor to take over from Carl starting immediately is HARRIET COOMBE.

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purposes. So as we come with genuine humility we can come into a level of intimacy with God as we converse with Him in prayer and as a result of that He reveals to us His plans and purposes for our lives. I can assure you there is nothing more exciting than that.

**5** Then let God give us the victory in v15-22. What is key to us in these last two verses in our focus. We need to keep our focus on God and not on the issues. I think it is important for us as we see in v15 where David says *“My eyes are ever toward the Lord.”* David was really talking about the fact that whatever the struggles whether they be loneliness or a brokenness of heart, whether it be regrets or struggles against an enemy He is saying to you and I that we need to keep our eyes continuously on the Lord.

But critical to all of this is keeping a right relationship with God. We see in v18 that we need to confess our sins and in essence keep a right relationship with God, then we can express our confidence in God’s deliverance as we see in v19-20. David was looking at the enemies which were many; indeed the word overwhelming comes to mind. How many of us have felt overwhelmed by a lack of finances to pay bills or have felt overwhelmed by a broken relationship or have felt deeply hurt by a friend or so on and yet David is saying to us that as we pray, as we keep our focus on the Lord, as we keep that right relationship with God we can have confidence in God’s deliverance.

**6** In closing we need to commit to walking with God in integrity and uprightness v21. As we know God’s will, we walk in His will, His purpose, His plans and as we do that

we are a great testimony for the living God. It is sad to say friends that much of the witness of the church today has been weaned away by a constant level of worldliness so much so that the world considers us all but irrelevant. So I think it is important that we recognise that walking in integrity and uprightness keeps us from walking in an attitude of despair or an attitude of hopelessness because if we fall into those ways of thinking we find that we lose hope and tragically surrender our future to the enemy.

So my encouragement to you friends is that we keep our focus on the Lord. That we look to seek His will and purpose for our lives through His word, and through prayer and genuine humility. My prayer is that you would know and experience what He wants for you.

{ CARL CARMODY  
EDITOR CHALLENGE }

**PRAYER needed for:**

- Upcoming trip to Malawi and Kenya for Carl (Nov 21 – Dec 6). Time spent working in prisons and churches to spread the vision and grow both editions
- Our South African interim director (ILSE BEUKES) as she continues to promote and develop the Challenge paper through various outlets
- Our upcoming Christmas edition of the paper worldwide in terms of content and orders
- Harriet Coombe as she commences the role of Editor, that God will give her wisdom and insight as she brings new ideas to the table

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