

## PSALM 25 – Trust in the LORD! (part 2 of 3)

**4. The LORD will Remember (25:6-7)** – When the word "remember" is used either by God or by God's servant, it is not a question of forgetfulness but of asking for action to be taken. In this psalm, David was pleading with the LORD (use of vocative to capture the idea of pleading) to help him in his state of adversity. His enemies abounded and He pleaded with his covenantal LORD to intervene. The basis as always is not a blind request for help simply because David was a child of the LORD and had an intimate relationship with Him. This would be wrong on David's part. David would not plead for intervention if he knew he was guilty of some sin and deserved to suffer the consequences. He pleaded with the LORD to help him based upon the LORD's tender mercies.

David knew that he does not deserve the LORD's help even though it might not be due to a particular sin in his life; but he knew that he was a sinner from birth and deserved punishment and death. He knew that his relationship with the LORD from the beginning to the end had always been based upon His mercies; he acknowledged the same here. God's mercies are defined as God withholding punishments that we deserve. David described the LORD's mercies as tender mercies here by using a word that refers to the mother's tender love for the foetus in her womb. David's helplessness is like the helplessness of the foetus inside her womb totally dependent upon her to protect and care for it. David considered the LORD as his protective mother! He cried to his LORD to keep him safe!

The next Hebrew word is translated as "loving kindnesses" but the original Hebrew word has no exact English equivalent. It has the idea of loving kindness but it also has the meaning of goodness and loyal mercy. David cried to the LORD appealing to His love for Him and to show goodness and kindness to him by delivering him. The tenderness of the love of the LORD enables David to wait patiently for the LORD's deliverance. David would not doubt the LORD's love and tenderness toward him. No matter how long he had to wait and how intense his persecution might be, he knew in his heart of hearts that the LORD would not desert him or hurt him. David would patiently endure all that he had to experience because his knowledge of the LORD's loving kindnesses is based upon his past experiences with the LORD. The LORD's timing was just as important to David as the act of deliverance. The LORD had delivered in times past and would surely deliver David again. David would not lose faith and be despondent. He would neither murmur nor complain as if the LORD had deserted him to fend for himself. He knew the LORD would not forget him.

The trials that believers experience moment by moment are allowed by the LORD to test and strengthen our faith. It could stretch for long periods and at times it can be very trying to remain steadfast and unmoveable. Believers will pass the test with flying colours as long as they do not succumb to sin (by word or by deed). The body might be destroyed but not the faith! The reality of the test is not flesh and blood but always spiritual, even in Old Testament times. The LORD's time-table must be applied in our lives. The LORD has His purposes in the lives of all His children that will always result

in their good and for His glory. Bear in mind that Satan and his minions who tempt God's children cannot touch or take away their salvation but they can take away the believer's testimony on earth. Impatience is the best ingredient for believers to stumble and fall into sin. We must know that the LORD always remembers His own like a mother caring for her foetus and will show loving kindnesses to His children. In times of trials, every child of God ought to recall the LORD's grace and mercies in the past.

**Verse 7** – David asked the LORD not to remember the sins of his youth and his transgressions. The basis for such a request is the theology of forgiveness. The LORD has forgiven and will not remember David's past sins and transgressions anymore. Sins refer to general wrong doings whereas transgressions refer to the breaking of God's Word. David was not asking God to turn a blind eye to his sins. He understood that once sins are washed by the blood of Christ, they will not be remembered by the LORD anymore. David was basically acknowledging how the LORD had been dealing with him for his own sake rather than for the LORD's sake. The LORD will never forget how He has been dealing with David. This is very much like us when we cry to the LORD in times of distress. We repeat doctrinal truths for our own souls' sake so that we might remain calm and not allow the dire situations to get the better of us. David did this here. He reminded himself that the LORD has forgiven him of all his sins and that what he was enduring under the hands of his enemies were not for present sins as well as past sins and transgressions.

The LORD had dealt with him in the past based upon His mercies and now David was again appealing to the LORD based upon the same theological basis of His mercies. There was nothing good in David that the LORD ought to help or save him. By such an admission David was saying he very much deserved all that he was receiving from his enemies, not for any particular sin that he had committed but because of the fact that he was a sinner born in sin who had committed many wilful sins in the past. David's appeal was based upon the LORD's goodness. The LORD's goodness is pure and kind and gentle and always just and fair. David asked his LORD to do what is right and fair and to not help David just because he was David!

This is something believers today must learn. The LORD is no respecter of persons. He will do what is right all the time even when He is dealing with His blood bought children. Never ask God for help simply based upon some sentimental relationship and because we are His children and when we do wrong, the LORD must still deliver us from the consequences of our wrong doings! This is true of human relationships: when the son of a very powerful ruler has done wrong, he cannot be touched by the law of the land. His father protects him regardless of his deeds. The LORD does not deal with us in this manner. David understood this very well. He asked the LORD to deal with him based upon His goodness which is always based upon truth and righteousness.

**5. The LORD will Teach (25:8-10)** – Because the LORD is good and upright He will teach sinners in the way. “Good” and “upright” are two blessed characteristics of the LORD that brings the greatest comfort to all sinners. Imagine an all powerful God

who is not good all the time - the damage He can do in the world is unimaginable. The devastation to humanity with a sometimes good sometimes bad God will surely bring chaos and calamities whereby hope will turn to hopelessness immediately. However, the goodness of the LORD means that He will always do what is good all the time. Man can trust Him at all times to do good even in the face of the greatest evil. The all powerful will turn the wrath of man to good for His glory! Believers who are also God's children will always have hope and the deepest assurance that all things will work out for good to those who love Him and are called according to His purpose.

The uprightness of the LORD means that He will always do what is right all the time. He will never do evil or allow evil to triumph. Not only will the LORD always be good and do good, He will always ensure righteousness triumphs over evil for all time. This world that God gave to man will end in righteousness and goodness. He will teach sinners in the way. David considered himself part of the sinners. "The way" here refers to the way of goodness and righteousness. The LORD who is good and upright will teach sinners like David and all believers the way of goodness and uprightness. The manner in which they are taught includes peace and tranquillity as well as travail and adversities. As long as sinners learn the way through it all, the LORD will ensure that good will come out of it for His glory and the betterment of the believer's life.

**Verse 9** – The ones who will learn are the sinners who are also meek, i.e. the humble. These teachable ones will be guided through the judgement of the LORD in their lives. They would understand and appreciate as they learn to submit to the LORD's will. The sinners who are rebellious and recalcitrant will not learn. All true believers in Christ are teachable. They will surely learn through the judgement of the LORD that He is good. He will not hurt them but will help them become more Christ-like even through the most painful adversities including losing one's life. Using synonymous parallelism, David emphasized the point that the meek will learn and be taught by the LORD in the way of goodness and righteousness. Their lives would be pleasing to the LORD when they submit to His holy and perfect will for them. This is what every believer desires in his life in his walk with the LORD. The LORD is ready to teach but His children must always be ready to learn in meekness.

**Verse 10** – All, and not some, of the paths that the LORD leads all His children to are mercy and truth. The ones who are rebellious will not find the way. They will not walk therein and, therefore, to them they will find the way of truth and uprightness of the LORD onerous and offensive. But, it is the way of mercy for the meek who walk therein; they would not become arrogant for they know that it is because of the mercies of the LORD that they are not consumed and are alive and allowed to enter into the very presence of the LORD. They will be very grateful to approach God and count it as the highest honour bestowed upon them by the gracious and merciful LORD. The way to the meek ones will also be one of truth. The way of liars are ways of deception and are the ways of the father of lies which is the Devil. That is why God says that liars will not inherit the kingdom of heaven but will be cast into the Lake of Fire. The way of truth is determined by the perfect Word of God and not something subjective or determined by man. It is God's truth that is referred to here. The meek

ones are also the obedient ones for they will keep, i.e. protect, God's covenant and His testimonies.

How can believers protect God's covenant and testimonies? They do so by obeying God's Word. They do so by ensuring they do not break God's covenant by their sins. They protect God's testimonies when they live righteous lives and bring glory to God. They do so when they live for Christ so that when others see them they will glorify God who art in heaven. Those who do not obey God's Word will break God's covenant and bring shame to His holy Name and their testimonies will stumble many. To these rebellious sinners, the paths of the LORD will not be merciful and truth and would be hated and rejected as wrong and useless. Their rejection of the paths of the LORD reflects their waywardness and sinful state. Those who obey the Word and see the paths of the LORD as merciful and truth are truly born again. Obedience to the Word of God in one's life is clear evidence of truth salvation. These paths include the trials of life.

**6. The LORD will Forgive (25:11-13)** – David cried to the LORD to forgive his iniquity, i.e. general sins, whatever it might be. He considers his iniquity as "great" before the LORD. The basis for asking is for the LORD's Namesake and not David's. David bore the Name of the LORD in his life. If David was forgiven and helped by the LORD, it was for the glory of God and David's. To this end, David pleaded for forgiveness from the LORD. This is how every believer ought to regard his plea from the LORD. It should be this sense of deep unworthiness that brings a child of God before the LORD is all his petitions. He is most unworthy to even ask the LORD - even more so to receive an answer from the Most High God!

The moment a professing believer thinks that he deserves to be in the presence of the LORD and that the LORD should count it an honour to have him serve, that professing believer has transgressed and is filled with pride and will soon fall. There is no place for pride and arrogance before the LORD in prayer. The believer must always approach the LORD with a deep sense of unworthiness like David who acknowledged his sinfulness even though he knew he had been saved and forgiven by the blood of Christ. This sense of unworthiness in prayer is not to be mistaken with "regarding iniquity in one's heart" and continuing in sin. There is a big difference between having a "sense" of sinfulness and being in sin.

**Verse 12** – Once the child of God knows that the LORD has pardoned him, he draws nearer to the LORD. He fears Him. What kind of believer will fear the LORD? He is the kind whom the LORD will teach and lead in the way of truth according to Scriptures. In other words, the one who lives his life in accordance with the Word of God has the fear of the LORD in him. The fear of the LORD is not some nebulous feeling and desire but it is evident in a visible and practical life of holy living. The Bible is his guide book and it governs his life, thoughts and motives. He dies to self and will walk where the LORD will choose for him. The unregenerate man's natural desire is a life of ease and comfort without pain. This no longer enters the believer's cognitive reasoning and motivation. He goes where the LORD sends him even if it means leaving all the

"comforts" and safety of life. He speaks and does all that the LORD asks him to. He becomes the mouth, hands and feet of the LORD. Such a life of total surrender and sacrifice is the mark of a true believer.

**Verse 13** – With the fear of the LORD in his heart, the believer's soul is at peace within him. The purpose of his very existence and salvation is clear to him. He knows why the LORD saved him and allowed him to remain on this earth. His life is full and rich. The LORD calls it an abundant life. This is the life that is not dependent upon external circumstances. The joy and peace within his soul are totally separate from the external circumstances. He could be languishing in prison and yet is the most joyous person on earth. The peace in his soul is God given.

He passes this spiritual legacy to his children so that they will also become believers and continue on the good work of the LORD that has begun in him. He knows by faith that he and his seed will one day inherit the earth. He has nothing to fear, for whatever separation he experiences on this earth for the sake of Christ is temporal. He and his loved ones will be together for eternity in the presence of God almighty. He fears no man but God. No threats or seduction will move him from the course that the LORD has set for him. He remains steadfast in his quest to glorify God. He will not be moved no matter how severe the trials and persecution he faces. This is what every obedient believer ought to experience every day of his wonderful life on this earth!

[to be continued]