

# THE PSALMS OF ASCENT

JOURNEYING WITH JESUS  
TO JERUSALEM

Part 6

## "Psalm 125 & Wisdom from the Sermon on the Mount"

16 February 2025

### **Introduction: Truth & Stability**

Because God is the Creator of everyone and everything, humanity flourishes when we conform ourselves to His design. While it is possible for mankind to reject Him and His purposes for us, there are serious consequences to doing so. Living in light of God's truth is His intent for us in order that we might flourish as His image-bearers in the world that He has made.

**Key Point:** \_\_\_\_\_ in the Lord is ultimately an expression of our hearts and is the basis for our \_\_\_\_\_ through all of the changing seasons of life.

### Psalm 125

The Israelite and his companions call upon the Lord to continue to protect and bless His people and to bring about His promised peace upon them forever.

- **The psalmist declares the assurance the faithful have in the Lord's protection and security. (v. 1-3)**

Psa. 125:1-3—<sup>1</sup> Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever. <sup>2</sup> As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds his people, from this time forth and forevermore. <sup>3</sup> For the scepter of wickedness shall not rest on the land allotted to the righteous, lest the righteous stretch out their hands to do wrong.

⇒ Imagery of the \_\_\_\_\_ of the area is used to picture the stability the Lord provides for His people.

*"those who trust in the Lord"*

*"are like Mt. Zion"*

*"as the mountains surround Jerusalem"*

*"the Lord surrounds His people"*

⇒ The Lord's sovereign protection gives assurance that those who \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord will not have power forever.

*"the scepter of wickedness"*

- **He calls upon the favor of the Lord for the blessing of His people. (v. 4)**

Psa. 125:4—Do good, O Lord, to those who are good, and to those who are upright in their hearts!

⇒ Believers long for the blessing of God so that they might \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ Him freely.

*"Do good...to those who are good"*

*"those who are upright in their hearts"*

*"In the Old Testament the heart is commonly used...to represent the will or the innermost capacity of making choices."*

—Alan Ross

- **The wicked, in contrast, have no assurance of protection and will face the reality of God's judgment (v. 5).**

Psa. 125:5—But those who turn aside to their crooked ways the Lord will lead away with evildoers! Peace be upon Israel!

⇒ The reference here is to those among the people who are \_\_\_\_\_.

*"those who turn aside"*

*"crooked ways"*

⇒ The psalm concludes with a look towards the \_\_\_\_\_ for both believers and unbelievers.  
"lead away with evildoers" "Peace be upon Israel!"

**Key Point:** Believers can live with \_\_\_\_\_ under whatever circumstances we find ourselves in because we trust the Lord for both our present and future.

### **Gospel Parallel: "Wisdom from the Sermon on the Mount" — Luke 6:43-49**

**Background:** The Sermon on the Mount was a specific body of teaching that the Lord gave to His disciples which was to be understood and followed. The true disciples of Messiah would hear His words and conform their lives to them.

1. The account in Luke is either a condensed version of Matthew 5-7 or is a similar incident where the Lord repackaged some of the same teaching content.
2. The Lord made use of agricultural imagery to describe the relationship between a person's \_\_\_\_\_ and their \_\_\_\_\_.

The Imagery: Two \_\_\_\_\_

*"the treasure of his heart"*

3. Jesus then exhorted them concerning the true nature of \_\_\_\_\_.  
(A) He \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord (B) He \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord

The Illustration: Two \_\_\_\_\_

⇒ The one whose life is conformed to the words of the Lord is the one whose \_\_\_\_\_ produces steadfastness.

⇒ The one whose life is not conformed to the words of the Lord is the one who falls because of the \_\_\_\_\_ of his faith.

**Key Point:** When the Lord Jesus is the ongoing \_\_\_\_\_ of our faith, His Spirit produces His life in us and upholds us with His strength through times of trial and difficulty.

### **Concluding Thought**

- Knowing Christ gives us assurance that we have been \_\_\_\_\_ to God and that He will guard and keep us as His people forever.

Rom. 5:1-5—<sup>1</sup> Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>2</sup> Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. <sup>3</sup> Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup> and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup> and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

Rom. 8:31—What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

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*“lead away with evildoers”*

*“Peace be upon Israel!”*

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The Imagery: Two Tress

*“the treasure of his heart”*

3. Jesus then exhorted them concerning the true nature of discipleship.

(A) He listens to the Lord

(B) He obeys the Lord

The Illustration: Two Houses

⇒ The one whose life is conformed to the words of the Lord is the one whose faith produces steadfastness.

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**Key Point:** When the Lord Jesus is the ongoing object of our faith, His Spirit produces His life in us and upholds us with His strength through times of trial and difficulty.

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