

The Determinedly Dependent King

Psalm 16

“Preserve me O God for I take refuge in you.” Psalm 16:1

No Christian perseveres in their faith by an act of self-determination or self-preservation. Rather, a person grows and thrives when they determine to give up any life but a life of deliberate, continual, and joyful dependence upon Christ.

“Christ had so emptied himself, and so truly taken upon him the form of a servant, that as man he needed divine keeping just as we do, and often cried to the strong for strength. If Jesus looked outside of himself for protection, how much more must we, his erring followers, do so!”
-Charles Spurgeon

I. The King’s First Conviction: Yahweh Alone Is My Greatest Treasure.

Psalm 16:1-3

“Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge. I say to the Lord, ‘You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you.’ As for the saints in the land, they are the excellent ones, in whom is all my delight.”

Psalm 16:1-3

“As a deer pants for flowing streams,
so pants my soul for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God,
for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?”

Psalm 42:1-2

“O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you;
my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory. Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you. So I will bless you as long as I live; in your name I will lift up my hands.”

Psalm 63:1-3

“What is it, then, that this desire (and this inability) proclaim to us, but that there was once in man a true happiness of which there now remain to him only the mark and empty trace, which he in vain tries to fill from all his surroundings, seeking from things absent the help he does not obtain in things present? But these are all inadequate, because the infinite abyss can only be filled by an infinite and immutable object, that is to say, only by God Himself. He only is our true good, and since we have forsaken him, it is a strange thing that there is nothing in nature

which has not been serviceable in taking His place.”

Blaise Pascal

Luke 2:49 “Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?”

John 15:9-10 “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.”

Trials are often the very environment in which God reminds us and keeps us alert to the fact that He is our greatest treasure and we were made for Him.

II. The King's Second Conviction: Yahweh Alone Is My Sweetest Pleasure. Psalm 16:4-6

“The sorrows of those who run after another god shall multiply; their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names on my lips. The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot. The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.”

Psalm 16:4-6

Other gods multiply sorrows – Yahweh alone transforms even sorrows into oases of deep pleasure.

“How sweet all at once it was for me to be rid of those fruitless joys which I had once feared to lose ... You drove them from me, you who are the true, the *sovereign joy*. You drove them from me and took their place, you who are sweeter than all pleasure, though not to flesh and blood, you who outshine all light, yet are hidden deeper than any secret in our hearts, you who surpass all honor, though not in the eyes of men who see all honor in themselves ... O Lord my God, my Light, my Wealth, and my Salvation.” Augustine, Confessions

“When the dice are rolled, and the straws are drawn, and the wheel is turned — whatever happens to us comes from the hand of God. God holds my lot. God decides it. God rules over it. God is my sovereign, and I am glad to have it so. I don't just affirm it stoically; I exult in it.”

John Piper

III. The King's Third Conviction: Yahweh Alone Is My Wisest Counselor.

Psalm 16:7-8

"I bless the Lord who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me. I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken." Psalm 16:7-8

"It is good for me that I was afflicted,
that I might learn your statutes"

Psalm 119:71

Trials drive us to the Word of God and drive the Word of God deep into our hearts.

"If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me. These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you.

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid." John 14:23-27

"I believe that God wants to use your story for the salvation of the nations. That sounds like a pretentious claim, doesn't it?... Let me assure you. This isn't an obscure principle, a loose thread buried in the fabric of Scripture. No, this is the fabric. It's the core principle of the gospel message and its consistently found across the story of the Bible, from the opening pages of the Old Testament to the closing pages of the New Testament." Laura Story

IV. The King's Fourth Conviction: Yahweh Is Leading Us to Joy Forever.

Psalm 16:9-11

"Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure. For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol,
or let your holy one see corruption.

You make known to me the path of life;

in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore." Psalm 16:9-11

"For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us." Romans 8:18

“Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses.” Acts 2:30-32

“At present we are on the outside of the world, the wrong side of the door. We discern the freshness and purity of morning, but they do not make us fresh and pure. We cannot mingle with the splendors we see. But all the leaves of the New Testament are rustling with the rumor that it will not always be so. Some day, God willing, we shall get in.” C.S. Lewis