

Psalm 52

Author: David

In this Psalm, David is running and hiding from Saul. Leaving his cave of safety, David seeks help from Ahimelech, the priest in Nob (1 Sam.21:1-9). Saul's chief herdsman, Doeg, witnesses Ahimelech giving David bread and a sword, and with this juicy piece of information hanging on his lips, Doeg runs to tell Saul. Then Saul, accompanied by his armies, goes to Nob, confronts Ahimelech, and then kills him—as well as his entire family for helping David (1 Sam 22:11-23)! Because of this, Doeg gained great favor with the king, and he did not mind others knowing it.

The Wrong View Of Self

You have probably known—or know—people like Doeg. They are powerful, influential, and skilled in many areas, and they want favor with “the upper management”. Such “*Doegs*” are good at many things—just ask them. It is quite obvious that David is tired of hearing about Doeg's skills and “good works” for Doeg had a misguided view of himself. In taking credit for his skills, Doeg dishonored the One who gave him those skills.

The bottom line is, self-seeking and self-promoting is contrary to how God calls His children to live.

Read 1 Corinthians 10:31.

What should our skills promote?

Read Galatians 6:14.

In whom does Paul boast?

It requires humility to deflect any glory we receive, give it to God, and boast only in Jesus. Humility is a characteristic that only can be developed through in-the-moment practice. The more we deflect our “self”, the more we reflect Him. In true God-style, He will then bless our obedience in ways greater than we could ever imagine.

Read Proverbs 22:4.

Other than a right view of self, what other blessings belong to the humble?

David is a direct recipient of these blessings and knows it. Let's investigate!

I Am An Olive Tree

David declares his correct views of God and self in verse eight with a rather odd statement, “But I am an olive tree.” An olive tree is strong and long living. When fruitful and cared for, an Olive Tree can live up to 1000 years! They are known as a symbol of joy, peace, and

happiness. Frankly, I don't care one little bit about living 1000 years, but the symbolism of the Olive tree is appealing to me.

Read Psalm 52:8

How did David flourish?

David trusted in God's unfailing love. *Unfailing love* is more closely translated as *mercy*, and it is defined as kindness, favor, pity, or reproach. Did you notice that David not only trusted in God's kindness and favor, but he also trusted (had confidence, placed his hope in) in God's pity and reproach?

In what area of God's *unfailing love* do you find it most comfortable to trust? Kindness? Favor? Pity? Reproach? Why?

An Olive tree will flourish only when it is planted in the right climate, receives the right nutrients, and has the right amount of water. The Olive tree is completely dependent on its caregiver, but with expert care and nutrients, an Olive tree will produce an abundant crop. The same can be said of God's children. He is our expert Caregiver. This is something David learned, and like David, we can flourish and can be fruitful because of the great attention God gives us as we trust in His unfailing love.

Read Psalm 139:13.

How specifically is God qualified to be our expert?

God formed us and created our inmost being. This qualifies Him as an expert on all things concerning our development. As we accept His care, drink His Water (John 7:38) and digest His Word, the Bread of Life (John 1:1, 1:14, 6:51), we will produce an abundant crop.

The Bottom Line

It comes back to the "t" word again: trust. David's carefree confidence demonstrates that God's loving-kindness will not fall short of his expectations and never let him down. This assurance has given him the right view of God, the right view of self, and the ability to leave all the "doegs" of the world in His capable of hands. How is your view?