

## **DAVID'S RESOLUTIONS FOR A HOLY LIFE (Psalm 101)**

**Intro:** I always like to see the coming of a new year. I like the idea of a fresh start; I like the idea of renewed purpose and the resolve of New Year's resolutions. No person can successfully live the Christian life without a healthy resolve to do the Lord's will—to be able to look at life ahead and say, "I will serve the Lord better in the future than I have in the past".

Today I want you to study with me such a passage from the pen of the great man of God, David. Turn to Psalm 101. This Psalm seems to have been written by David after he became King of Israel. You remember the story of David's intentions to bring the Ark of the Covenant back to Jerusalem after it had been returned to Israel by the Philistines many years before. You remember how Uzzah touched the ark in violation of the Lord's command and lost his life. And David was angry and said, "How can the ark come unto me?"

But as time went by David came to realize the reason why Uzzah had died. "We sought Him not according to the ordinance"—that is they did not carry the ark in God's prescribed way. Furthermore, David saw that the Lord had blessed the house of Obed-Edom; so he wanted to bring the ark to Jerusalem that it might become the dwelling place of God and that His kingdom might be blessed by the Lord.

So then David wrote this psalm to express his thoughts about the return of the ark. In this Psalm David frustrated cry, "How can you come unto me" is changed to a expectant cry, "When will you come unto me?" For now David knows that God will only dwell where there is a determined resolve to do the Lord's will. And so in David's psalm we hear him give expression to that resolve to do the Lord's will in everything so that God can dwell with him!

One of the things that impresses me about David's psalm is the insight he gives us into holy living, his description of the kind of life that is worthy of the Lord's presence. We like David want the Lord to dwell with us. And He will if we possess the same determination to be faithful to Him that David did. And so maybe we can learn something of what we want to do by looking at David's vows of resolution. David in this psalm resolves to:

### **Praise God**

*I will sing of lovingkindness and justice, To Thee, O LORD, I will sing praises.*

In this first verse David vows with great resolve to worship Jehovah for two of His characteristics:

*Loving kindness—steadfast and gracious love*

*Justice—restoration of relationships to what is right and good*

*David vows to acknowledge God's character and praise Him for who*

*He is!*

We too are urged to do the same:

***Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name (Heb. 13:15).***

Resolve today that you will do this:

That you will honor God in your home in song and prayer.

That you will be present to worship God with His people.

### **Follow God's Guidance**

***I will give heed to the blameless way.***

David said he would thoughtfully reflect upon and pursue the way of God.

Strive for perfection!

This necessitates a knowledge of God's will.

A determination to let it direct your life.

***Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God (2 Cor. 7:1)***

Resolve that you will strive to learn and follow the Lord's will for every area of your life.

### **Be an example at home**

***I will walk within my house in the integrity of my heart.***

David here promises to be sincere; to live in integrity

To have a "perfect" heart (here completely committed to what is right)

Note the place—"within my house".

"If these walls could speak..." What would they say about us?

***(but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?) (1 Tim. 3:5)***

Purpose to live as well privately before those who are closest to you as you do before those who know you publicly!

### **Make no provision for sin**

***I will set no worthless thing before my eyes;***

David would not bring before Him the evil deeds and schemes of the wicked with a view of doing them.

I once heard of someone who cut this scripture out and put it on their television! Good place!

One cannot sometime keep from seeing evil; but he does not have to invite it into his home and life. Or as a proverb says it, "You can't keep the birds from flying over your head, but you don't have let them build a nest in your hat!

***But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts (Rom. 13:14)***

Let us resolve to keep out of sight those things that would encourage us to do wrong and that present sin in a favorable light.

### **Overcome temptation**

***I hate the work of those who fall away; It shall not fasten its grip on me.***

David simply resolves to overcome temptation to do as evil men do. He will attempt to shake off any appeal to do wrong.

In the NT we are similarly warned and encouraged:

***Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it. (1 Cor. 10:12-13)***

Resolve to overcome temptation, to look for the way of escape.

### **Be pure in motive**

*A perverse heart shall depart from me; I will know no evil.*

Earlier David had spoken of living well before others. Here he looks within. He wants his intentions and motive to be pure and devoted to the Lord.

***Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God. (Mt.5:6)***

Resolve not only to do what is right, but do for the right reason, because your heart is in it!

### **Oppose the enemies of God's cause and associate with the faithful**

***Whoever secretly slanders his neighbor, him I will destroy; No one who has a haughty look and an arrogant heart will I endure. My eyes shall be upon the faithful of the land, that they may dwell with me; He who walks in a blameless way is the one who will minister to me. He who practices deceit shall not dwell within my house; He who speaks falsehood shall not maintain his position before me. Every morning I will destroy all the wicked of the land, So as to cut off from the city of the LORD all those who do iniquity.***

David had no intention of tolerating evil people. As king of Israel he wanted righteousness to prevail in the land. Wicked men, criminals, would be punished. He would do so speedily and consistently (every morning). Further, He does not want to choose his friends and governmental servants from among the proud and wicked—those who slander others with their tongue and who are lifted up with pride. Rather David's companions would be the faithful. He would be served in his court by people of honesty and godliness. Of course, we do not have the power to exercise judicial power as did David; but we can govern our relationships with others. We can insist that righteousness be done. We can choose who are friends are.

***Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals." (1 Cor. 15:33)***

Who will your best friends be? Who will you enjoy most being around? We are not supposed to live in monasteries but our best friends ought to be people of high moral character!

**Conclusion: Now these are seven resolutions worth striving for. They will make a difference in our lives and make us an influence for good wherever we are. And living by them will assure us that God will dwell among us.**

**I hope you will have a happy and holy new year!**