

"A man who has friends
must himself be friendly, But
there is a friend who sticks
closer than a brother."
Proverbs 18:24 NKJV



Marietta church of Christ

8150 Driggers St.
Jacksonville, FL 32220

Times of Worship

Sunday:

9 am - Bible Classes / 10 am - Worship / 5 pm - Worship

Wednesday:

7 pm - Bible Study/Worship

Evangelist: Devin Barber

www.mariettacoc.com

How To Serve God Without Wavering

"Judge me, O Jehovah, for I have walked in mine integrity; I have trusted also in Jehovah without wavering. (Psalm 26.1)

How does one keep going in the service of God? We may begin to serve Him, but it is always difficult to maintain one's diligence and faithfulness. It is quite easy to "become weary in well-doing" and if we are not very careful we may waver and let our service to God slide. David reveals some three things he did (and we may do) which will keep one from "sliding."

1. He was sincere in what he did. "I have walked in my integrity" (verses 1, 11). Anyone who serves God without his full heart in it is bound to fail. David was beset with enemies at this time, but because he knew that he was *sincere* in his life he trusted God — and was confident that he would overcome those enemies who were trying to shake his faith, blemish his name and defeat him. Look at his challenge in Psalm 62.3: "How long will ye set upon man that ye may slay him, all of you, like a leaning wall, like a tottering fence?" The man who truly trusts in God as David did and who is sincere in his service to God will not be like a leaning wall or a tottering fence! We must develop and maintain genuine service.

2. He was constantly aware of God's grace and goodness. "Thy lovingkindness [grace] is before mine eyes" (verse 3). This will certainly keep one from wavering — to have a grateful sense of God's goodness to us. We must "home in" on the wonderful blessings that our father bestows. ...

Most men begin to slide when they forget about God, and particularly when they fail to count their blessings. Awareness of God's goodness to us will also stimulate our goodness toward one another. We should see God's lovingkindness as an example to follow. "And who is he that will harm you, if ye be zealous of that which is good?" (1 Peter 3.13). And it seems that there was a byproduct of such awareness of God's grace and goodness in David's life. It compelled him to govern himself by the word of God ("I have walked in thy truth," verse 3).

3. He cultivated the holy worship of God. "I will compass thine alter" (verse 6). In connection with this, David says that he was careful to "wash his hands in innocency" (verse 6) — that is, to guard against all sin and keep his heart from anything which would hinder his drawing near to God (see Psalm 24.3-4; James 4.8). It is likely that David alludes here to the practice of the priests' washing before they went in to minister before God (Exodus 3.20-21). We, too, must prepare ourselves in lives and heart for the worship of our holy God (Matthew 5.23-24). "Compassing" the alter signifies a diligent attendance to the service. It is a sure sign of sliding or wavering when we merely go through the motions of worship, constantly allowing our minds to wander. We must not just come to the alter, but we must "compass" it.

Of course, there are certain things that *must not be done* if we are going to remain faithful to God. These are discussed in verses 4-5. We must avoid evil associations (Ephesians 5.11; 1 Corinthians 15.33; Psalm 1.1). When one takes care to keep clear of bad company, he makes great strides toward keeping himself from sliding, and thus standing before God (Proverbs 22.24-25). Sometimes we cannot avoid being in the company of sinners (1 Corinthians 5.9-11), but we do not have to *participate* — "sit with them" or "go with them." David not only had an aversion to such people, but he hated their wickedness (verse 5; 139.21). Standing requires determination; the Christian must be different (Acts 2.40).

Written by; Brent Lewis

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Guard Your Mouth

Proverbs 13.3 "*Whoever guards his mouth preserves his life; he who opens wide his lips comes to ruin.*"

The Bible reveals a lot about how a person is to speak. At the same time the words we use reveals much about us. "*But the things that proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and those defile the man.*" (Matthew 15:18). We should not be careless with our speech but instead give careful thought to the thing we say. James 1.19 admonishes us to be "*quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger.*" Unfortunately many people have become the opposite, slow to hear, quick to speak and quick to anger.

In James 3 when describing the tongue in verse 8 it is called a "restless evil" and "full of deadly poison" then verse 10 says "*From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so.*" It seems like in today's society there are more instances, especially when people are given the opportunity to hide behind a keyboard, of people just berating others for whatever reason they deem necessary that day. But as James says, "these things ought not to be so."

So what can we do? As the Proverb says we need to guard our mouth. We to protect or defend it from speaking evil or harmful things. The sayings we heard as a child still ring true. "If you don't have anything nice to say, don't say it" and "Think before you speak." The big thing we need to do is use our words for encouragement and to uplift one another. Ephesians 4.29 says "*Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.*" Instead of being careless with our words, which can tear others down, let's only use our speech to build each other up, and encourage one another.

Written by; Derek Steen