

"For You formed my inward parts;
You covered me in my mother's
womb. I will praise You, for I am
fearfully and wonderfully made;
Marvelous are Your works, And
that my soul knows very well."

Psalms 139:13-14 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

The Steps of a Good Man

"A man's goings are established of Jehovah; and he delighteth in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; for Jehovah upholdeth him with his hand ... The law of God is in his heart; none of his steps shall slide (Psalm 37.23-24, 31).

God is glorified by the life of a good man or woman. He wants each of us to obey His will. There are certain features that mark the good person's life. We previously considered the marks of a godless man [see August, 1985, p. 25]. Now let us note the steps of a good man.

1. He has an order to his life. "His goings are established of Jehovah" (verse 23). The KJV translates, "The steps of a good man are ordered by Jehovah." This man does not live his life indiscriminately, out of control. He cares about what God wants for him and he pays attention to God's directions. "Righteousness shall go before him, and shall make his footsteps a way to walk in" (Psalm 85.13). "Establish my footsteps in thy word; and let not my iniquity have dominion over me" (119.133). Here is a man who wishes to bring his life into accord with God's will.

2. He receives the approval of God. "He [God] delighteth in his way" (verse 23). This presupposes that God is aware of this man; He knows his way. "For Jehovah knoweth the way of the righteous; but the way of the wicked shall perish" (Psalm 1.6). God is pleased with the good man who orders his life after His way. ...

“Let them shout for joy, and be glad, that favor my righteous cause: yea, let them say continually, Jehovah be magnified, who hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant” (Psalm 35.27).

3. His weaknesses and failings do not cause God to cast him off.

“Though he fall he shall not be utterly cast down” (verse 24). This is not to say that one *cannot* fall or be cast down. Even Paul, the apostle, said, “But I buffet by body, and bring it into bondage: lest by any means, after I have preached to others I myself should be rejected [a castaway, KJV]” (1 Corinthians 9.27). And Paul said to some Christians in Galatia, “Ye are severed from Christ ... ye are fallen away from grace” (Galatians 5.4).

But it is not *necessary* for one to be lost. God does not give up on us when we slip into sin. He urges other Christians to rescue this man: “Brethren, even if a man be overtaken in any trespass, ye who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness” (Galatians 6.1). He offers His son who still functions on behalf of the fallen Christian: “My little children, these things I write unto you that ye may not sin. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous” (1 John 2.1). No, God does not summarily discard the good man who slips into sin. “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1.9).

4. He keeps God’s law in his heart. “The law of God is in his heart; none of his steps shall slide” (verse 31). This is absolutely necessary. God counseled Israel, “And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be upon thy heart (Deuteronomy 6.6). “I delight to do thy will, O my God; yea thy law is within my heart” (Psalm 40.8). “Thy word have I laid up in my heart, that I might not sin against thee” (119.11). *This is the man* who “will not slide.” Hosea accused God’s people of “sliding back as a backsliding heifer (Hosea 4.16). But there was a clear reason for it: “My people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge” (4.6). That is merely to say that they did not keep God’s word (law) in their hearts!

Let us determine that we will put this psalm into practice by walking in the steps of a good man. — Brett Lewis, Christianity Magazine, Oct ’85

It Is Well With My Soul

The song “It Is Well With My Soul” was written by a successful Christian lawyer, Heratio Spafford. His son died at age four in 1871. In 1872, the great Chicago fire wiped out his vast estate, made from a successful legal career. In 1873, he sent his wife and four daughters to Europe on a summer trip on the ill-fated SS Ville du Havre. Since he had a lot of work to do, he planned to follow them later. The ship sank and he lost four daughters, with his wife being the only survivor. She sent him a famous telegram which simply read, “Saved alone.” On his return home, his law firm was burned down and the insurance company refused to pay him. They said, “It was an act of God.”

He had no money to pay for his house and no work. He also lost his house. Then while sitting and thinking about what had happened to him, being a spiritual person, he wrote a song: “Whatever, my Lord, you have taught me to say, It is well, it is well with my soul.”

For Christians, a good attitude will determine your altitude. When you look at your life — career, job, or family — what do you say? Do you praise God? Do you blame the devil? A good attitude towards God makes him move on your behalf.

Remind yourself that, because of God, it is well with your soul. I am thankful I had a peaceful sleep. I am thankful I am alive with possibilities. I am thankful I have a roof over me. I am thankful I have a job. I am thankful that I have family and friends. Above all, I am thankful that I have the Lord Jesus Christ on my side.

Don’t be envious or shocked when others are prospering because you don’t know what they have been through to get there (tests, trials, and tribulations). Thank God for the “*sure mercies*” of David (Acts 13.34). Through them, it is well with your soul.

Written by; Roger Burner

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