

What exactly is a godly life? What does it mean to live a life that is so godly that God classifies it as holy? What does it mean to be holy? This is a Psalm about personal holiness. This is a Psalm that describes what a holy life really is. This is a Psalm that describes a real spirituality we should pursue. What we will discover is that holiness is not so much a feeling or sentiment; holiness is determined by various judgments we make concerning ourselves and various things.

Psalm 101 is a Psalm of David. It is a Psalm written by one who was after God's own heart. This Psalm communicates a desire for real holiness in one's personal life and also in one's kingdom corporate life. This is certainly the type of holiness that will exist when Jesus Christ reigns on this earth.

This Psalm is a mirror that can show us exactly where we really are in our relationship with God. What we see in this Psalm is that:

ONE WHO HAS A HOLY LIFE IS ONE WHO MAKES POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE JUDGMENTS CONCERNING HIMSELF AND OTHERS.

If you think that real spirituality is a glazed-eyed emotional feeling, think again. Take a serious look at this Psalm because here is how real holiness works. Holiness operates by a strict exclusiveness. It is not broad-minded or open-minded. Holiness is very narrow and intolerant of certain things.

There are two main thoughts communicated in this Psalm:

THOUGHT #1 – Holiness in regard to self. 101:1-4

There are six factors brought out about the kind of holiness David was after:

Factor #1 - One holy will praise God for His positive and negative attributes. 101:1

This first verse is interesting, because it gives us two attributes of God. One is the mercy side of God and the other is the justice side of God. Now what David did was sing about these true attributes of God. He sang about grace and he sang about holiness.

Mercy is a very positive attribute and justice is a very negative attribute, but those who have the kind of holiness that pleases God praise God for all of His attributes. He is a God who will save and He is a God who will condemn. He is a God who will forgive and He is a God who will judge.

When it comes to worshipping God, we must worship Him in what He reveals Himself to be. We need to sing and praise Him for the positive and the negative.

Factor #2 - One holy will pursue a life that was blameless. **101:2a**

The word “blameless” is not the word “sinless.” The Hebrew word “blameless” (tamim) is one that means to live a life that is whole, sound, complete, upright (William Gesenius, *Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 867).

What this means is that David had as his focus giving heed to the righteous ways of God. He was out to live his life in conformity to God’s Word in all areas so that no valid charge could be brought against him.

Now we may observe from the next words “when will you come to me” that one of the things that kept David focused on a blameless life was the thought that God could come today and he did not want to be found living a life in which would be dishonorable.

Factor #3 - One holy will have a walk of integrity. **101:2b**

That word “integrity” refers to a moral uprightness (*Ibid.*, p. 866). No one can be holy if they are dabbling in immoral or evil things. Carefully observe the two areas where integrity is proved: 1) In his house; 2) In his heart.

These are two very private areas and these are the areas where you will prove what is righteous. Righteousness will be proved in the privacy of one’s house and in the privacy of one’s heart.

Now who is actually able to see what is going on in a man’s heart and house? The answer is God. God sees whether a person is truly holy or not. Spurgeon said you cannot sing in the choir and sin in the chamber. You cannot be a saint on the outside and a devil on the inside. What we are in our homes and hearts is what we are.

David was after holiness in his home and in his heart.

Factor #4 - One holy will not set worthless things before his eyes. **101:3a**

David had fallen earlier in life and it all started with his eyes and what he was looking at and he purposed that would not happen again. Now the word “worthless” refers to anything that could be classified as worthless. This could include philosophy, literature, things immoral or things idolatrous. One right with God will guard what is before his eyes. Clearly what we let our eyes look at can determine how holy we are.

Factor #5 - One holy will hate the work of those who fall away. **101:3b**

David had a holy hatred for disloyal people and their disloyal work. People who fall away when things get tough are disloyal and they do not please God. By the way, these words speak of a very real hatred. We are talking here about a real abhorrence, not just some neutral indifference. God hates those who fall away and so should we. There is a proper hatred involved in holiness.

In fact, David said their evil work and disloyalty will never fasten its grip on him. God's people should never pursue worthless things.

Factor #6 - One holy departs from a heart that is perverse. **101:4**

A perverse heart is a heart that is given to twisted, depraved, evil things. One who is right with God gets away from twisted, depraved, evil things. One who is holy will make a break from anything that falls into this category. The matter here is a matter of the heart.

We believe it is important to ask God to create in us a clean heart because in and of ourselves, we do not have it.

THOUGHT #2 – Holiness in regard to others. **101:5-8**

The things revealed here are things that should be practiced by Church boards, Theological institutions, Christian families and by individuals. The things here should be practiced by governments and cities.

These actions are the kinds of actions holy, godly people and holy, godly places carry out. These are actions that will most definitely be carried out when Jesus Christ reigns on this earth:

Action #1 - Holiness silences secret slanderers. **101:5a**

The context is that of one who is secretly going around behind the scenes verbally destroying one faithful. Those who are honest will speak to you face to face, man to man, and woman to woman. Those who are not godly go behind your back. One who slanders is not holy and is not godly, no matter how religious they appear to be.

Action #2 - Holiness does not tolerate those proud and arrogant. **101:5b**

God hates pride. God hates proud people and so will those godly. Dr. Swindoll said that a proud and arrogant person will bring contention and arguments to almost every situation.

Action #3 - Holiness develops close fellowship with those faithful. **101:6a**

It is very rare to find a faithful man (Prov. 20:6) or a faithful woman (Prov. 31:10), but when you find one who is faithful that is the one with whom you want fellowship.

Action #4 - Holiness demands that ministers walk in ways blameless. **101:6b**

The word blameless (tamim) is that word that means to be whole, sound and complete. It does not mean that one must be sinless because there is no such thing as a sinless person; but what it does mean is that one who is holy is one who walks in ways that are whole and sound and complete in accordance with God's Word. This is the kind of person who is able to minister.

Action #5 - Holiness does not have close fellowship with those deceitful. **101:7a**

Notice the emphasis is on one who “practices deceit.” We are talking here about one who habitually lies. One who is deceitful is one who continually hides the real truth, the real story, the real motive. This is one who deliberately misleads people away from truth.

Action #6 - Holiness does not promote one who is a liar. **101:7b**

In eternity no liar will be in any place of authority. Lying is a devil sin. Lying is what Satan used to trick Eve. People right with God don't have much to do with liars.

Action #7 - Holiness silences the wicked every day. **101:8a**

It is just a shame that our own government does not understand this principle. Holy people silence wicked people every day.

Action #8 - Holiness will cut off and cut out those who do iniquity. **101:8b**

True holiness cuts off and cuts out those who do iniquity. They throw them out of the city.