

SPIRITUAL ROLLER COASTER

Psalms 139:23-24 ... "Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my anxieties; and see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

You may know what a roller coaster is, either because you have seen one at a festival, on television, or perhaps you have ridden one. Simply put, it is a steel track on which you ride on a seat or in a small car that whips around the track very fast. It climbs up a high and steep incline, then speeds down the other side. Within seconds you go from high to low and probably scream your lungs out because of the thrill.

Your spiritual life may be marked by a roller coaster-like experience. Mine has been and still is, and it is NOT thrilling. One moment you may be climbing high in obedience to Jesus, and the next moment you are plunging deep into a sinful mistake or a trial. Jesus was the only man who lived sin-free. The rest of us must endure the many ups and downs of life until we reach heaven. King David was keenly aware of this. His life was marked by the same thing; up one day, down the next. He honored God with praises, then committed some grievous sin. Back and forth, up and down he went, as do we.

The primary problem is not that we sin, but what we do about our sin. First, we must confess it. In today's passage, David asked God to: "Search me...and know my heart." If your life is so filled with ups and downs that you have lost track of good and evil, ask God to reveal your sins. David then asked God: "Try me, and know my anxieties; and see if there is any wicked way in me." In this request, David asks God to test him and expose him to danger or persecution, so his fears and doubts in God will be tested and revealed. Finally, David asked God to: "...lead me in the way everlasting," which is the path that leads to salvation and peace with God.

The unsaved among us cannot avail of God's help UNTIL they become believers. But if you are a believer, this process is very easy because God is already dwelling inside you in the form of his Holy Spirit. Asking God for help and submitting to his will, gets his immediate attention. God wants nothing more than for you to tell him: "Lord, I have sinned. Please forgive me. If there are other hidden sins in my life, please reveal them to me so I can also confess them. Then, Lord, please lead me in the way everlasting."

A theme-park or festival roller coaster ride may be thrilling for a moment, but the ups and downs of your spiritual life are not. You can smooth them out by submitting to God in every manner.

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