

THE STEPS OF A GOOD MAN

Psalm 37:23 ... “The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, and he [God] delights in his [man’s] way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; for the Lord upholds him with his hand.”

Psalm 37 is attributed to King David, a man who failed God and fell many times in his life. Yet, David always came back to God, repented of his sins, and allowed his trials to enrich his relationship with God. Because of that, we read in Acts 13:22 that God found David to be a man after God’s heart who God could trust to do his will.

I have heard Psalm 37:23 quoted by some who ignore the importance of the word “good,” and claim that “the steps of a man are ordered by the Lord,” as if we have no say in the matter; as if our steps are controlled by God against our will; as if we can live any lifestyle we choose and still be assured that our steps are controlled by God.

God created us with a free will. He does not force us to obey him. He does not compel us to love and serve him. The verse reads “good man;” the steps of a GOOD man – a man (or woman) who lives in submission to God, who lives in obedience to God, who lives to serve God on God’s terms. The steps of a good man or woman are ordered by God and God is pleased with his or her life and service. If you are such a person – a believer who has committed your life to loving, obeying and serving God – God is delighted with you. And, though you may occasionally stumble, trip and momentarily sin, God is anxious for you to repent and run back to him and continue that delightful relationship. And, that relationship is not one-sided. God cannot be delighted in you, if you are not delighted in him. It works both ways. If you are delighted in God and sense his pleasure with you, you know what I am talking about. Is God delighted in you?

If your life is out-of-control, or you are living in a depressed mindset, or you are overrun by discouragement or the challenges of life, today’s verse is a promise for you. If you are living far from God, trying to make your own way through life and getting nowhere, today’s verse is your opportunity. If you have never experienced a life-changing relationship with Jesus, David’s Psalm is your hope. Perhaps the usual invitation to believe in Jesus and accept his gift of salvation has not sparked your interest. Perhaps the appeal of a pastor to turn your life over to Jesus, has not moved you enough. Maybe what you needed to hear today is the testimony of King David, a man who failed many times, but remained a man God loved. I hope today’s passage and promise is what will convince you that having the creator of the universe be delighted in you and willing to uphold you through the trials of life, will move you to repent and start trusting God. I want God to be delighted in you, but you must make some decisions and start living in the goodness God desires for you. We should all desire that God is delighted with us.

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