

Watch Your Steps

Betty and I took great pleasure in helping our children take their first steps. It's no different with our heavenly father and us. Spiritually, we are his children for the rest of our lives.

David says in Psalm 37:23 that the *steps* of good, godly people are *guided* by none other than the LORD.

God will direct every detail of our lives if he sees that we want to live entirely for his glory. The Holy Spirit is able to direct our dispositions, our affections and our intentions, if that is what we want. It certainly is what he wants. He can rule and overrule us and our circumstances. He can tell us what to say, what to do, how to do it and what the results will be.

Notice that God orders the steps of a good person. He wants to be involved in each step – not just occasionally. He reveals one step at a time to us – not the whole future. He treats us as children, so that we stay dependent on him. As soon as we become independent, we get into trouble. *Life was meant to be lived with God, not without him.*

In this 37th Psalm, God is saying: if you will live a certain way, I will treat you a certain way.

So... how does David describe a good, godly person in this particular Psalm? And how does God treat such a person?

First, let's find out *Who is a good person*? According to this Psalm,

A good person entrusts his whole life to the Lord.

- He trusts, hopes, in the Lord and takes refuge in him.
- He is quiet and relaxed before the Lord and waits patiently for him to act.
- God's truth is in his heart; he loves and fulfills God's commandments.
- He desires the Lord; he delights, he takes pleasure in the Lord above all else.
- He is righteous; always tries to do the right thing.
- He is content; does not envy anybody.
- Deliberately turns away from evil and from wrongdoing.
- He controls his emotions; refrains from anger and rage.
- Does not worry.
- Does a lot of good deeds.
- Is generous with his material resources.
- Speaks wisely and says what is right and just.
- He is humble.
- And... he is a peaceful person.

All this constitutes a good person.

So, then, how does God react to this kind of good person?

- God insures safety and provision of life's necessities for this good person.
- A good person will not have to beg bread; in time of famine he will enjoy plenty.
- God will protect him, help and deliver him; the Lord will be his protection and will save him; he will never abandon him.
- The Lord will hold him up; will make his steps firm; the godly person might stumble but will not fall; his feet will not slip – ethically, morally.

- The Lord loves a good person and even delights in him.
- A good person will receive a generous eternal reward from the Lord.
- He will inherit the earth and will help rule the world.
- He will enjoy great peace.
- A good person's righteousness and justice will be made known to the public.

I hope these biblical truths and promises will encourage you to enjoy the rewards of being a good person who is led and directed by God's Spirit. ◇◇