

Rhema Christian Center
Weekly Bible Study
Psalm 131
Tuesday/Wednesday
March 19 & 20
Presenter: Eddie Poindexter

Psalm 131

A song of the humble: A song of degrees of David

Three Davidic characteristics of a humble spirit that glorifies God. (Warren Wiersbe)

If anyone in Israel had reasons to be proud, it was David.

- The eighth son of a common citizen, he began as a humble shepherd boy, and yet became Israel's greatest King.
- A courageous soldier warrior, a gifted general and tactician, and a sincere man of God
- He wrote nearly half of the psalms, and though (like most of us) he was guilty of disobeying the Lord
- It was for David's sake that the Lord kept the light burning in Jerusalem during the years of Judah's decay
- It was from David's line that Jesus Christ came into the world
- Except for a few lapses into selfishness and sin, David walked with the Lord in a **humble** spirit.

This brief psalm, tells us the essentials of a life that glorifies God and accomplishes His work on earth.

Keep this in mind: we also are to be **humble** contributors of God's work here on earth!

Psalm 131 (KJV)

1. LORD My heart is not **lofty**: neither do I exercise myself in great matters, or in things too high for me . 2.) Surely I have behaved and quieted myself, as a child that is weaned of its mother: my soul is even as a weaned child. 3.) Let Israel hope in the LORD from henceforth and forever.

Psalm 131 (NLT)

1. LORD my heart is not **PROUD**; my eyes are not haughty. I don't concern myself with matters too great or too awesome for me to grasp. 2.) Instead, I have calmed and quieted myself, like a weaned child who no longer cries for its mother's milk, yes, like a weaned child is my soul within me. 3.) O Israel, put your hope in the LORD, now and always.

Psalm 131 (MSG)

1. GOD, I'm not trying to rule the roost, I don't want to be king of the mountain. I haven't meddled where I have no business or fantasized grandiose plans. 2.) I've kept my feet on the ground, I've cultivated a quiet heart, like a baby content in its mother's mothers arms, my soul is a baby. 3.) Wait, Israel, for God. Wait with hope, Hope now, hope always!

The three characteristics which allow an *elevated relationship* with God our heavenly Father are:

1. Honesty: Accept yourself (an image bearer of God)
2. Humility: Accept God's will (the author and finisher of your life)
3. Hope: Anticipate the future (the "good work" he began in you, he will finish)

The psalm is to humble ourselves before God, to be like a child cuddling with its mother, feeling safe and secure in its mother's love and care.

(Mt. 18:3 AMP) and said "I assure you and most solemnly say to you, unless you repent [that is, change your inner self - your old way of thinking, live changed lives] and become like children [trusting, humble and hopeful], you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Our hearts (*souls*) are desirous of worldly things, cry for them, and are fond of them; but, by the grace of God, a soul that is made holy, is weaned from these things. (Bible study tools.com) - (*lust of the flesh, the eye, the pride of life*).

The psalmist (David) aimed at nothing high or great, but to be content in every condition God allotted.

- **Humble** saints can't think so much of themselves as others think of them.
- The love of God reigning in the heart, will subdue self-love (pride).
- Where there is a proud heart, there is commonly a proud look.

Romans 12:3 AMP

- [3] For by the grace [of God] given to me I say to everyone of you not to think more highly of himself [and of his importance and ability] than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has apportioned to each a degree of faith [and a purpose designed for service].

Thus the Psalmist recommends confidence in God, (to all the Israel of God), from his own experience

It is good to hope, and quietly wait for the salvation of the Lord under every trial.

Davidic characteristic # 1

Honesty: Accept yourself (V.1)

We move toward maturity when we honestly accept who we are, understand what we can do, and live for God's glory.

Rejecting or hating ourselves, fantasizing about ourselves, and **envying** others are marks of **immaturity**.

David has seen some of this kind of behavior in his own son Absalom as well as in King Saul.

A proud heart refuses to face reality, a high look covers up hidden inadequacy, and arrogant ambitions ("going to and fro constantly") impresses some people but leads ultimately to embarrassing failure (Jer. 45:5). When you accept yourself and your lot and **thank God for the way He made you**, you do not need to impress people.

They will see your worth and love you for who you are.

Spoiled children want to be seen and heard, and they get involved in things they can not handle.

*David did not promote himself; **it was all God's doing**.*

Davidic characteristic # 2

Humility: Accept God's will (V. 2)

The smile of a weaned child is a beautiful picture of the meaning of humility and maturity.

Hebrew children were weaned at age three or four, and this experience marked the end of their infancy.

But most children do not want to be deprived of mothers loving arms and satisfying breasts, and they feel rejected and unwanted.

But after the crisis of birth, each child must eventually be weaned and learn the first lesson in the school of life: **Growing up involves painful losses that can lead to wonderful gains.**

The Hebrew word for “wean” means “to complete, to ripen, to treat kindly.”

The English word may be a contraction of the Scottish phrase “we one,” or it may come from a Teutonic word that means “to be accustomed.”

Maturing people know that life is a series of gains and losses, and they learn how to use their losses constructively. (*Solon’s advice*)

If children are to grow up and not just grow old, they must be able to function apart from their mother.

This means weaning, (intentionality), going to school, choosing a vocation, and probably marrying and starting a new home.

They must learn that there is a difference between cutting the apron strings and cutting the heartstrings and that these separations do not rob them of mother’s love.

God’s goal for us is emotional and spiritual maturity (1Corn. 13:11; 14:20; Eph. 4:13-15), and God sometimes has to wean us away from good things in order to give us better things.

Some notables to consider:

- ★ Abraham had to leave his family and city, send Ishmael away, **separate** from lot, and put Isaac on the altar.
- ★ Joseph had to be **separated** from his father and his brothers in order to see his dreams come true.
- ★ Jacob had to be **weaned** from his own self-sufficiency and learn that faith means living without scheming.

The child that David described wept and fretted but eventually calmed down and accepted the inevitable

V. 2 (NLT) Instead, I have quieted myself, like a weaned child who no longer cries for its mother's milk, yes, like a weaned child is my soul within me.

Instead of emotional highs and lows, the child developed a steady, uniform response, indicating a giant step forward in the quest for maturity.

Consider this notion:

Successful living means moving from dependency to independence, and then to interdependence, always in the will of God.

Consider this as a characteristic of humility:

To accept God's will in the losses and gains of life, is to experience the inner calm that is so necessary if we are to be mature people.

Davidic characteristic # 3

Hope: Anticipate the future (V. 3)

Infants don't realize that their mothers' decision is for their own good, for weaning sets them free to meet the future and make the most of it.

The child may want to keep things as they are, but that leads to immaturity and tragedy.

When we fret over a comfortable past, we only forfeit a challenging future.

In the Christian vocabulary, hope is not, 'hope so.'

It is joyful anticipation of what the Lord will do in the future, based on His changeless promises!!!

Isaiah 40:31 NIV

[31] but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Malachi 3:6 NLT

[6] "I am the Lord, and I do not change. That is why you descendants of Jacob are not already destroyed.

Like the child being weaned, we may fret at our current circumstances, but we know that our fretting is wrong.

Our present circumstances are the womb out of which new blessings and opportunities will be born.

Principle: When we can consider who God is, and what he has done for us, we should worship and serve him with the utmost humility.

(Rom.8:28 AMP)

And we know [with great confidence] that God [who is deeply concerned about us] causes all things to work together [as a plan] for good for those who love God, to those who are called according to His plan and purpose.

“Even when we don’t see it you’re working,
Even when we don’t feel it you’re working
You never stop, you never stop working,
You never stop working,
Way maker, miracle worker, promise keeper
Light in the darkness
My God, that is who you are!

References: Warren Wiersbe: BE EXULTANT
The Full Life Study Bible
Uscsb.org
Bst.com
ChatGPT
The Bible says What?!?!
New name written down in glory (Christy Gayle)