



**Our Confidence in Christ  
David Dares Us to Pray Boldly  
Psalms 26**

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Psalm 26:1

**“Vindicate me, LORD, for I have walked in my integrity, And I have trusted in the LORD without wavering.” (NASB 2020)**



When we come to the Lord, how cognizant are we of our own salvation and what the impact of that is for us positionally. We all tend to consider our sinfulness especially in connection with those sins we tend to find ourselves involved in every now and then.

We know we are saved but many of us have humbled ourselves almost to the point of reflecting unbelief in what it is Jesus Christ has done for us on the cross.

David knows who YAHWEH is, he knows he is His anointed.

He has every reason to be introspective and withdrawn as he goes through self-assessment, yet he isn't. He is bold and believes what God has told him, and provides an example for us

We too should join him in this self-assessment, our place with the Lord is even more settled than his was. He was settled in his salvation and so should we. But are we willing to pray like David does in this psalm.

As followers of Christ, we are family, do we act like it?

What we see here is the confident request that God judge and examine the one who is praying.

It is a prayer that reflects the absolute opposite of shame...The prayer expresses one's confidence in the relationship with God. God can judge and examine, because ultimately this one depends on God's hesed. (Jacobson and Tanner 2014, 260)

We do not know at what point in his life David writes this, but it is most likely at a time of persecution, Saul possibly or even Absalom.

As part of the persecution that David sustained, there were indeed those times where others were lying about him and creating a false narrative about him in order to drive people away. The goal of the gas lighting was to make it appear that David is the one who is evil and wrong, not Saul or those trying to kill him. This includes the accusations from King Saul and others of alleged crimes and serious missteps in judgement.

Kind of what we see here is the play book being used today by those who are not happy with silencing you, but what to go further by literally destroying you and your ability to ever make a living again.

This is a common tactic used on both sides of the aisle so it cannot be characterized as either a liberal or conservative weapon, it is a weapon of Satan and he is the one who convinces whoever is listening to engage in actions to cancel someone else. Let me show you what Isaiah says about that for those of us who are followers of the Lord.

Isaiah 54:17

**"No weapon forged to be used against you will succeed; you will refute everyone who tries to accuse you. This is what the LORD will do for his servants— I will vindicate them,"** says the LORD." (NET 2nd ed.)

David had lots of folks wanting to cancel him. He knows what is being said about him is false. He asks the Lord to vindicate him.

I have been lied about in the past and it can be rather disconcerting. I understand what it is that is going through David's mind. You do not understand why someone would want to do that, especially someone who you worked with, ministered with and spent time with.



Why would a brother or sister in Christ, at least you believed them to be that, suddenly and viciously turn against you spreading lies and actively deceiving others about you and others at the same time creating the impression they are still for you. Simple, Satan.

1 John 2:19

"They went out from us, but they were not really of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out, so that it would be evident that they all are not of us." (NASB 2020)

In the last days which we live in, expect it. Even from those who you believe are working closely with you. Betrayal has been around for thousands of years and will hang around Christ ends it. "Starting from a position of close relationship and loyalty, the betrayer develops hostility to the other person. The motivation for betrayal is hatred and/or desire for self-aggrandizement, or both. Usually the betrayer achieves his or her goal by divulging something to a third party. Most betrayers end their lives in misery over their act of betrayal." (Ryken 2016, 74) See Saul and Judas Iscariot.

Satan uses this since it works sometimes but at the least it destroys the betrayer at the same time. Expect it in the last days. Per Jesus.

Matthew 24:10

"Then many will be led into sin, and **they will betray one another and hate one another.**" (NET 2nd ed.)

2 Timothy 3:12–13

**"Yes, and everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. But evil people and impostors will flourish. They will deceive others and will themselves be deceived."** (NLT)

These are givens for us as believers, if we desire to live holy in Christ, we will be persecuted by those who are evil imposters intentionally deceiving us that they are on our side yet, never really were.

Treachery is hard to deal with, Jesus had Judas, so why would we think we are immune?

We need to remember who we are in Christ and keep Him in the center.

David knew who he was in the Lord, and this is where we must go as well. What he says here in verse one takes bravery as well as a full knowledge of who we are in Him as His followers.

He appeals to God's righteous sentence (v. 1): "Judge me, O God! be thou Judge between me and my accusers, between the persecutor and the poor prisoner; bring me off with honour, and put those to shame that falsely accuse me." Saul, who was himself supreme judge in Israel, was his adversary, so that in a controversy with him he could appeal to no other then to God himself. (Henry 1994, 777)

For you and me as New Testament believers, having the knowledge of who we are in Christ and developing faith from that, is an issue that Paul was concerned about.

All of us are prone to feel sorry for ourselves and begin to believe the lies of the enemy if we hear them often enough or long enough. Spiritual beat downs are not fun.

We know we did not do what we are accused of, but there are others who are now standoffish because they are evaluating if the lies are true.

Paul, just like David, took a stand and encourages us to do so as well.



Romans 8:31–39

**“What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?**

Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.” **No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.** For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (ESV)

Because of Jesus, we too can join David in a prayer that some teachers believe is proud and self-satisfied here, but it isn’t. It is the prayer of the one who knows who they are in the Lord. So, we can pray as well, vindicate me, Lord.

When he says “vindicate me,” “David means, “Prove me to be right.” This is said in the face of charges, spoken or assumed, that the writer has been a hypocrite, and that the ills that now befall him are proof of this fact. But the man has served God in sincerity to the very best of his ability; and he knows well that ordinarily God is not wont to let His faithful followers go unrewarded. The integrity that he claims (tummi)—a word that is sometimes rendered “perfect”—really implies conduct from which no essential element is missing.” (Leupold 1959, 230)

And as David prays this asking the Lord to judge him, to vindicate him and prove him to be right, he then states the basis for his confidence, his integrity, his faith in the Lord which has not wavered. He is asking the Lord to show others that he has remained faithful.

David is pointing to his faith and asking the Lord to use that as he is doing nothing beyond trusting and waiting on the Lord. “Faith trusts God to accomplish his own decrees. Why should I steal when God has promised to supply my need? Why should I avenge myself when I know that the Lord has espoused my cause? Confidence in God is a most effectual security against sin.” (Spurgeon n.d., 415-416)

David is waiting on the Lord.

We are also, waiting on the Lord.

Isaiah 40:28–31

**“Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is an eternal God, the creator of the whole earth. He does not get tired or weary; there is no limit to his wisdom. He gives strength to those who are tired; to the ones who lack power, he gives renewed energy.** Even youths get tired and weary; even strong young men clumsily stumble. **But those who wait for the LORD’s help find renewed strength; they rise up as if they had eagles’ wings, they run without growing weary, they walk without getting tired.”** (NET 2nd ed.)

Psalms 26:2–3

**“Examine me, LORD, and put me to the test; Refine my mind and my heart. For Your goodness is before my eyes, And I have walked in Your truth.”** (NASB 2020)

How willing are we to ask the Lord to fully examine us and purge any sin that He may find in us? The Lord knows us better than we know ourselves. This is a scary prayer here. Do we want the Lord, who already



knows us better than we do, to examine us and shows us all that would keep us from being what He wants us to be?

Truthfully, we will never walk with integrity unless we are first willing to be exposed. We must be willing to be truly seen and truly known. Without that kind of openness, there will never be integrity. (Smith and Akin 2022, 196)

What does that mean in reality? Transparency. Openness. Allowing our brothers and sisters to get to know us, meaning the real us.

Large megachurches are the in thing today because for the introvert and the one who has decided not to grow further in the Lord, they can hide.

But you can't hide from the Lord. He has a plan for each and every one of us no matter our personality, introverted or not. He can take us where we are right now and change us into who He wants us to be. But He cannot do that unless we agree.

Hiding in a church where you can "disappear" is not the answer. But hiding is a very human thing to do. After the fall, it was desired.

Genesis 3:8

**"Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God moving about in the orchard at the breezy time of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the orchard."** (NET 2nd ed.)

That is what sin did, made us want to hide. However, Jesus Christ, as He changes us, we want to be like Him. And we find ourselves agreeing with David. "Examine me Lord, and put me to the test."

That is a dangerous request, it will change your life forever but without that, integrity is not possible. And about that word integrity. Here in Psalm 25, David is using the word תָּמַר (tōm) which means "perfection, uprightness, completeness, entirety." (Koehler, et al. 1994-2000, 1743) The idea is blameless because of the Lord.

Psalm 26:3

"For Your goodness is before my eyes, And I have walked in Your truth." (NASB 2020)

Goodness is an attribute of God and it has two meanings. God Himself is good all the time, He is holy, and it speaks of His intrinsic holiness, it is who He is, holy. The other way to look at God is good all the time is that all that He does is good, it is a reflection of His love. God's holiness reflects in God's love. When you begin to examine that, then you find yourself also considering the mercy and grace of God as well.

The goodness of God is what Lucifer managed to get Adam and Eve to doubt. His alleged curiosity and surprise that he deceived Eve with, over the single tree not to eat from, points out his denial of God's goodness. The lie here, God is not as good as you think, otherwise He would not withhold this one tree from you. You can have greater fulfillment and achieve greater good apart from God.

We still hear that today. The whispers from the enemy begin with you need this thing to be fulfilled. If God was so good, He would give it to you, but He hasn't. Take it for yourself. You need this person to be fulfilled, you need this.

When Eve bought into that idea, she was doomed and as a result, thinking that the reasoning of Lucifer was sound, it wasn't, God is good and in His good will He desires us to be obedient even in the little



things, Eve disagreed and felt there was a greater good in seeking that which is outside of God's good will. And she disobeyed.

Adam knew better, but because of the lies of Satan and the acceptance of his false statement that God was withheld this from you because He is not as good as you thought, we continue to have the issue today. We are all like our parents, sinners.

But God is good!

Jesus will return because God is good. "God will restore his creation in a new heaven and a new earth (Rev. 21:5), sustaining the people who live there with water from "the spring of the water of life" (v. 6), dwelling with them in their midst as their God who removes all tears and pain and death (vv. 3–4). God's people will inherit these things, and they will enjoy God as the One who indeed cares for his children (v. 7)." (Schnabel 2011, 249)

The rapture of the church will take place before the Tribulation begins because God is good. Jesus promised.

John 14:1–3

**"Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many rooms; if that were not so, I would have told you, because I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I am coming again and will take you to Myself, so that where I am, there you also will be."** (NASB 2020)

A good God makes promises and then fulfills those promises.

1 Thessalonians 4:13–5:11

**"But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words.** Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. **But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing."** (ESV)

His goodness and all that it means is before our eyes, His goodness to fulfill His promises to us to include His promise to not have us subjected to His wrath but rather to go to that place Jesus has been preparing for us. His goodness before us is evident in that He calls us His friends, and He has provided us His word, and we can know where we are on the prophetic timeline.



He is indeed good even to the point that the moment we leave this life in death, we are instantly with Jesus. We serve a good and holy promise keeping God.

2 Corinthians 5:6–8

**“Therefore we are always full of courage, and we know that as long as we are alive here on earth we are absent from the Lord—for we live by faith, not by sight. Thus we are full of courage and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.”** (NET 2nd ed.)

And because of seeing that and knowing that, we walk in His truth.

Psalms 26:4–7

**“I do not sit with deceitful people, Nor will I go with pretenders. I hate the assembly of evildoers, And I will not sit with the wicked.** I will wash my hands in innocence, And I will go around Your altar, LORD, That I may proclaim with the voice of thanksgiving And declare all Your wonders.” (NASB 2020)

As a believer, David has learned how to keep himself centered on the Lord and away from the rumors, away from those who would lie to him, away from those who would take his place he does not want to go, away from hypocrites.

We have the same choice. Before I was saved, no one invited me to their shady parties. After I came to Christ, then the invites began to come in. People who never wanted to be my friend suddenly want to be my friend.

Why is that? Satan kicks in phase one of his plan to distract us and remove our effectiveness for Him. And he will bring by and use almost anyone to do this.

Paul was totally correct in his assessment of this.

1 Corinthians 15:33–34

**“Do not be deceived: “Bad company corrupts good morals.” Sober up as you should, and stop sinning! For some have no knowledge of God—I say this to your shame!”** (NET 2nd ed.)

As David prays, he is telling the Lord about his volitional decision that he made earlier in his life to maintain his integrity and walk with the Lord. Pretty basic stuff but someone told him that there are those who will try and mislead you and take your place that you wish you never went to.

Literally, this is an element of learning for all of us, it is a basic of discipleship.

As we come to Christ as new believers, some of our friends will not understand and they will drift away. But some will try and take you with them as they did in the past.

And if that doesn't work, then the enemy will bring someone by who looks innocent enough, they may even allege faith in Christ, but their goal ultimately is to bring you down. And then there are the hypocrites who will pull up alongside you and try to take you with them. The real issue of temptation comes up and even David gave in at a point in his life, even though he states his commitment here.

I remember Pastor Chuck Smith telling us how he had never been attractive to any other women other than his wife until Calvary Chapel was suddenly in the news and thousands were being saved. Then they began to show up for “counseling.”

Joseph shows us the appropriate response. Run.





Genesis 39:11–12

“One day he went into the house to do his work when none of the household servants were there in the house. She grabbed him by his outer garment, saying, “Come to bed with me!” **But he left his outer garment in her hand and ran outside.**” (NET 2nd ed.)

Better yet, avoid the situation and place barriers around you to protect yourself. David gives us the first decision we must make, do not even sit with those who are deceitful. Stay away from those who pretend at believing. Or in words we would see today, do not go out with and hang out with hypocrites, with anyone who twists the word. I think Spurgeon says it well.

“We must maintain the separated path with more and more circumspection as we see the great redemption day approaching. Those who would be transfigured with Jesus, must not be disfigured, by conformity to the world. The resolution of the Psalmist suggests, that even among professed followers of truth we must make distinctions, for as there are vain persons out of the church, so there are dissemblers in it, and both are to be shunned with scrupulous decision. (Spurgeon n.d., 417)

Psalms 26:5

**“I hate the assembly of evildoers, And I will not sit with the wicked.”** (NASB 2020)

So, have we done what we could to stay away from those evildoers, if we know who they are, who will drag us down. Yes, there are those times you don’t know until you get there, always be ready to turn around and leave. David went a step further. If he knew the location he was being asked to go to and meet folks at, had a bad reputation, he would not go.

The assembly of evildoers is a place that some who are new to the faith, find themselves willingly going to because that was where they would spend a Friday or Saturday evening prior to coming to Christ. Once again, this would be a discipleship basic.

I asked this question of someone once. “Of all of the folks you have talked to there in the bar, how many know Jesus and would help you stay away from evil?” The answer I got was “none” but this was someone who was less than two weeks old in the Lord. They were learning. I have heard also the witnessing opportunity claim. I have heard it more than once as a new follower of Jesus relents and goes with one of their BC friends to a bar. It seldom ends well.

We must decide, how important is it to maintain our integrity? David learned how to do this and so do we. Do I have the innate internal ability to withstand temptation and remain faithful? Personally, I would have to answer no.

James 1:13–15

“Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. **But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.**” (ESV)

David decided he would not place himself into the situation, but he did one time, and it ended in disaster. He repented of his sin with Bathsheba, but nothing was ever the same. Sin does that.

Here is the truth on the idea of temptation, as followers of Christ, we are equipped with the Holy Spirit. But there is an idolatry component and that is what grabs many, pretty much because we do not understand the scope of the word.





1 Corinthians 10:12–14

“Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. **No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it. Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.**” (ESV)

However, walking onto your roof with a pair of binoculars at wash time is probably not the wisest thing to do.

Paul's point, then, is that in ordinary human trials one can expect divine aid. There is no danger of “falling” here. But it is otherwise with idolatry. The “way out” in that case is simply put: “Therefore, flee idolatry.” (Fee 1987, 461-462)

The definition of idolatry is the worship of false gods, idols, or loving something or someone other than God greatly and excessively instead of God.

Paul is saying God has provided for us that when we are tempted, it isn't anything unusual and He has a way for us to go to prevent falling to it. However, what if we begin to think about what we said no to and start turning it over and over again in our minds. Let's look at Eden again.

Eve is standing there looking at the fruit in the tree wondering what it would taste like and the line of questioning from the Nacash making her first of all consider maybe God is not as good as she thought. Then added to that her looking at then desiring, lusting for the taste of the fruit, desiring and lusting for the promised freedom and knowledge the Nacash promised. She turned it into an idol.

That is the danger Paul is talking about. We say no to the temptation but then begin to think about it. God says no but we are now questioning why and placing ourselves above Him. Welcome to idol worship. Paul says flee.

David says don't go there. Don't even sit down with them. He knows that if you stay away from the origination point of the sin, then it becomes better for him to maintain his integrity in the Lord.

He has prayed why he does what he does and told the Lord about the way he is keeping himself for the Lord. He is hating what God hates. Why?

Psalms 26:6–7

**“I will wash my hands in innocence, And I will go around Your altar, LORD, That I may proclaim with the voice of thanksgiving And declare all Your wonders.”** (NASB 2020)

David made a conscious decision to move away from the things God hates and towards those things God loves. The longer we walk with the Lord, the more we find ourselves becoming more like Jesus and wanting to also stay away from what He hates, and we see that His passions, start becoming ours.

David is clear what he wants. He wants to worship the Lord; he wants to ritually wash his hands as the practice was at the time and as he does so and be there walking around the altar and worshipping the Lord as he makes sacrifice to the Lord.

As a follower of YAHWEH, David's heart was a picture of YAHWEH's heart (1 Samuel 13:14). He loved the place where he could worship the Lord. He loved worshipping with those who were there, and he loved being where God's glory was. The whole package was on his heart as that was how God was reaching man at the time.



The way Josh Smith puts it makes sense to me.

It is often said that you should not trust people who say they love Jesus but don't love the church. The reality is, the more we love Jesus with pure and sincere hearts, the more we love the things Jesus loves, and Jesus loves his church. Those who walk with integrity are not just involved in the church for the outward show; they are involved in the church because they love what Jesus loves. As we seek to live with integrity, we must ask ourselves if we love righteousness as Jesus does. (Smith and Akin 2022, 197)

If you find yourself upset at false teaching in the church, it is because you love what Jesus loves. He loves His church and is less than happy about those churches who leave their first love and begin teaching another Jesus.

David wants to be found worshipping around the altar. Reflecting where he wants to be has embedded in it that he is innocent of the charges since only those who are right with the Lord can even have access. He wants to be holy in his life and is saying that as far as his relationship is with the Lord currently, he is.

Psalm 26:8–9

**“LORD, I love the dwelling of Your house, And the place where Your glory remains. Do not take my soul away along with sinners, Nor my life with men of bloodshed,”** (NASB 2020)

David is not talking about the Temple; it has not been built yet. He is either talking about the Tabernacle or the tent he put up for the Ark in Jerusalem. Depends on the timing of when he wrote this. The staff surrounding the service had their issues, but David still knew that was the place to go and worship, it was where God would meet man. It was where His glory was and that was where he wanted to be.

Are there problems today in the church? Of course there is, we are still relying on fallen men to serve in it just as there were fallen men serving at the time of David. The true church, not a building but a global fellowship of true believers in Jesus Christ, is the focus of Jesus. He loves His church; He loves His body. The real problem for many of us is we have been wounded or injured by people who are in the church, some supposedly acting as shepherds of the flock, others serving as elders or teachers, but because we all have a sin nature, there is always the potential of sin and self-serving showing up.

Of the seven churches that Jesus wrote to in Revelation 3 & 4, two had nothing bad said about them, two had nothing good said about them, and the other three were a mixed bag.

Knowing that, we still see this in Hebrews.

Hebrews 10:23–25

**“Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise. Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.”** (NLT)

Who is it that would like to see the church fall? Satan.

We are sheep, sheep do not do well on their own. Not at all. We all must follow our shepherd, Jesus Christ and those who are called to be pastors are given under shepherd duties to protect the portion of the flock that has been provided to them by Jesus for their care.

David loves the Lord's house. How do we walk in God's ways and find ourselves able to ask the Lord to vindicate, or judge us, this is the final practical piece of the puzzle, we love God's house, which would be His people



We already looked at this, “Bad company corrupts good character.” It is true. But it is equally true that good company develops it. If you want to grow in righteousness, you need to spend time with God and with those who are striving to model morality.” (Boice 2005, 235)

We have seen how David has told the Lord that he is very careful of who he associates with, in essence, he is separating himself from evil.

Psalm 26:9

**“Do not take my soul away along with sinners, Nor my life with men of bloodshed,”** (NASB 2020)

David now asks the Lord to keep him separated from evil even in judgment. Of course, God will do this. He does this for all who are His.

David is asking that he would not suffer premature death either as sinners would suffer. There was a line of thought beginning that premature death is a consequence of wickedness. David’s son, Solomon will later develop this idea further in the Proverbs. Whybray tied the pieces together for us.

In Proverbs we learn “the wicked person (11:10), the liar (19:9) and the false witness (21:28) will perish (’ābad). The wicked person will be no more (’ayin) while the righteous will be established for ever (10:25). The lamp of the wicked will be put out (13:9; 20:20). The fool (10:21), the person who hates reproof (15:10) and the one who ‘despises his ways’ (19:16) will die (mût). The life of the wicked will be short (qāṣēr) in contrast to the long life promised to those who fear Yahweh (10:27, a specific reference to premature death, clearly to be taken literally). Such premature death (māwet) is the fate of those who pursue evil(11:19), but it can be avoided by righteousness (10:2; 11:4), by attention to the teaching of the wise (13:14) or by the fear of Yahweh (14:27). (Whybray 1990, 25-26)

David, as he prays and expresses his confidence in the Lord, also reflecting how he has kept himself pure for the Lord, and based on the promises he has received, expresses confidence in not ending up in the same place as those who are accusing him. We get a sample of some of the accusations.

Psalm 26:9–10

**“Do not take my soul away along with sinners, Nor my life with men of bloodshed, In whose hands is a wicked scheme, And whose right hand is full of bribes.”** (NASB 2020)

David makes reference to those who are murderers, conspirators, and bribe others to achieve their goals. When he asks not to have his soul taken away, implying early death, this is the group he is not wanting to be included with.

What we see are representations of who those who are persecuting him are.

There are indeed those who want David dead. Saul was the leader of that group.

Saul was the leader of the conspiracy to deny David even life. Those who are accusing him of being a killer, conspirator and bribery expert were actually reflecting what their lifestyle was like.

When David said their right hand was full of bribes, he was reflecting that those engaged in this action were the experts at bribery.

This is an interesting group.



Psalm 26:11–12

**“But as for me, I will walk in my integrity; Redeem me, and be gracious to me. My foot stands on level ground; In the congregations I will bless the LORD.”** (NASB 2020)

Going back to verse one, because he has asked God to vindicate him, he is confident in the outcome. As such, he will continue to walk in integrity.

David’s decision is to remain in his integrity. He has prayed about this and reflected to the Lord how he can be tested by the Lord and his case would be proven.

The major way he will maintain his integrity is there will be no flirting with sin, none at all.

Too many people today want to know what sin they can commit and still be considered a Christian. That would not be the view of David.

With his footing solid and on level ground, he is keeping himself away from those things that might produce temptation or sin.

Shortly after we were married, Dianne made a batch of wonderful oatmeal cookies. I was told to leave them till dinner, but they were in the cookie jar and smelled so good.

So, I decided that to protect them, it would be necessary for me to put the cookie jar next to my chair in the living room. The temptation was a bit too much and boom, the cookie jar lid was off, and I was eating cookies.

It didn’t help either when I was asked what I was doing eating the cookies, I explained to her I was keeping them safe. Yes, I was in trouble because I gave in to oatmeal cookies.

But too many of us today give into things much worse than a sugar rush.

Don’t flirt with sin. Joseph ran. That seems to be the action of last resort.

We must accept the fact that we will be tempted, it will indeed take place. What kind of decision have we made about that before it happens?

Let’s pray.



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