

## Discipleship Series for New Believers

### Lesson 11: The Secret of an Immovable Walk with God – Psalm 15

By Kristin Bone

“Lord, Who shall dwell [temporarily] in Your tabernacle? Who shall dwell [permanently] on Your holy hill? He who walks and lives uprightly and blamelessly, who works rightness and justice and speaks and thinks the truth in his heart, He who does not slander with his tongue, nor does evil to his friend, nor takes up a reproach against his neighbor; In whose eyes a vile person is despised, but he who honors those who fear the Lord (who revere and worship Him); who swears to his own hurt and does not change; [He who] does not put out his money for interest [to one of his own people] and who will not take a bribe against the innocent. He who does these things shall never be moved.” – Psalm 15 taken from the Amplified Bible

As Christians there is a cry to live our lives before God. We want to dwell before the Lord God of heaven knowing that He is with us; knowing that He regards us in every situation; knowing that the favor of God rests upon our lives. In Psalm 15, God opens up the secrets of what it takes to have the life that He regards where His child is continually dwelling with Him in His Holy hill.

I looked some of these words up in the dictionary because in order to really understand this we need to know the definition. The person that will dwell permanently on God's Holy hill is one who is upright and blameless. Upright means, “1. being in accord with what is right. 2. adhering to rectitude; righteous, honest or just.” God wants a person that is upright which is someone that adheres to righteousness and makes their choices consistently about what is right and true. God is truth, and He has set forth His principles He wants us to follow in His Word. The upright person will consistently live and abide by His principles and conform themselves to what He speaks to them.

Blameless means "free of guilt, not subject to blame, has lived a blameless life; of irreproachable character, and unimpeachable reputation” That is a high standard. The only way anyone is truly blameless is through the blood of Jesus Christ and by accepting what He did on the cross for us. However, there is the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit. He comes in and is convicting us of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment to come. He is constantly dealing with areas where we fall short of being like Jesus. The person that will permanently dwell on God's Holy hill is blameless.

This person also works justice. The definition of justice is "the upholding of what is just, especially fair treatment and due reward in accordance with honor, standards, or law." I looked at a portion of Psalm 1:1 and this is what was on my heart, "...nor stands [submissive and inactive] in the paths where sinners walk." The person that will dwell on God's Holy hill with Him will work justice. Not only will they abstain from evil, but they will do what is right. They will not just stand by and watch sin take place, but they will lay down their lives to see that sin is stopped and sinners are saved. This is their heart cry. They are not inactive where sinners are.

The next part is one of the two main points to this whole message, "He speaks and thinks the truth in his heart." I was looking at the life of Nathaniel earlier this week in the book of John and what Jesus said of Nathaniel. John 1:47 states, "Jesus saw Nathaniel coming toward Him and said concerning him. 'See! Here is an Israelite indeed [a true descendent of Jacob], in whom there is no guile nor deceit nor falsehood nor duplicity'." He thought and spoke the truth in His heart. There was no part darkness! This man was filled with light. He had a pure heart, and the Lord spoke a promise to him. He spoke of an open heaven being upon this pure heart that was without guile. In John 1:51 He spoke, "I assure you, most solemnly I tell you all, you shall see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man!" The person that dwells on God's Holy hill and lets God deal with the issues of the heart will experience an open heaven. This is so encouraging! An open heaven includes all of the grace, resources, and enablement of heaven, and so much more!

The next part of the psalm you can read on your own, but I wanted to focus on the last part. This person "swears to his own hurt and does not change." I have often thought of what this means. I have come up with many different ideas over the years, but what has been on my heart is the person that is suddenly faced with trials and tribulations which the Lord has revealed they must go through. There are things we pray for, and then when God answers, we see there is a cost to them. One person prays for something, and when the Lord reveals the cost, they shrink back. This person sees that it is not going to be as easy as they thought but that it will involve sacrifice and pain, and then they do not follow through.

The person that does these things will dwell on God's Holy Hill!