

A Song of Confidence and Contentment Psalm 16:1-11

The dictionary defines confidence as the feeling or belief that one can rely on someone or something; firm trust.

Contentment is defined as fulfilling the needs, expectations, wishes and desires of someone; a state of being satisfied or gratified.

This is a song about both. It's a song about trust, being confident in God which gives us contentment regarding our circumstances whatever they may be both now and for our future.

All the promises of God are yes and amen. We know that what He says, He will do. After Israel's conquest of the Promised Land, it says that God did not fail to complete one promise made to Israel. They trusted, they obeyed. God kept His word. The more we learn about God, the more we read His Word, the greater is our trust or faith or confidence in Him. In this psalm, David expresses his trust in God both as his fortress and for his future.

When I was little, probably around the age of 4-6, and we would visit grandma in New York. When it was summer and nice, my aunt would walk us down to the school playground. To get there we had to cross over the Black River on a metal, grated walkway. You could look down through the bridge at the river not all that far underfoot and see the fast flowing current. Nearby was a dam that generated power. There were lots of little whirlpools swirling around the water and for a small boy, it was quite scary. I didn't trust the bridge, but I did trust my aunt who would carry us across to the other side.

People look to all kinds of things to get them through their troubles. In this psalm, David explains that he trusts the Lord to carry him through life. This psalm expresses his utmost confidence in God and indicates that he doesn't look to anyone else for his protection and provision, his present and his future, because nothing else can help him. In God, David finds his greatest delight.

To delight in something means to bring joy or

pleasure. So as we go through this psalm we need to ask **What brings us delight? Is our greatest joy or pleasure found in earthly things or in eternal things? What are we trusting in?**

Let's take a look at the trust David had in God that brought him such delight and see its application for us.

First of all, David found that his fortress was secure. Let's keep in mind that what is true for David is also true for us when we put our trust in God.

I. HIS FORTRESS WAS SECURE – vv. 1-8

I have mentioned this before, but for those of you who don't know. I have a castle. Well, it's not really mine by ownership, but I suppose there might be an argument that I could claim a brick. My mother's grandfather was a Munroe, and the castle is Foulis Castle, which is still in existence in Scotland. The original tower is estimated to have been built in the mid-12th century, but the property wasn't deeded to Robert the Munro until the mid-14th century by the Earl of Ross. In 1746 the castle was attacked and burned by the Jacobites. Several years later, the son of the Baron began the process of rebuilding the castle which took almost 40 years to complete. Like many of the castles of its time it was rebuilt as a large mansion as it appears today.

Many castles dot the landscape of Europe. They are a testimony to the strength of those who lived in them and the safety they afforded those who were inside. But not all survived attacks. No matter how impregnable they may have appeared, there were still instruments of warfare that could knock down walls and batter doors to allow an advancing army the opportunity to invade and overtake its inhabitants.

There are five reasons that I see for David's trust in his secure fortress. He begins by noting he found his refuge, his protection in God.

A. His Protection In God – v. 1

Compare a castle with, say, Fort Mackinaw and there is a considerable difference. Castles made of stone were impressive, imposing, and intimidating. I marvel at their construction with their high, thick walls and great towers.

A fortress is a large structure with exceptional security. Some were large enough to have a town inside. It was a place where people found refuge during an attack. David began by asking God to keep him safe because in God he took refuge. **Verse 1** isn't so much about David asking for deliverance from trouble, but instead speaking about God's constant care.

In this psalm of joy David uses three different names for God.

David calls God Elohim. Elohim refers to His being our Creator God. David recognizes God's handiwork in him and around him. He sees God's thumbprint all over him. In **Psalm 139** David attests to the fact that he is fearfully and wonderfully made. Everything about him is the masterpiece of God. It attests to God's all-powerful nature in creation, that nothing is too hard for Him. Elohim speaks to His power and strength. In Elohim as his fortress, he is secure.

David also calls God Yahweh. This is in reference to Him being a covenant keeping God. He is the same God who kept His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He covenanted with the people of Israel to be their God and gave them a series of blessings and curses determined by their obedience or disobedience. He made a covenant with David to make him king and to establish his kingdom forever. As we learn throughout Scripture, we come to understand that when God makes a promise, He will not go back on His word, but will fulfill it just as He said.

If you have trusted Christ as your Savior, you are in a covenant relationship with God, through His Son. He will not break that promise with you.

The third term David uses for God is Adonai. This speaks of God's sovereignty, that He is ultimately in control of everything. I read a post from a high school friend this past week where he posted the sermon of a pastor essentially denying the sovereignty of God stating that man's free will somehow overrides God's control by saying that God is not in control of you. You are in control of you and that God is asking each of us to show goodness and love in a way that in some way changes our world.

Now, I don't deny that we have a role to show the character of Christ to others, but to suggest that God has no control over you implies that He is in some way incompetent or impotent to bring about His ultimate will because your choices affect the outcome is untrue. In His foreknowledge, God knows the choices we are going to make, both good and bad, and none of it alters what His will is. He doesn't have to make a course correction for a wrong choice we may make to accomplish his end.

David understood and acknowledged the sovereignty of God. As one author stated God is our maker, our mediator, and our master.

How secure could David be in a God who wasn't completely sovereign? David found his God to be his protection. That's why he chose the word refuge. In just a few chapters David writes: **“Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God. They are brought to their knees and fall, but we rise up and stand firm.” (Psalm 20:7-8)**

When trouble comes your way, what or where or who is your refuge?

When you seem too weak to go on, what or where or who is your refuge?

When for some reason you feel insecure, what or where or who is your refuge?

When your circumstances like illness or a shortage of funds or whatever it might be seems overwhelming, what or where or who is your refuge?

When you feel helpless, what or where or who is your refuge?

At the end of his days after the Promised Land had been conquered and the 12 tribes were given their inheritance, Joshua gave them this word of advice: **“Now fear the Lord and serve Him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your forefathers worshipped beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the**

Lord.” (Joshua 24:14-15)

All his life Joshua had found the Lord to be satisfying and trustworthy so had committed himself to faithfully follow the Lord. To Joshua, God was his refuge.

People who visit our home for the first time always ask about the little mound in the back yard. They instinctively wonder if it’s a bomb shelter. That was the thing during the 60’s and 70’s. People built places underground where they could hunker down in the event of a nuclear bomb. Our mound is a root cellar.

Some of you may have grown up in homes that had a storm cellar you went to in the event of a tornado, like in the Wizard of Oz.

People think their refuge can be in someone else. If I get into trouble all I have to do is call so-and-so. Others build up a large cash deposit as their refuge. Others rely on self-medication through drugs or alcohol as their security.

In this opening verse David is confidently resting in God. He is the only refuge David needs. He knows that any time he has some need God is his refuge. In Him he finds protection.

You are my strength when I am weak
 You are the treasure that I seek
 You are my all in all
 Seeking You as a precious jewel
 Lord, to give up I'd be a fool
 You are my all in all

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Is God your protection? He is a secure fortress.

In **verse 2** David states that he gets his provision from God.

B. His Provision From God – v. 2

Psalm 84:11 “No good thing does He withhold from those whose walk is blameless.”

In **verse 2** David expresses the personal nature of his relationship with God. He understands the covenant relationship he has with God and that nothing he has

came from his own hand. It all came from God.

One translation puts it this way: **“I have nothing good but You.”**

In other words, David didn’t find contentment or joy in anything else. God was the source of David’s joy. God was the treasure he sought above everything else.

Here is a sobering question from the pen of Tony Evans that each of us would do well to ask and answer: **“Is God our ultimate joy and treasure?”** Do we seek Him above everything else?

Job pondered that question and came to this conclusion after he lost everything – family, health, wealth – **“The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised.”** (Job 1:21) **Can we say that God is our treasure? And can we give Him praise?**

Apart from God we have nothing that is good. Warren Wiersbe writes: **“The Lord is our highest good and our greatest treasure, the giver of every good and perfect gift.”**

Psalm 73:25 **“Whom have I in heaven but You? and earth has nothing I desire besides you.”**

In a parable that Jesus told, He would ask: what is it worth to gain the whole world and forfeit your soul to hell. In other words, **what is there in all this temporal, sin cursed world that can come anywhere close to what we can gain by seeking and treasuring God? Would you rather have silver and gold or riches untold or houses and lands than the nail pierced hands? Would you rather have man’s applause or worldwide fame than to be true to His holy name?**

You alone are all I need,
 For you hold my destiny
 You alone are all that I need
 In you alone I am complete.

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II Timothy 6:17 God **“richly provides us with everything to enjoy.”**

There are a lot of things in this earth that are good. My wife and family are a good thing. My home is a good thing.

My church family is a good thing.

Work is a good thing.

Leisure can be a good thing.

It's not that those things are inherently bad. Alistair Begg puts it all in perspective with what David is saying when he writes: "what we have in God is so delightful, so rich, that coming to know Him is like discovering a treasure hidden in a field."

Jesus referred to it this way "The kingdom of heaven (in essence, God Himself) is like a treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought the field." (Matt.13:44)

Alistair Begg continues "Without the treasure we have in God, we ultimately have no other good...He is the source of all our treasures – and He is Himself our greater treasure. When we see Him as He truly is, your natural response will be to make Him the center of your life, around which revolve your thoughts, decisions, feelings, and actions...Where else would you possibly prefer to take refuge, and what else would you treasure more than Him?"

David found security in God his provider.

Third, David talks about his perspective about God.

C. His Perspective About God – vv. 3-4

In these two verses, he talks about the saintly and the sorrowful.

Regarding the **saints**, David states they are his delight. Like himself, they are the people who also have a passion to seek God, obey God, love God. Those who were important to God, His holy people, were also important to him. Because God wanted the best for them, David also wanted the best for them. I think about it from the perspective of the New Testament and the one another passages. **How do we treat others, especially those in the body of Christ?**

He looks at the joy of those who also pursue God and contrasts them with the **sorrowful**. David gives us the reason for their sorrow. It's because they have chosen to pursue after false gods. When we think of

false gods, we may automatically think of carved images made of stone, wood, or some type of metal. But I think he has in mind a broader scope of false gods. They aren't just images, but rather anything put in the place of God.

Speaking for God **Jeremiah** exclaims in **2:11-13** "Has a nation ever changed its gods? (Yet they are not gods at all.) But My people have exchanged their Glory (capital G referring to God) for worthless idols. Be appalled at this, O heavens, and shudder with great horror," declares the Lord. 'My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken Me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.'"

Paul indicates in **Romans 1:21-23** that although the wicked knew God, they didn't glorify Him and so became futile in their thinking and became fools by exchanging the truth of God for a lie making images to worship.

David is saying that their sorrow comes from idolatry. An idol isn't just some carved image, it is anything that we put ahead of God. It could be family, a career, money, fame, possessions, a hobby, self. It's important to understand why God made the first commandment not to have any other gods before Him. We are not to love anything more than God, otherwise it brings sorrow as it did for those David is speaking about. If anything is a greater source of joy than God, that is an idol. If you're still not clear about what can be an idol, think of them as a noun – any person, place, or thing.

David has the right perspective about the saints and the sorrowful. **Do we?**

Fourth, David finds his portion through God.

D. His Portion Through God – vv. 5-6

Now the word portion can mean a share, cut, or ration. Or it can mean fate or destiny. Now I don't think that David has in mind to let the chips fall where they will if he has fate in mind. Remember that David found God to be a secure fortress, a refuge in which to find shelter. So in that regard, we can

understand portion to mean what God had given him that not only includes something that is present, but also something that he knew was yet to come, something not yet possessed but had been promised. In other words, David had an inheritance that had been given to him and one that was yet in the future. That God has assigned it, speaks again of God's sovereignty. This is something that God had given him and in that case is something that was irrevocable. Nothing could alter it or take it away.

Part of my scripture reading this week was in Joshua where the Promised Land was being divided between the twelve tribes of Israel. Each tribe except for the Levites had a portion of the total inheritance.

David was expressing joy over the portion given to him by the Lord. And he had every confidence in his portion because God had made it secure.

Paul says there is an inheritance that is ours that can never be taken away.

Romans 8:38-39

Peter says this inheritance can never perish, spoil, fade. (**I Peter 1:4**)

The writer of Hebrews further explains that our inheritance comes through the Lord Jesus Christ and that this inheritance is part of the new covenant made through His death for our sins. (**Heb. 9:15**)

No inheritance we may gain in this life is worth comparing to the inestimable value of the inheritance we will share in because of Christ, in Christ, and through Christ.

Scripture tells us this inheritance is **imperishable** meaning that it will never end or run out. Any inheritance that I may leave when I die some day will eventually run out. Not this one.

Scripture tells us this inheritance is **unspoiled** meaning it will never degrade. Any inheritance I leave when I die may lessen in value. Not this one.

Scripture tells us this inheritance is **unfading**, meaning it will never lose its luster or glory. I recently had to drop our flag off at the box by the Hartland fire

department so it could be properly disposed of. The colors of the flag had faded. Not this one.

Scripture tells us this inheritance is **reserved**, meaning there are things that you can expect when you enter glory. Yes, there are some blessings we receive now like the indwelling Holy Spirit, the development of His fruit in our lives and the peace we are given because we are in Christ, but the bulk of this inheritance yet awaits us once we enter into His presence – a home in glory, a new body unaffected by sin, the presence or power of sin will be gone, no more death, no more sickness, no more tears are all part of that inheritance.

God will never change His mind about the inheritance He has promised, because it's not based on a will but on a covenant, signed with the shed blood of Christ, sealed with His Spirit and guaranteed because of your faith.

David found security in his portion of the inheritance given him through God. We can have that same assurance as David. **Are you joyful for what you already have in Christ and in what you will receive because of Christ?**

Because God was his fortress, David was secure in his portion.

In **verses 7-8** we see David's position in God.

E. His Position In God – vv. 7-8

David's position is secure in God because he sought the counsel and instruction of the One in whom he took refuge. In the counsel and instruction he received from God he responded with praise.

Counsel refers to guidance that lead to life.

According to **Proverbs 3:5-6** when we trust in the Lord with all our heart instead of leaning on our own understanding, He makes our paths straight. When we have Christ as our Savior, we are given life (**I John 5:11-12**).

When we believe on Christ we are given everlasting life (**John 3:16**).

And when we follow the instruction and counsel

that God gives us in His Word, it guides our steps and guards our path (**Psalm 119:105**).

It matters where we get our counsel and instruction. Instruction carries the idea of discipline, that sometimes God has to chasten us so that we learn obedience and trust.

Over the last several years there has been a number of phrases that have come out on both sides of the political aisle, terms like fake news and misinformation. It's gotten to the point where you aren't sure what is right and what is false. But there is certainty and security in the counsel that is giving by God so that we know where we stand and what we need to do to grow in Christlikeness.

David stood secure because God was at his right hand. That was a position of the one protecting the other. It speaks of being an advocate and defender. In this position, he is not shaken. It's the same thought David shared in **15:5**. Christ is our advocate before the Father. When Satan accuses us, Christ stands in defense of our position in Him as our lawyer advocating on our behalf. He tells the Father that because we are in Him, we are secure and in that we can stand firm. In that security we have nothing to fear.

Are you standing secure in God? Is He standing at your right side?

Tony Evans makes this comment: **"Be grateful for God's presence as you seek refuge in Him...The greater life's challenges, the more believers should strive to remain in God's presence."**

Simply put, David was guided by God and he was guarded by God. **Are you positioned in the same way with God?**

Brother Lawrence writes: **"I cannot imagine how religious persons can live satisfied without the practice of the presence of God. For my part, I keep myself retired with Him in the...center of my soul as much as I can; and while I am so with Him I fear nothing."** Remember that if you are in Christ your fortress is secure. It can never be breached.

Because of that, in the remaining verses, we see that David found his future was sure.

II. HIS FUTURE WAS SURE – vv. 9-11

It was sure because of God's promise.

A. He Was Sure Because of God's Promise – vv. 9-10

All that David had experienced because he found God to be his secure fortress brought him to the point of praise. God's kept promises resulted in gladness of heart. He was confident that God would never abandon him to the grave. Both Peter and Paul would use this passage in reference to Christ who did not stay in the tomb but was resurrected on the third day. So these verses are Messianic in nature pointing to the future resurrection of the Savior. Paul would write that if Christ remained in the grave then our faith is to be most pitied and we can never hope for our own resurrection. Because Christ was victorious over death and the grave we can be assured of the same because of faith in Him. **I Peter 1:3-9**

**Can you claim the promise of the resurrection?
Does your heart rejoice at the thought of the resurrection?**

David has one final thought about the surety of his future. It's because of God's presence.

B. He Was Sure Because of God's Presence – v. 11

Harvard Professor Alfred Whitehead once asked a friend **"As for Christian theology, can you imagine anything more appallingly idiotic than the Christian idea of heaven?"**

Scripture makes abundantly clear that there is only one right path and the person who takes that path is filled with inexpressible joy with eternal pleasures. David knew his future was with God. Do you have joyful anticipation of the promised reality of God's presence for eternity? Trust in the Lord with all your heart. In that be confident, be content.