



May 24, 2011 - Psalm 100:4

Hi everyone,

I am finding great strength and direction in these verses from Psalm 101. It seems the Holy Spirit brings them to mind at just the right time. Should I be surprised? No...God's Word tells us His Spirit within us will bring to mind the things that He has told us (John 14:26). Just another benefit of memorizing God's Word! Be encouraged and keep hiding His Word in your heart.

In the NASB Psalm 101:4 reads,

**"A perverse heart shall depart from me,
I will know no evil."**

I like this verse. I identify with it and I imagine you will, too. So...let's talk about it.

First, let's think back to David's declaration in verse 3. Remember David said, "...**I hate the work of those who fall away, it shall not fasten its grip on me.**" Recently someone told me that the opposite of love is not hate. At first I disagreed, but the more I listened, the more I understood his point. He said that love and hate actually play off of one another. In other words, the more you love something, the more you will hate what works against it. For instance, the more you love righteousness, the more you will hate sin. But think about it this way...if you really don't love righteousness, then you really won't hate sin. So in reality, the opposite of love is apathy. So, following this same thought...if I don't love righteousness, I will be apathetic about sin.

What does all of this have to do with Psalm 101:4? A lot. Since Psalm 101 began, David has been making declarations that reveal his love for righteousness. Remember these phrases... "**I will sing of lovingkindness and justice,**" and "**I will give heed to the blameless way,**" and what about "**I will walk within my house in the integrity of my heart.**" My favorite is, "**I will set no worthless thing before my eyes, I hate the work of those who fall away, it shall not fasten its grip on me.**" Hearing these declarations makes it obvious that David loves righteousness and he hates sin. At this point in my life, I identify with him. What about you?

I wish I could say that I have always hated sin, but the truth is for years I was apathetic about sin because I really didn't love righteousness. But God's Truth has grown me; His Spirit has been doing a sanctifying work in me and I can honestly say, I love righteousness and I hate sin! That is why I am identifying with David's declarations and desire to make them my own. And I am.

However, the Holy Spirit is still nudging me and convicting me. He continues to use God's Truth to reveal to me that even though I love righteousness, my heart is still dealing with the perversity of sin. I think David knew this about himself, too. So he says, "**A perverse heart shall depart from me, I will know no evil.**" David knew he was still dealing with sin, even as much as he hated it. I love his attitude...He acknowledges the sin, but he makes another strong declaration in verse 4. If I put verse 4 into my own words, it would sound like this, "*I see the sin in me, but I am determined it isn't staying here. I am not going to have a relationship with evil in my life!*"

Loving righteousness and hating sin. It is just right to live before the Lord in this way!

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