

Meditation 8, Psalms 15 & 16

"Living in the Presence of the Lord"

*"Lord, who may sojourn in Your tent, who may dwell on Your holy mountain? ... You will teach me the path of life." In Your presence is perfect joy; delights are ever in Your right hand."
Psalm 15:1 and 16:11*

How can a mere human walk day to day with the eternal God, and dwell in his presence? The answer we find in the Psalms is to do what is right, acknowledge what is true, speak no evil against others, harm no one, keep a promise even when doing so even when it is not advantageous to yourself, honor other people who fear the Lord, loan to those in need without interest and do not accept a bribe or harm the innocent.

Some argue against living in such a way. They say "These are works of foolish people." Others say "such works are not necessary, salvation is a free gift not dependent upon works." Biblical truth is that salvation requires more of us than just asking Jesus to forgive us our sins so we can go to heaven when we die. There is a here and now aspect of salvation, a requirement that the person seeking salvation begin the spiritual journey through repentance – turning away from his own ways to the way of the LORD.

Our Psalmist certainly understood the spiritual goal was not just to enter some future paradise that arrives after this world is over. His desire was to live for GOD today, to experience God today through an obedient life. He was not disappointed! The LORD became his benefactor. The LORD provided his daily needs. The LORD controlled his fate. The LORD caused him to live in a delightful country and the LORD blessed him with unshaken security. These are the good things that come to us when we walk obediently with God. The Psalmist rejoiced in his life, his whole being exalted in God and in confidence that even in death, the Lord would never abandon him.

PRAYER: "Lord, I want to walk with you every day of my life. Please teach me what it is I must do to experience you more fully. Amen"

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