



May 17, 2011 - Psalm 100:3

Hi everyone,

I love these declarations David is making over his life. I also have the opportunity to make them over my life. You do, too. Declarations of lovingkindness and justice; declarations of living blameless before the Lord in every moment. We each have that opportunity. I am thankful the Holy Spirits whispers to me about giving heed to the blameless way. I am thankful for the times He urges me to walk with integrity in my house. God's call for our life is always upward. It is way higher than the norm that many will choose to live in. We all have a choice. David has declared his choice in Psalm 10 and he continues in verse 3. Let's take a look.

In the NASB Psalm 101:3 reads,

**"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."**

Wow...this is intense! It gets down to the nitty gritty of things...no pretending allowed here. It is helpful to view this verse as a continuation of the thought in verse two. See, in verse two, David declared that he would live in blameless integrity, in public and in private. Well, verse 3 is really a description of how he is going to actually do that. So what is his action plan?

First he says, **"I will set no worthless thing before my eyes."** David realizes how important his vision is. Even then he realized the Truth that Jesus later proclaimed in Matthew 6:22-23 about clear vision. Jesus taught that when our sight is focused on worthless things, our lives will become full of darkness. Why? Well, when we set things before us that are "worthless" eventually we begin to rationalize our relationship with them. Consider Eve...sure the tree of forbidden fruit was in her sight many times a day. It was in the middle of the garden. Sure, she saw it often. But it was when she allowed the serpent to set it before her eyes that she took of it and sinned against God. Genesis 3:6 says, **"But when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate..."** We will escape so much trouble when we make a declaration to set no

worthless thing before our eyes!

All of this raises a question...who determines what is worthless? A solid answer is God alone. In our culture of relativity, rationalization and reactionary indulgences we need to set our standards of valuable and worthless by God's Truth. Many things will look valuable to us that are truly worthless in God's eyes. The more we spend time with Him in His Truth, the more He will give us the discernment to see valuable and worthless by His standard. Every day each of us deals with opportunities to set worthless things in our path of vision, whether it be something on TV, our computer, thoughts, conversations, worries, something forbidden, despair, something unwholesome, something not profitable, etc. Each of us has a choice of what to do with these things. What is our declaration concerning worthless things?

David also declares that he "**hates the work of those who fall away.**" What does he mean by that? What is the work of those who fall away? Well, I believe he already began a description of that work. See falling away really begins with setting something before our eyes that is worthless. That is the starting place. Once we focus on something worthless, after a time we believe it's lie, then we join with it, we get caught in its grip and it lures us away. David understands this. That is why he says, "**it shall not fasten its grip on me.**"

Have you ever felt like a sin pattern had a grip on you? It is what the Bible often refers to as a "stronghold." The work of sin can easily get a strong grip on us and before we know it we are falling away.

There have been many times in my life that I didn't really hate the work of sin and it easily fixed its grip on me. For instance, I used to allow my mind to despair...worthless thoughts which were not true. There is no room for despair in the life of a believer. Why? Because God is good. That is the Truth. But I set my eyes on despair often. Before I knew it, despair and depression had a grip on me...luring me away from the joy of my salvation, luring me away from any desire to live at all, let alone live for Christ. Today I have made a declaration over my life...I live with a conviction that God is good. I will not set worthless thoughts of despair before my eyes. I hate it when I see people fall away like that and I will not let it fasten its grip on me. That is an example of a declaration I have made in my life. This verse has challenged me to make many more!

What about you? Are there places you have allowed worthless things to be set before your eyes and now you see sin's grip on you, luring you away from God? Maybe it is time to make a declaration. A declaration that says, "**I will set no worthless thing before my eyes, I hate the work of those who fall away; it will not fasten its grip on me.**"

I think we can really learn from David's declarations this week. It is just right to live before the Lord in this way.

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