

One Step at a Time

One of the most vivid images in the Bible is what we read of in Psalm 119:105: "Your word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path." This presents a powerful picture, especially in the context of those who lived in biblical times.



In the times of the Psalmist, there were no powerful flashlights. The traveler carried a small oil lamp, whose flax wick gave off only a little light. There was enough to see by, but not enough to see very far down the path. There was basically just enough to take the next step or two without stumbling or falling.

What an appropriate reminder for us. The Word of God is a lamp to our path. It doesn't illuminate far into our personal future, but it does shine in our present. God's Word gives us the light to take our next step in life – and that's all we need to keep from stumbling.

If we fill our minds, hearts, and lives with God's Word, we will always have the light we need to know what we must do next.

Edd Sterchi, Broadway Church of Christ, Campbellsville, KY (via Bulletin Digest)

In Times of Stress



In Psalms 56, we read David's words during a time of extreme stress. There came a time when the young warrior was captured by the Philistines in the area of Gath. You will recall that David defeated and killed the Philistines' beloved warrior, Goliath, in battle (1 Samuel 17). Goliath's hometown was Gath. You can imagine that this was a place where David was most hated. David gives us an idea of how dangerous this area was to him: It was there that David was being hunted down (Psalms 56:1-2); David's enemies were spreading lies about him (Psalms 56:5); and they were constantly planning and scheming to destroy David (Psalms 56:6).

In the midst of all this stress and fear, David makes this amazing declaration of faith: "When I am afraid, I put my trust in You ..." and "... in God I trust and am not afraid. What can man do to me?" (Psalms 56:3,11).

David knew that by actively choosing to trust in God, one can overcome fear and find peace even amidst the most difficult circumstances. So, whenever you are feeling anxious or threatened, turn to prayer and trust in God's protection.

- Larry Fitzgerald, Woodlawn Church of Christ, Abilene, TX (via Bulletin Digest) -

"...The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" - Psalm 27:1

News Notes

CARE & SHARE BEARS: Each Tuesday at 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. All ladies are invited to participate. Sewing skills not necessary. Come and help if you can.

CONVERT'S CLASS: Each Thursday at 11:00 a.m. Open to all.

PANTRY: Macaroni & cheese.

ON THE PRAYER LIST: ALLEGHENY GENERAL HOSPITAL: Brian Haught (Skip's brother). **At Home:** Elaine McClung, Ed Wiersbicki, John Sprout, Peggy Linger, Randy Beagle, Bob McMahan, Scharlotte Jones, Dean Spencer, Harry Huff, Nancy Cox, Barbara DeLong, Marlene Evans, Cheryl Renfro Walker. **Fox-Chester:** Janice Hutchins, Mary Johnson. **Elsewhere:** Carolyn Carbone, 98 Orange Blossom Lane, Ranson, WV 25438. Herman McHan, 7401 Elmwood Dr., Lisbon, OH 44432. **In Afghanistan area:** Michael Heath, son-in-law of Mike & Marcie Martin.

COMING APRIL EVENTS:

Senior Day, April 5

Our Gospel Meeting, April 20-24

What Every Christian Needs

"But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love" (1 Corinthians 13:13).

In our confused, broken, and chaotic world, there are some fundamental things every person needs! Yes, they need each of these things. These things are not to be taken lightly or dismissed as trivial. They are basics of life.

We need faith. Without faith we cannot please God (Hebrews 11:6). Without faith we cannot be saved (John 3:18; 8:24). Without trust in God, we are left to trust our feeble thoughts or the fickle opinions of the world. Opinions are guesses in the absence of evidence, while faith is built on God's evidences in the world and in Scripture.

We need hope. Life without hope leaves us empty in our souls. The struggles, disappointments, and heartaches of life leave us longing for something better than what we now know and have. The Lord provides us a living hope in Christ Jesus (1 Peter 1:3-5). We have hope for forgiveness and hope for eternal life in heaven. Hope comes from trust in God's promises. Since God keeps His promise, our hope is not in vain.

We need love. Love is the *"summum bonum"* of life, the highest good, the ultimate goal by which we determine our goals and morals. There is nothing higher than loving God with all our hearts, souls, minds, and strength and loving our neighbor (Matthew 22:37-40).

- Phil Sanders, Speaker: *In Search of the Lord's Way* (via Bulletin Digest)