

TRUE SECURITY // PSALM 16

People try to achieve security in a number of ways, from home alarm systems to frequently updated passwords. The only way to know true and eternal security is through God.

Five ways to seek the Lord as our refuge:

1. Acknowledge God's supremacy

Three elements of God's supremacy are presented in this psalm:

- a. His lordship (v. 2a)—David is talking about the LORD, the covenant God who had lead his people out of Egypt and into the promised land. David acknowledges that not only is God great, but he is Lord; David has surrendered his life to him.
- b. His goodness (v. 2b)—God's goodness goes hand in hand with his lordship—none of us want to surrender our lives to a tyrant. But God actually sets the standard for what is good, and anything else will fail in comparison to him.
- c. His sufficiency (v. 4-6)—In verse 4, David declares that he does not need the false gods others are worshipping; the Lord is all he needs. Verses 5 and 6 recall the entry to the Promised Land in the book of Joshua and the setting of boundary lines as each tribe is granted a portion of the land. But David says that the Lord is his portion—as wonderful as the gift of the land is, it is God that he wants. Let us remember that God is the goal and not a means to an end.

2. Delight in God's people (v. 3)

God used people in David's life to give him security. God can use the church to comfort believers in a time of need. Be involved in the local church—God is using it.

3. Trust God's counsel (v. 7-8)

David describes God in two ways here: as counselor and guide. He sees God's word as trustworthy, and he demonstrates that the benefits of God's word are comfort and security. We have the complete Bible, the whole counsel of God—let's cherish it, study it, meditate on it, and be shaped by it.

4. Praise God's faithfulness (v. 9-10)

Believers experience the first three points in this life; but God is also faithful in the life to come. Christ died for us, and God did not abandon him to the grave or let his perfectly faithful one see decay. The same is true for all who are in Christ.

5. Enjoy the presence of God (v. 11)

Living in the presence of God entails two wonderful things: abundant joy and eternal pleasures. If we are in the refuge of God, our security cannot be taken away. And these are things that can be experienced right now. As Matthew 28:18-20 indicates, Jesus has all authority, he is Lord over all; and he is with us always, to the end of the age.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Are we tempted to place our trust in earthly things? How can we make sure that our true security is in the Lord?
2. Can you recall a time when God used his people as a source of comfort to you? How did God manifest his faithfulness through the church?
3. What does it look like to enjoy the presence of God in day-to-day life? How does enjoying his presence impact how we live our lives?