

We Need What David Needed

Joe Slater

King David struggled against sin as all of us do. He didn't always win. That "man after God's own heart" keenly felt his own flaws, so he prayed for God's help.

"Who can understand his errors?" (Psalm 19:12a). Sometimes David didn't even realize he had strayed from the path until after the deed was done. Has that ever been the case with you? David prayed, *"Cleanse me from secret faults"* (19:12b).

Secret faults might not be limited to those of which you aren't aware. What about the times when you're very much aware, but you hope nobody else is? You try to keep those things secret, but you can't hide them from God! David learned that the hard way when he vainly tried to hide His adultery with Bathsheba. Only when he confessed and sought God's forgiveness did he find peace.

As a great and successful warrior king, David also knew the danger of pride. *"Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins"* (Psalm 19:13a). Presumption occurs when you know what God has said in His word but you pridefully behave as though your own way is just as good or better. Few, if any, would claim, "I'm smarter than God!" But sometimes our actions betray that attitude.

Let us, as David did, recognize the dangers of carelessness, keeping sin hidden, and presumptuousness. Only with the Lord's help can we overcome these stumbling blocks.

Resting in God's Wisdom

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding." – Proverbs 3:5

Have you ever found yourself overwhelmed, trying to make sense of life's complexities, feeling the weight of decisions, problems, or even your own thoughts? In today's fast-paced world, we often strive to have all the answers, to figure things out on our own. But the truth is, we were never meant to carry such a burden. Just as the brain, with all its billions of neurons, is far beyond our ability to fully comprehend, so too is life itself. The Creator, in His infinite wisdom, designed both to be complex, knowing that we would need to rely on Him.

God's invitation is clear: we are not to lean on our own understanding. The pressure to know everything, to manage every detail of our lives, is not something He ever intended for us to bear. And this is where the love of Christ comes in. Jesus, fully aware of our limitations, came to help carry our burdens. He invites us to find rest in Him. When we find ourselves anxious or confused, it is a sign to step back and trust in God's higher wisdom through Christ. We may not have all the answers, but we have the assurance that God does—and Jesus is with us every step of the way. We don't have to figure everything out because Christ is already holding everything together for us.

Today, reflect on an area of your life where you've been trying to carry the weight of understanding on your own. What would it look like to release that to Christ? Spend a moment in prayer, asking for the strength to let go and trust in His plan.

--Robert Kargbo (Middleton, WI)

Solving the Greatest Mystery

In one of the Indiana Jones movies, I remember a scene when one of Indy's friends was shot by a gangster. As the character lay dying, he looked up at Indiana Jones and said, "I've followed you on many adventures, but into the great unknown mystery... I go first, Indy!" This particular scene has always stuck with me. "The great unknown mystery" to which he refers is that which comes after death.

Throughout history, people and cultures have offered their own explanations. Native Americans have their happy hunting ground. Norse warriors go to Valhalla, where they remain eternally fit for battle. Some peoples buried food, weapons, and items needed for the journey. The Egyptians buried their royalty in elaborate tombs with everything needed to be successful in the afterlife. Many afterlife items buried with the dead may now be viewed in museums.

For believers, there is no speculation for what awaits after death. Jesus tells His followers that He has gone *"to prepare a place"* (John 14:3), and that He will someday gather believers there. Paul explains that to die and be with Christ *"is far better"* (Philippians 1:23). No mysteries or grey areas exist. God resides in that eternal home, and so does Lord Jesus. That's all we need to know.

--Kenny Westmoreland (Celina, TN)

The average young male has spent 10,000 hours playing video games by the time he reaches age 21. It takes less than half of that to earn a bachelor's degree. Or begin a career. Or launch a ministry.

So I beg young men, don't spend your time saving fantasy worlds while the real world is on fire.

--Ben Stuart (via Facebook)