



Too Soon to Quit by Warren W. Wiersbe Chapter 7 – David, the Appreciator
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- I. David, the Appreciator: God is good all the time!**
- A. David was multi-talented. He was a courageous shepherd, an outstanding general, a gifted poet and a musician. He was a compelling leader and organizer.
 - B. However, David had his share of trials.
 - 1. He was often overlooked and misunderstood by his brothers.
 - 2. He was an anointed king but for several years had to hide in the wilderness running from King Saul's men.
 - 3. He was estranged from his dearest friend Jonathan who would eventually be killed on the battlefield.
 - 4. David wanted to build a temple to honor the Lord but God chose Solomon, his son, to do this.
 - 5. Enemy nations, the burdens of running a kingdom and painful family experiences burdened David.
 - C. One aspect of David's personality is often overlooked: he was a great appreciator.
 - 1. David had a grateful heart and he wasn't ashamed to express his gratitude to the Lord.
 - 2. His many skills were all bound together by a heart that knew how to say "Thank You".
 - 3. In many of David's Psalms he magnified the goodness of the Lord. (Ps. 34:8, Ps. 86:5)
 - D. David's endurance during his many difficult times of trials was partly due to his thankful heart, and an attitude of gratitude which kept him going no matter the obstacle.
 - 1. David wrote in **Ps. 27:13 (NIV2011)** ¹³ I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.
 - 2. The New American Standard Bible translates Psalm 27:13 "I would have **despaired** unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.
 - E. No matter where David looked, he saw the goodness of God and this gave him strong faith in the greatness of God.
- II. The Goodness of God**
- A. Whenever David looked up to the heavens, he thought of the goodness of the God above him.
 - B. When God informed David that he would not build the temple, the king didn't complain. His reply was simple, and demonstrated he trusted God's promises even if he did not understand His plans.
 - C. God's response to David did not stop him from worshipping God for His "abundant goodness".

1. Psalm 31:19 encourages us to remember God's love, that God has stored up the good things He knows we will need in the future.
2. We can walk calmly into each new day and be confident of God's goodness as we do His will.
3. God's divine power had given us everything we need for a godly life. (2 Pet. 1:3)
4. God supplies everything we need and God's riches in Christ are never affected by the world's economy or events. Read Phil 4:19. Although appreciative of the Philippians, Paul reminds us that his confidence was in Christ to strengthen and support him.
5. During the Hebrew people wandering in the wilderness, they received bread from heaven six mornings a week. (Deut. 2:14)
6. We must remember that the goodness of God is expressed to us every day as He meets our needs in plain and miraculous ways. (Ps. 104:27-28)

III. **God's Goodness in Creation**

- A. Go outside and pay attention to the things outside of yourself. The trees, the birds and the wind. What does God's creation say to you?
- B. When David looked around, he saw the goodness of the Lord. He was a great outdoorsman; he spent his youth as a shepherd.
- C. During David's exile years when he was hiding from Saul in the wilderness of Judea, caves were his home.
 1. When we read David's psalms it's no surprise that we see how David paid attention to the useful and beautiful things God created in nature.
 2. David saw the strength and glory of God and he called on the angels to worship the Lord as they watched the storm from their heavenly home in Psalm 29.
 3. David said the thunder was God's voice, powerful and majestic. In the thunder David seems to hear a message of the glory of God. In verse 10 David declares "the Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord is enthroned as King forever".
 4. As long as Jehovah was on the throne, David had no fear of the storm or of King Saul and his spies.
 5. In the midst of the storm a grateful David was reassured of God's goodness.
 6. In Psalm 31 we see rocks and a cave. David communed with the Lord and prayed, God stood by David and transformed that dismal cave into a Holy of Holies.
- D. This same theme of God's goodness being stamped in nature is picked up in the New Testament.
 1. Jesus saw the Father's providential care in creation, and this was to Him the secret of an untroubled heart (Matt. 6:24-34). The birds know that the Father will feed them so don't worry.
 2. According to Jesus, the Father "causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous (Matt. 5:45). We all depend on the God's goodness, whether we acknowledge it or not-but we should acknowledge it.

IV. God's Future Goodness

- A. Once our spiritual vision gets adjusted to see God's goodness above and around us, we will become more like David and begin to anticipate God's goodness before us.
- B. Psalm 21:1-2 David looked back and thanked God because He had strengthened him and answered his prayers.
- C. In verse 3 of Psalm 21 David looked ahead and anticipated even more of God's blessings "You came to greet him with rich blessings".
- D. In his sermon in John 10 about the Good Shepherd, Jesus said "when he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice (v.4)
- E. When David was a shepherd, he went before the sheep and carefully examined the pastures to make sure everything was safe, and in that way, he prepared a table before them" (Ps. 23:5)
- F. This is what the Lord does for us if we follow Him.
 - 1. God does not give us detailed blueprints because we cannot grow in faith unless we walk by faith.
 - 2. He had given us what we need: His Word, the Holy Spirit, the counsel of His people and the assurance of His providence. (Ps. 48:14 and 2 Cor. 9:8).
 - 3. Paul's assurance to us is that "he who began a good work in you will carry it to completion until the day of Christ Jesus" (Phil. 1:6).
 - 4. What should be our hearts response to the tremendous truth that God goes before us and prepares everything for our arrival.
 - 5. Trusting God's providence ought to keep us from fearing to obey Him and when we do obey, stop us from worrying about the future.
 - 6. Faith in God's goodness should also encourage us to keep alert, so we do not miss what is waiting for us at each place He directs us.
 - 7. We should cultivate a grateful heart and never cease to thank the Lord for His providential care.
 - 8. Satan wants us to believe that God is holding out on us (Gen. 3:1-5) and that the world has something better to offer us (1 John 2:15-17). But the believer knows that God always gives His best to those who leave the choice to Him.

V. God's Tapestry of Goodness

- A. God's goodness is above us, safely stored to be dispensed as we need it.
- B. God's goodness is seen around us in the world God had made, and His goodness is waiting for us as we follow Jesus the Good Shepherd, on the path of life.

- C. But whenever our faith journey shall end, we shall look back and discover that God's goodness and unfailing love have followed us every day that we have lived (Ps. 23:6)
- D. It may not look that way today, but when we reach the Father's house and look back, we will rejoice and say, "It has been only goodness and love!" Since that will be true then, we should live in that truth now.
- E. Resting on that lets us remember Romans 8:28 and Psalm 23:6 knowing that God today is making all things work together for good and His goodness and love are following us today and all the days of our lives.
- F. When we remember this and trust the character, love and promises of God we can be true appreciators.
- G. Like David, let us appreciate the fact that "God is good" and it's always too soon to quit.