

A prayer of a man after God's own heart: Psalm 101

¹*I will sing of lovingkindness and justice to You, O LORD, I will sing praises.*

²*I will give heed to the blameless way when will You come to me? I will walk within my house in the integrity of my heart.*

³*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.*

⁴*A perverse heart shall depart from me; I will know no evil.*

Psalm 101:1-4 (NASB)

⁵*I will get rid of anyone who whispers evil things about someone else; I will not tolerate anyone who is proud and arrogant.*

⁶*I will approve of those who are faithful to God and will let them live in my palace. Those who are completely honest will be allowed to serve me.*

⁷*No liar will live in my palace; no hypocrite will remain in my presence.*

⁸*Day after day I will destroy the wicked in our land; I will expel all who are evil from the city of the Lord.*

Psalm 101:5-8 (GNT)

¹⁶This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.

¹⁷If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?

¹⁸Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.

¹⁹This then is how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence

²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us. For God is greater than our hearts, and He knows everything.

*²¹**Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God***

*²²**and receive from Him anything we ask, because we obey His commands and do what pleases Him.***

²³And this is His command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as He commanded us.

²⁴Those who obey His commands live in Him, and He in them. And this is how we know that He lives in us: We know it by the Spirit He gave us.

1 John 3:16-24 (NIV)

Condition #1: _____

A clear conscience gives us boldness and confidence before God in prayer.

1 John 3:21

Condition #2: _____

God answers the prayers of those who keep His commands.

1 John 3:22

Condition #3: _____

God answers the prayers of those who do the things that are pleasing in His sight.

1 John 3:22

Discussion Questions:

1. What does Psalm 101 reflect about David's personal obedience and desire to please God?
2. How does verse 21 reassure us as we come to God with an accusing, troubled heart?
3. What is the relationship between a "habitual, obedient lifestyle" and God answering our prayers?
4. What is at the "core" of this concept of "pleasing God," not merely obeying?
5. Are there areas of disobedience, or failure to please God, that could be hindering your prayers? What do you need to do to address these? When will you do that?