

Part 1 – Proving Our Heart

In chapter sixteen, part 1 we learned what preserves us spiritually is *faith in Jesus Christ*. That is the *only* thing that brings eternal life (preserves us forever). And this is because (as Jesus points out in John 6:63) His Words are what give us spiritual life. So, if we reject them (don't believe in God's Word) then we're truly harming our own soul. We also learned that truly, the only 'good thing' in us is the Word of God and the Holy Spirit. And those who do study to put His Words in their heart and mind, allow His Holy Spirit to guide them (to learn how to obey His Word, from the heart) and serve Him, *are* those who greatly delight our Heavenly Father. *That's* what brings blessings to us now, but it's also why we'll be given eternal life and be allowed to reign with Jesus Christ when He returns. And we also learned that this 'Mich-tam' of David means that the information contained in it should be written into our heart because it's so important (as all of God's Word is truly).

In part 2 we learned that those who want to be pleasing to our Heavenly father will *not* hasten after another god. They won't even speak of them in a good light let alone be a partaker with them in any form, shape or fashion. And, for their faithfulness to the Lord (YHVH) - and His Son, Jesus Christ – they will be rewarded a very 'goodly heritage' which is something we can truly enjoy (in part) today. Why? Because our 'goodly heritage' **is** *God Himself*! It is the Holy Spirit of God dwelling *inside* our heart and mind (our soul) that **IS** our 'goodly heritage'. And the reason this is so very 'good' (amazing and wonderful) is because of the internal peace and protection that the Holy Spirit brings to our heart (desires, emotions, intentions) and mind (thought process). And we're given the Holy Spirit (in part) while living in this flesh body when we sincerely study His Word and strive to obey it, from the heart (John 14:15-16). The Holy Spirit will then help us to put off the 'old man' (Rom 6:6, Eph 4:22, Col 3:9, Luke 9:23) and put on the 'new man', which *is created in righteousness and true holiness* (Eph 4:24). So, truly, there is nothing better than having a personal relationship with the Creator of the Universe (through Jesus Christ) as it truly brings *a peace that passes **all** understanding*, as Paul declares in Phil 4:7. And while there is nothing that surpasses this internal peace that Jesus Christ brings to our soul, we will also be given eternal life and authority to rule the world with Jesus Christ when He returns. And this means we'll have access to the many 'mansions' (resting places) that Jesus Christ has prepared for us (John 14). So, truly, our 'goodly heritage' is *exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think* (Eph 3:20). In other words, it surpasses even our 'wildest' expectations of what 'heaven' will be like. But we are so very fortunate to be able to experience a 'portion' of it *now* when the Holy Spirit dwells within us. Everything is better with the Holy Spirit inside our soul as He protects, guides, teaches and gives us peace that truly passes all understanding. Truly, *every day* is a *good day* when you are 'in' Christ Jesus and He is 'in' you!

In part 3 we learned that it is befitting for us to bless our Heavenly Father through spiritual sacrifices such as praise, thanksgiving, love, adoration, thankfulness and more. And we have so much to bless His Holy name for. He not only gives us good counsel (the best there is) through His Word, but He *always* protects, leads, guides and makes our soul come alive when we keep Him 'at our right hand', meaning when we trust in Him, through sincere faith in Jesus Christ.

Having His Words and Holy Spirit in us is truly what makes our heart glad and causes us to rest spiritually in the hope that we have in believing that His promises *will* come to pass, because they *always* do (as history and even our own life prove).

In part 3 we learned that God did not leave Jesus' soul in hell after He died and He only went to 'hell' to preach the Gospel to those who were in 'hell' so they too would have an opportunity to find forgiveness (and eternal life) through believing in Him. This also means that, through belief in Jesus Christ, we won't go to 'hell' when we die. And, if Jesus returns to earth before we die from the flesh, He will give us eternal life - just as He also gives eternal life to those who have departed from the flesh already; because they will be returning *with Him to earth* to help Him govern the earth in righteousness. That's why 1 Thess 4:17 says we'll be gathered together with them (and Jesus) so we can *stay on earth and rule with Jesus Christ* during the Millennium. David then points out the reason we are given eternal life is because we've accepted Jesus Christ and are therefore given His Holy Spirit to help us put off the 'old man' and put on the 'new man' who is created after God in righteousness. This therefore is what gives us peace that passes all understanding and gives us great joy in our heart (Phil 4:7). And thus, the Holy Spirit also is what leads us in the paths of life, as well as true peace of mind and joy in our heart; for there is *no greater joy* than being in God's presence by having His Holy Spirit within us. And this also is why we'll be at God's 'right hand' and able to receive 'pleasures forevermore'. Since we are part of Jesus' Body (the Body of Christ) we'll be helping Him rule the world. We'll therefore be His 'right hand' servants and that comes with 'pleasures forever more'. Truly, *the eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him* (1 Cor 2:9, Isa 64:5).

We now move on to a chapter that is written in view of the last Psalm (16) which spoke of the 'goodly heritage' we, who believe in Jesus Christ, have – which is His precious Holy Spirit He gives to those who love and serve Him. Again, the only 'good thing' in us is the Word of God and the Holy Spirit and *that* is what will raise our flesh body to eternal life when Jesus Christ returns. But it is also what raises us up spiritually *now*, through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. So, we must make the internal transformation now – by putting off the wicked 'old man' and putting on the 'new man' which is righteous – to be able to receive the eternal body that lasts forever. And that's what true pleasures forever more are all about, as David said in the last verse of the last chapter. Truly, the fulness of joy is when we have the presence of God (the Holy Spirit) in our heart and mind...

Psalm 17

1 A Prayer of David.

Hear the right, O LORD, attend unto my cry, give ear unto my prayer; that goeth not out of feigned lips.

This 'prayer' of David is truly a prayer of the righteous sufferer, Jesus Christ, who is the 'true David' (the One who David prophesied of). And we can conclude this because of what vs 15 teaches us. In other words, David looked forward to the coming of the Messiah when writing

both the last Psalm and this one. And *he yearned to be like Him*. David truly strived to do what's right, *from the heart*. And he knew he could only be considered righteous through the blood of Jesus Christ that would be shed for the sins of mankind (which is the only way we too can be considered righteous). That's why David goes on to plead with God to hear (attend or give ear to) his prayer. Now, the words from 'heart' to 'give ear unto my prayer' are a figure of speech called 'Anabasis', which is a 'gradual ascent'. This means that there is an *increase in emphasis* (or sense) in successive sentences. In this case, David is giving emphasis on his request for God to hear his prayer *because he is trying to do what's right* and knows he will be considered righteous (only) because he *truly* believed that the Messiah *would come*. For us today, our faith that the Messiah (Jesus Christ) *has come* is what makes us acceptable to God and causes Him to hear our prayers. David also points out that, what he was saying was *not* deceitful or for the purpose of fraud (*mirmah* #4820). The Hebrew word 'feigned' even comes from a prim root that figuratively means *to delude or betray* (as if causing to fall) (*ramah* #7411). While Jesus Christ was the only person to ever be in a flesh body that never spoke with guile (because He was without sin), David is truly being sincere here; he is not praying to try and deceive God into helping him. He is being *totally* sincere and honest with Him and that's how we should pray too – always. And the reason we should always pray to God with sincerity, honesty and humility is *because He can read our heart and mind*, which is what David will go on to explain...

Psalm 17

2 Let my sentence come forth from thy presence; let thine eyes behold the things that are equal.

The phrase '*Let my sentence come forth from thy presence*' is a request for God to judge David because His judgment is always just **and** includes mercy and grace. As Ex 34:6-7 declares: *The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation.* This means that God is merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth with people as long as they continue to seek and obey Him, for as many generations as they continue to do so. However, He is not merciful and gracious, longsuffering with those who do **not** seek and obey Him, for as many generations continue to rebel against Him (as Ex 20:5-6 explains). And, as Prov 16:6 says, *by mercy and truth iniquity is purged*. It takes our sincere repentance for God to give us mercy (not give us what we deserve, punishments) by forgiving our sins and it takes truth for us to learn how to change from our wicked ways. Meaning, we must learn God's Word (truth) in order to put off the 'old man' (the carnal mind, the part of us that wants to sin) and put on the 'new man' which learns to obey God's Word *sincerely* so we can learn to do what's right, *from the heart*.

David knew that, because God alone can read our heart (desires, intentions, emotions) and mind (thought process) He alone is able to rightly judge us (as Ps 11 explained). That's why His eyes see the things that are 'equal', which means *evenness*, i.e. (figuratively) *prosperity or concord*; also *straightness*, i.e. (figuratively) *rectitude* (*meyshar* #4339). In other words, the Lord will always discern the righteous from the unrighteous. Our Father hears our prayers when we're

sincere and not willingly holding onto sin in our soul. Isa 59:2 tells us that it is our iniquities (sins) that separate us from our Heavenly Father and cause Him to hide his face so that He won't hear our prayers. Ps 66:18 says this too when declaring that: *If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me.* So, again, David was not knowingly holding sin in his heart. That's why, in another Psalm, he would pray...

12 Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults.

13 Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression.

14 Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.

Ps 19:12-20:1

This is a good prayer for us to pray also because no one can see all of their sins. But, if we continue to study God's Word sincerely, the Holy Spirit will help us see our sins because *the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart* (Heb 4:12). And, just because we don't always get our prayers answered when we want, or in the way we want, doesn't mean our Heavenly Father doesn't hear us; nor does it mean that He won't answer our prayers. We must remember that He knows everything and we do not. Therefore, the way (and time) He chooses to answer our prayers is always better than what we desire. Sometimes what we are asking for is not good for us and so (naturally) God won't give it to us. But, sometimes God simply wants to test us to see if we'll continue to seek and serve (obey) Him despite the hard times we're going through (consider Job, for example). And sometimes He simply wants to make us stronger because, learning to endure through the hard times does make us spiritually stronger - just as plants that go through a storm are stronger than ones that are in a green house. ***We should mature to the point that we learn to pray 'in God's Will', and not our own will, because that shows we truly have trust and faith in Him and that we're not trying to manipulate Him for our selfish desires.*** God is not a 'genie in a bottle' that we can just 'rub the right way' and 'poof' we get our every wish and desire. When we grow to the point of wanting *His will* to be done (instead of our own) – as Jesus did when He prayed to God shortly before His death (Lk 22:42) - then we are very pleasing to God. Further, Jesus also told us it's not bad to continue to pray to God about something that's really important. He gave us a parable in Luk 18:1-8 that explains this well. And He also said in another place...

9 And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

10 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

11 If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent?

12 Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?

13 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

Luke 11:9-13

So, along with our prayers, we should make sure we're not just 'asking' but also 'seeking' and 'knocking' by studying His Word *and meditating on it*. Oftentimes the answers to our prayers are *already written in the Word of God* because that's where the best advice there is can be found. Our Heavenly Father might just want you to do a little 'leg work', by studying His Word, because you need to have documentation for your answer (what the right thing is to do) to help someone else at a later point in time. We must be thoroughly convicted, in our own heart and mind, to truly be good at sharing His Word with others. And studying His Word *yourself* (such as when you are seeking answers to questions) is the *best* way to obtain the needed conviction to boldly share it with others (with discernment, of course). You can listen to preachers and read commentaries all you want but we need to make sure to *search the scriptures daily* to find out whether the things we're told are true (Acts 17:11).

Psalm 17

3 Thou has proved mine heart; thou hast visited me in the night; thou has tried me, and shalt find nothing; I am purposed that my mouth shall not transgress.

The word '**proved**' here is the Hebrew word *bachan* (#974), a primitive root that means: **to test** (especially metals) and figuratively it means, **to investigate**. Indeed, as Psalms 11 tells us, God does look closely at all our hearts. And He allows things in life to happen to us to see how we'll react. Will we trust in Him and refuse to do evil or will we cave to peer pressure and do that which is not right? He has a right to test us but, as James 2 points out, God *never* tempts us to sin. That's Satan's job and is the sole reason God has allowed him to continue to live until the end of the Millennium when he's finally put to death (Rev 20, Ezek 28). Now, David also says that God has '**tried**' him. This is a Hebrew word that means **to fuse** (metal), *i.e. refine* (tsaraph #6884). This tells us **the reason God tests and investigates what's in our heart is to know how to refine us spiritually – not to tempt us to sin**. David then makes a bold statement that God will find nothing wrong when he searches David's heart. What gave him that confidence? After all, only Jesus Christ was totally righteous because He never sinned (Heb 4:15, 2 Cor 5:21, 1 Peter 2:22, 1 John 3:5). ***David's confidence came from knowing that the blood that Jesus Christ would shed would be enough to forgive all his sins.*** Therefore, he had boldness in making this declaration that God would find no sin in his heart when He tested David's 'inward parts' (his heart and mind). And that's only possible *after* we repent sincerely and have faith that Jesus Christ's blood is able to pay for our sins and that God forgives us on account of Jesus Christ's atoning blood and our faith in Him.

Now, David also makes an odd statement here. He said: *thou hast visited me in the night...* and then goes on to say: *thou has tried me, and shalt find nothing; I am purposed that my mouth shall not transgress*. What this implies is that God may even test us through our dreams at night. Now, rest assured this does **not** mean that God gives us our dreams, which can be really crazy at times.

And again, James 1:13 tells us that God does not ever tempt us to sin. But it implies that God could, at times, look at our dreams to see how our spiritual development is going. And this is because our dreams are made up *solely* of our carnal mind because our conscience side (our true self) *is not awake at that time*. Therefore, a good way to see our carnal mind is to see what we dream about. Now, this doesn't mean that our odd dreams (even bad ones that we're ashamed of) mean we are incorrigible sinners nor that God ever holds us accountable for them. ***No where in God's Word does it say we'll pay for our' sinful' dreams nor does it say He is ever mad at us for what we dream***. The only time He ever gets mad at anyone for a 'dream' is when they use their foolish dreams to prophesy *falsely* (lies) to His children (Jer 23:25-30, 29:8-9; Deut 13:1-5, Zech 10:2). But just to have a bad dream is not a sin because really, we're not able to be in control of them because our 'true self' is not awake. *What we are accountable for is our thoughts, desires, words and actions when we are awake*. **It's how well we learn to subdue our carnal mind when we are awake that God truly matters to our Heavenly Father**. If you happen to suffer from bad dreams, then ask God for help to see why that's happening and how to stop it. Jesus gives us power over all the enemy in Lk 10:19, so we have the right to pray for the protective 'hedge' (from Jesus Christ) that He gives to those who are faithful to Him *even in your sleep*. God always protects us and won't let us be tempted above what we can handle, that includes in our dreams (1 Cor 10:13); but we do need to pray (in Jesus' name) for that protection.

That said, there are times that God's Word tells us He has actually 'visited' people via dreams but this is rare and only for special reasons. Case in point, in 1 Kings 3:5-15 we're told that God came to Solomon in a dream and asked Solomon what he wanted. Solomon's response was not for riches or fame but for wisdom to be able to judge God's people, Israel. That pleased God so much that He not only gave Solomon more wisdom than any flesh man ever had (other than Jesus Christ Himself) but He also poured out great wealth, fame, power and prestige to him.

Further, God Himself tells us that (at times) He does (and would continue to do so) speak to people who serve Him in a dream. In Num 12:6 He said: *Hear now my words: If there be a prophet among you, I the LORD will make myself known unto him in a vision, and **will speak unto him in a dream***. This happened to certain people in times past such as Joseph, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Isaiah, Daniel and more. Acts 18:9-10 also tells us that God spoke to *Paul in the night by a vision, Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace: For I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city*. The purpose was, obviously, to give Paul the strength to continue to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ boldly despite the fierce oppositions he was experiencing. Further, Joel 2:28-29 and Acts 2:17-18 also says: *And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy*. So, we know there will still be times God speaks to people in the form of visions and a dream **but** the purpose is always to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ – **NOT to make up some new religious doctrine**. Therefore, if we have a dream where we *think* God has spoken to us, **we must be careful to study His Word and make sure the dream really came from Him** and is not something our crazy carnal mind 'dreamed up'. Case in point is the

Rapture theory. This ‘theory’ came from a mentally sick woman who had a ‘dream’ about the ‘rapture’. And, instead of checking it out against what God’s word says, a couple of preachers ran with it and created a whole new (false) doctrine that still deceives many Biblically illiterate people today. So, while God’s Word does say He’ll speak to people in dreams, even in the future, we must be very careful to check it out against God’s Word. We are *never* to obey any ‘dream’ above what our Heavenly Father’s Word tells us, *not ever*.

Further to this point, in Mth 1:20 we’re told He also appeared to Joseph via a dream to tell him *not* to put Mary (his fiancé) away (because she was pregnant and not by him) because she had not been unfaithful to him. She had conceived *by the Holy Spirit* and Joseph was to marry her and raise the child, Jesus, because He was God’s son (the Savior of Israel) and Mary needed him to help her raise Jesus. This is why He also appeared to Joseph via a dream several other times to warn him to flee so Jesus and Mary would be safe (Mth 2:13,19,22). He also warned the wise men who came to worship Jesus to go home a different way and not tell Herod where Jesus was (Mth 2:12) - again so Jesus would be safe. We’re also told that God even warned Abimelech, king of Gerar not to have sexual relations with Sarah and to give her back to Abraham via a dream in Gen 20. Again, to preserve the seed line (womb) through which the Messiah (Jesus Christ) would come through.

Therefore, since vital information has indeed come through dreams (or visions) in the past, we know there are times God speaks to certain people in dreams. **But**, this does not mean that all (or any) of our dreams are from God. Most of the time they are just our carnal mind being silly. Therefore, we should not get on guilt trips if we have dreams that are sinful in nature. Our Heavenly Father knows our true self is not awake at that time and He will always forgive us for any ‘bad dreams’ we have because they were not done out of intent from our true self because *we’re not awake*. So, if you feel remorse for a ‘bad dream’, where you may have done something wrong in your dream, then simply repent for it because truly, your good side was not awake. If, when you are awake, you’re truly trying to ‘subdue’ your carnal mind (which we are supposed to do) God is happy with you. And, as always, God forgives us when we believe in Jesus Christ, even for things our carnal mind thought about in our dreams. The point is that our dreams are one of the ways God could investigate our heart but it’s certainly not the only way (or even the main way). And the purpose is to know how to help us grow closer to Him by purifying our heart (desires, intentions and emotions) and mind (thought process). Also note that this Scripture doesn’t say we are ‘judged’ by our dreams. David is simply saying he knows God can see his heart (even in his dreams) and he (David) doesn’t think there is any sin within his heart. That’s why he goes on to say that he has purposed that his mouth will not transgress. David is really trying hard not to sin against our Heavenly Father. He doesn’t want to sin against God in his heart, his actions or even through his lips. As James 3 points out, our tongue is one of the hardest body parts to control so it speaks volumes that David is trying ever so hard to control it!

Psalms 17

4 Concerning the works of men, by the word of thy lips I have kept me from the paths of the destroyer.

David now declares that he uses God's Word (the words that come from God's very own lips) to keep him from the paths of the destroyer, which is 'the way' that most men's works follow. This word '**kept**' is an important word in the Hebrew. It's *shamar* (#8104), a primitive root that means: **to hedge about** (as with thorns), i.e. **guard**; generally, **to protect, attend to**, etc. So, David works diligently to learn God's Word and protect and guard them in his heart (desires, intentions and emotions) and mind (thought process) as one would put a hedge of thorns around their garden, vineyard or sheepfold to protect them from animals coming in and trampling them. This analogy gives is a vivid deception of what the 'destroyer' (Satan) is truly up to. In the Hebrew, the word '**destroyer**' means **violent** or **a tyrant** (periys #6530) and comes from a prim root that means **to break out** (parats #6555). Indeed, Satan (and his followers) will stoop to nothing to break through your defenses to get you to join in their rebellion against God – i.e. to get you to go back to habitual sin. They want you to stop loving and believing in God and sin without caring who it hurts or about worrying about how our Heavenly Father feels about it. They want to get you to believe that God doesn't see your sins and won't do anything about it. That's one of the reasons they so vehemently attack (physically and spiritually) those who truly share God's Word, especially teachers and prophets of which David was both. The reason is clear...

*19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and **men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.***

*20 For every one that doeth evil **hateth the light**, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.*

21 But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.

John 3:19-21

When God's Word is shared, it shines truth like the sun shines light. And this upsets those who do wickedly because they don't like their evil deeds to 'come to light'. God's Word reveals that their 'paths' are wicked, like '*the destroyer*' Satan. But also, it shows to us – inside our own heart and mind - what we are doing wrong (how we sin against God). And that knowledge (of our sins and the penalty for them being spiritual death) is what causes people to turn away from Satan's rebellion and join forces with Jesus Christ because Jesus is the only way we can have our sins forgiven and be spared God's wrath. Again, the destroyer (Satan) -and all those who follow him - *don't like this one bit*. Satan is the originator of the rebellion against God; this means he's also the one who first thought of (and learned how to) sin against God. Ezekiel 28 tells us this but so does John...

*8 **He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.*** [Heb 2:14]

9 Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

10 In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.

11 For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.
1 John 3:8-11

Those who sin habitually are ‘of the devil’. This means they are working for him. As Rom 6 explains we are either servants of sin (Satan) or of righteousness (Jesus Christ). That’s why Jesus said *no man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon* (Matt 6:24). John also points out that the devil (Satan, Rev 12:9, 20:2) sinned from the beginning. He is the original creator of sin (rebellion against God) and he wants all the earth to sin (rebel) against God because Satan is indeed a tyrant, as the meaning of the word ‘destroyer’ in verse 4 explains (parats #6555). John also explains that, when we are ‘born of God’ then we can’t sin. Now, this doesn’t mean we don’t all fall short for we do, as Romans declares...

23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;
24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:
25 Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;
Rom 3:23-25

So, what this means is that those who have been ‘begotten by the Holy Spirit’ we will never go back to habitual sinning as a lifestyle. And what does it mean to be ‘begotten’ (or born) of God? John again is very clear...

1 Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.
2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments.
*3 For **this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments**: and his commandments are not grievous.*
*4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, **even our faith.***
1 John 5:1-4

12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:
*13 Which **were born**, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, **but of God.***
John 1:12-13

And James also succinctly says in James 1:18: *Of his own will **begat he us with the word of truth**, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.* So, when we are ‘born of God’ it means that we are spiritually created into a new person who strives to do what’s right, according to God’s Word, not man’s word. This goes back to what we’ve learned before. When we first hear of Jesus Christ and repent for our sins, we must continue to learn of Him (Mth 11:29) by

studying His Word and striving to obey it, from the heart. And when we do this the Holy Spirit will come into our soul and touch our mind (though process) opening up the meaning of the Scriptures to us so that we can see our own sins and learn to change them from the heart (our desires, intentions and emotions). The Holy Spirit thus helps us to put off our ‘old man’ *which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts* (Eph 2:22), and not serve sin any longer (Rom 6:6) by *renewing of the spirit of your mind* (Eph 4:23) through God’s Word (Col 3:10) and put on the ‘new man’, *which is created in righteousness and true holiness* (Eph 4:24). And THAT is how we are ‘begotten’ of God via the Holy Spirit.

So, David points out that Gods’ Word is what protects and guards him (and us) from being a habitual sinner (part of Satan’s rebellion). And that’s why he could say there is no sin in him. It’s not that David never sinned. The Bible records some very egregious sins he indeed committed but, he was always forgiven by God because he repented wholeheartedly *and* because he believed that God would send the Messiah who would pay for his sins (all the sins of mankind who believe upon Him). Therefore, through the precious blood of Jesus Christ we can be found without fault before the throne of God, just as David was. When we remain committed to studying and obey God’s Word (with the guidance of the Holy Spirit) we too can be without fault because it (and the Holy Spirit) will help us learn to avoid all of Satan’s tricks and entrapments he tries to ensnare us back to sin with. As John so beautifully puts it...

6 If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:

*7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, **and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.***

8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

*9 **If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.***

10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

1 John 1:6-10

So, David was not professing to be righteous on his own accord here. He was claiming the blood of Jesus Christ, even before Jesus shed it. And it was his solid faith in the blood of Jesus Christ to both pay for our sins, and His ability to clean our heart and mind, that made him acceptable to God. This is why David was so very confident that God would hear his prayers and help him over and over again. When we stay on ‘the path’ (the way, John 14:6) that the Word of God teaches us, repent when we fall short and strive hard to do better, we’re in good standing with our heavenly father for ***Jesus died to save us from our sins.*** Therefore, when you trust in Jesus’ atoning blood and totally turn yourself over to Him, God will always protect you. That’s a promise you can always count on. As it is written...

*1 **There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.***

*2 **For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.***

3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

4 That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

Rom 8:1-4

So, let's continue to study God's Word and strive to obey it (with the guidance of His Holy Spirit), so we can truly learn to do what's right and help our heavenly Father save the souls of those who are still deceived by Satan.

Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

1 Tim 6:12

We'll pick this up in part 2...

AMEN.