

THE WEANED LIFE

Psalm 131:1-3

This psalm is one of the songs ancient Israel sing on their way to Jerusalem during the Feast to worship God. It described the blessedness of humility, contentment, total consecration, commitment and surrender to God as evident in a sanctified believer. Some believers are not getting the best in their Christian life because they have trust issues and remain under tyrannical rule of the fallen human nature. They do not trust God enough to leave the outcomes of their daily struggles, experiences and challenges in His hands.

They frantically strive to be in control of everyone and everything around them. This sometimes brings them into conflict with others as they meddle in matters that do not essentially concern them. David addressed this in our text and advocated for intentionality in our composure in the midst of life's uncertainties and confounding mysteries. We are to continuously put our trust in God who never change in His commitment to those who belong to Him.

We shall consider three subtopics:

1. Overcoming restlessness in uncertain world
2. Calmness and contentment of weaned believers
3. Invitation to continuously keep hope alive in the everlasting God

1. **Overcoming restlessness in an uncertain world**

Psalm 131:1, Deuteronomy 29:29, Job 42: 3, Romans 12:16, 2 Chronicles 26:1-3, 4-5, 7, 16-19, 21, Proverbs 16:18, 2 Samuel 22:28

The opening verse of this psalm underscored the leading causes of restiveness in human soul. Proud people are restless people. They live with constant fear and suspicion of threat to their status, possession and position. They express this through harshness, bloated ego, irritability, anxiety and sometimes despondency and frustrations. Their fundamental problem is their trust and confidence in things or processes rather than in God. The fallibility and transient nature of those things give them noisy souls. David philosophically recommended refrain from pride, jettisoning haughty eyes and humility as antidote. According to him, he does not concern himself with matters too wonderful for him. He does not attempt to carry the weight of the world on his shoulders. We must not.

We must know our place in the world and mind our businesses. We must recognize our mental, emotional and spiritual limits in a world of information or possibilities overload. Secret things belong to the Lord Deuteronomy 29:29. However, God revealed enough to us to help us know him and do our duty. This should be sufficient aspiration for a lifetime. There is no need for more. We must avoid arrogating to ourselves anything above our

degree, place and calling. We must subdue all tendencies and desires for worldly glory or attempt to dominate others. We should mind our businesses and let others mind theirs.

2. Calmness and contentment of weaned believers

Psalm 131:2, Mathew 18:3, Psalm 37:4-11, Mathew 6:25-33, 1 Corinthians 13:11, Philippians 4:6-7, 19, Jeremiah 18:1-6, John 15:2

David in our text advocated for increasing spiritual growth and stride towards maturity. One leading evidence of believers' growth beyond spiritual infancy is to be able to receive whatever God gives, to lack whatever He withholds, and to know the difference. The psalmist describes a period in his life characterized by inner composure, calmness, quietness and contentment like a weaned child. The sucking stage of life in human family found in infancy is often characterized by frets, worries, sobs and sore distress especially when nursing milk and nourishment is delayed for unavoidable reasons. Many Christians are like that. Yet, as good as nursing milk is, its insufficient for adult life; the child must be weaned especially as he advances towards adult life. Weaning often comes with pains but without it and without transition to adult diet pattern, growth towards maturity is impeded and the child will subsequently not be able to undertake adult responsibility.

God has weaning plans for His children. He does this through unexpected loss of valuable things and sometimes relationship. God wanted us to respond to His molding influence and providence like a weaned child. An infant is quieted by nursing milk before weaning but after he is weaned he enjoys more the physical presence and warm embrace of his mother. He values more her care, love, faithfulness and reliability. Weaning from spiritual infancy takes the believer to a point where he realizes that the presence of God is sufficiently a lasting source of joy, fulfillment and satisfaction.

3. Invitation to continuously keep hope alive in the everlasting God

Psalm 131:3, 130:7, 119:165, Proverbs 3:5-7, Psalm 31:24, 33:18, 146:5, 147:11, Jeremiah 17:7, Lamentation 3:26, Romans 15:13.

In the last verse of our text, David invited Israel and by extension all believers to come and partake in this state of tranquility that God bestowed on Him; a state of freedom from worries, anxiety, a state of enduring trust and confidence in the Lord. To be truly happy, we must eliminate from our life inordinate passions and competitive spirit that can injure us as we strain to grab things beyond our reach. We must not venture into service we have never been called into or qualified for. To enter into the Kingdom of God, we must become humble and dependent weaned children in the hand of God. We must anchor our trust and expectation on God's eternal faithfulness. We must do so continuously '*both now and forever more*'.

David in Psalm 131 presented himself as a model and gave us roadmap for peace of mind and freedom from disconcerting, relentless, restless and sometimes reckless ideas, thoughts, ambitions and plans that provoke irreverent, disorderly and ungodly practices. When relegated and considered too young to attend family party and coronation service, he did not push himself forward. Instead he waited behind, tending his father's sheep, quietly serving and worshipping God until God through Samuel sent for him and anointed him king over Israel. Even after the anointing, he did not violently take possession of the throne. He left the removal of Saul and his installation entirely in the hands of God. These are the kind of lifestyles, choices and conduct that God expects from us and from all His children. Those that labor in faith shall not labor in vain.