

Good People

Psalm 37:23-24

- Ordered By The Lord
- God Delighteth In His Way
- Not Utterly Cast Down
- The Lord Upholdeth

There are Two Kinds of People, who Face Life.

- Those who, seemingly, are always overcome with life's problems.
- And Those who, rise above the disappointments of life, with a refreshing positiveness, about life's ultimate outcome.

In the evening of his life, David said,

- "I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread." ([Psa.37:25](#))

From the context of [Psa.37:23-24](#),

Let's investigate about THE GOOD, or "**Good People**", and see who they really are.

The Bible says, "the Steps of a **GOOD man** are,

I. **Ordered By The Lord**" ([Psa.37:23a](#))

Which means...

A. Under God's Guidance, Directed by His Counsel.

He ORDERS, by Means of An OUTWARD Law.

- "...under the law to Christ,..." ([1Cor.9:21](#))
- Peter said, "**REPENT, and Be BAPTIZED** every one of you, **IN** the Name (or authority) of Jesus Christ, **FOR** the remission of sins, and ye shall **RECEIVE** the gift of the Holy Spirit." ([Acts 2:38](#))
- "**SEEK ye FIRST, the kingdom of God, and HIS righteousness;**" ([Matt.6:33a](#))
- "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding **IN the Work of the Lord**, forasmuch as ye know, that your labour is **NOT in vain, IN the Lord.**" ([1Cor.15:58](#))

The Lord Orders, by Means of An INWARD Force.

- "For the **LOVE of Christ, CONSTRAINETH us;**" ([2Cor.5:14a](#))
(that is, the Love of Christ, HOLDS us TOGETHER with Him, is the idea.)
- "We love, because He first loved us." ([1Jn.4:19](#))
- We therefore bring, "...into **CAPTIVITY every thought TO** the **OBEDIENCE** of Christ;" ([2Cor.10:5b](#))

Yes, God Moves us; but it is all consistent with our freedom.

The Psalmist declared,

- "he hath put a new song in my mouth, even **PRAISE unto our God:** many shall **SEE** it, and **FEAR**, and shall **TRUST in the Lord.**" ([Psa.40:3](#))

The Lord,

B. Orders Thru revelation, but We Choose

The Psalmist cried,

- “**ORDER** my steps **IN Thy WORD**:
and **Let NOT** any iniquity, **Have DOMINION** over me.” ([Psa.119:133](#))

So, Good People Live by Faith IN God.

- They, “**Trust IN** the Lord, and **Do GOOD**,” ([Psa.37:3a](#))

Good People, show their joy in Divine service.

- [Psa.37:4](#) reads, “**DELIGHT** thyself also **IN** the Lord;
and He shall **GIVE** thee, the **DESIRES** of thine heart.”

Good People, Render quiet obedience.

- “**COMMIT** thy way **UNTO the Lord**;
TRUST also **IN Him**; and He shall **BRING** it to pass.” ([Psa.37:5](#))

Good People, Leave the RESULTS to God’s care.

- The Psalmist said, “**REST** in the Lord, and **WAIT** patiently for Him:
FRET NOT thyself, because of him who prospereth in his way,
because of the man, who bringeth wicked devices to pass.” ([Psa.37:7](#))

Good People, are Not willing to take a step without God.

- They... “**WAIT** on the Lord, and **KEEP** His way,” ([Psa.37:34a](#))

Good People, are Free moral agents, creatures of choice;
but limited by God's WILL (IF we are GOOD).

[Heb.10:36](#) reads

- “For ye have **NEED** of patience, that, after ye have **DONE** the will of God,
ye might **RECEIVE** the promise.”

Regarding our steps,

C. Are They ORDERED By Him?

The Bible says,

- “Blessed is the man that **Walketh NOT**, in the counsel of the **UNgodly**,
NOR Standeth, in the way of **SINNERS**,
NOR Sitteth, in the seat of the **SCORNFUL**.
² But his **DELIGHT**, is **IN** the law of the Lord;
and in His law, doth he **MEDITATE** day and night.” ([Psa.1:1-2](#))

The Steps of a good man, are Ordered By The Lord, and...

II. God “**Delighteth In His Way**” ([Psa.37:23b](#))

He Created us in His image, and wants us, to...

A. Be GOOD Like Him

So, God regards GOOD, with a special kindness.

- “The Lord taketh PLEASURE, in them that **FEAR Him**, in those that **HOPE**, in His **MERCY**.” ([Psa.147:11](#))

God is Pleased because...

B. All that Good People Do, is Good

The Bible says of Jesus, that He...

- “...went about Doing GOOD, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with Him.” ([Acts 10:38](#))

Good People, are Good in Words, Thoughts, and Actions.

Regarding our **Words**, the Bible says...

- “Let your **SPEECH** be always with grace, SEASONED with salt, that ye may know, **HOW** ye ought to answer, every man.” ([Col.4:6](#))

Regarding our **Thoughts**, the Bible says...

- “...whatsoever things are **TRUE**, whatsoever things are **HONEST**, whatsoever things are **JUST**, whatsoever things are **PURE**, whatsoever things are **LOVELY**, whatsoever things are **OF GOOD REPORT**; if there be any VIRTUE, and if there be any PRAISE, **THINK ON these things**.” ([Phil.4:8](#))

Regarding our **Actions**, Jesus said...

- “**NOT** every one that **SAITH** unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall **ENTER INTO** the kingdom of heaven; **BUT** he that **DOETH** the Will of My Father, which is in heaven.” ([Matt.7:21](#))

All that **Good People** endeavor to accomplish, is directed,

To Building self.

- Peter said, “**GROW** in grace, and in the knowledge OF our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To Him be glory (not us), both now and for ever. Amen.” ([2Pet.3:18](#))

All that **Good People** endeavor to accomplish, is directed,

To Saving others.

- Jesus said, “...unto His disciples, The **HARVEST** truly is plenteous, but the **LABOURERS** are few; ³⁸ **PRAY** ye therefore, the Lord of the harvest, that He will **SEND FORTH** labourers INTO His harvest.” ([Matt.9:37-38](#))
- Paul said, “I am **DEBTOR** both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians (or un-civilized); both to the wise, and to the unwise.” ([Rom.1:14](#))

All that **Good People** endeavor to accomplish is directed, **Above all**,

To Pleasing God.

The Bible says,

- “Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, **DO ALL** to the **GLORY** of God.” ([1Cor.10:31](#))

God Delighteth in the Way of Good People, because of their...

C. Motives To Glorify Him

- Paul prayed, “that ye may **APPROVE** things that are excellent; that ye may **Be SINCERE** and without offence till the day of Christ; ¹¹ **Being FILLED** with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the **GLORY** and **PRAISE** of God.” ([Phil.1:10-11](#))

One can't glorify God in just any way one desires.

D. God Orders Exactness

- Jesus said, “Many will say to Me in that day, **Lord, Lord**, have we not prophesied **IN Thy Name?** and **IN Thy Name** have cast out devils? and **IN Thy Name** done many wonderful works? ²³ And then will I profess unto them, **I NEVER KNEW** you: **DEPART** from Me, ye that **WORK INIQUITY.**” ([Matt.7:22-23](#))

God Orders By His Word.

- “**TEACH** me, O Lord, the **WAY** of Thy **STATUTES**; and I shall **KEEP** it, unto the **END.**” ([Psa.119:33](#))

God Orders Exactness, In being saved.

- “He that believeth **AND** is baptized shall be **SAVED**; but he that believeth **NOT** shall **Be DAMNED.**” ([Mk.16:16](#))

Where does God say, faith only? [James 2:24](#) says, “**NOT** by faith only”

God Orders Exactness, In Worship.

- “**God is a SPIRIT**: and they that worship Him **MUST** worship Him, **IN spirit and IN Truth.**” ([Jn.4:24](#))

Adding a **PHYSICAL** mechanical instrument, is the opposite of **SPIRITUAL** Worship.

Spiritual Worship includes, “**SINGING** and making **MELODY** in your **HEART** to the Lord;” ([Eph.5:19](#))

God Orders Exactness, In Work.

- “For **FROM YOU**, **SOUNDED OUT** the Word of the Lord, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place, **YOUR FAITH** to God-ward is **SPREAD ABROAD**; so that, we need not, to speak any thing.” ([1Thess.1:8](#))

Where's the ORDER, for a **LECTURESHIP** by a College, a Publication, or a Society ([1Tim.3:15](#); [Eph.3:21](#))? There's NO order, of any hierarchy of **MULTIPLE CHURCHES**; the local church is **Autonomous** ([1Pet.5:1-2](#)).

God Orders Exactness, In Teaching.

The Bible says,

- “But though **we** (that is, the apostles), or **an angel** from heaven, Preach **ANY OTHER GOSPEL** unto you, than that which we have **PREACHED** unto you, let him **Be ACCURSED.** ⁹ As we said before, so say I now again, **IF any man** preach **ANY OTHER GOSPEL** unto you than that ye have received, let him **Be ACCURSED.**” ([Gal.1:8-9](#))

Would the Mormon or LDS religion, have never gotten started, If Joseph Smith was HONEST, and READ this passage back in 1830?

I suppose if the devil were speaking to Eve on this subject, he would have said, “Ye shall not surely...” ([Gen.3:4](#)), “...**Be ACCURSED**” ([Gal.1:8-9](#)).

God Orders Exactness, In Life.

- By, “teaching us that, **DENYING** ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should Live **SOBERLY** (or Self-Controlled, and NOT live loosely in sin), (we should Live) **RIGHTEOUSLY** (which is the opposite of wickedness), and (we should Live) **GODLY** (versus UNgodliness), in this present world;” ([Titus 2:12](#))

Where’s the teaching for immorality, and impurity of Living?

Regarding Good People,

E. God DELIGHTS in the Fruit of the Spirit, of their Lives

- “Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law (of Moses), by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another (law), even to Him, Who is raised from the dead, that we should **Bring forth FRUIT unto God.**” ([Rom.7:4](#))
- “the **fruit of the Spirit** IS love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,²³ meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.” ([Gal.5:22-23](#))
- “But to **DO GOOD** and to communicate (or Share), forget NOT: for with such sacrifices, God is well pleased.” ([Heb.13:16](#))

IS God DELIGHTED In Our Way, Individually and collectively?

The Bible says, Good People May Fall, but...

III. “Not Be Utterly Cast Down” ([Psa.37:24a](#))

Good People, May Have Misfortune and Loss, but...

A. Not Absolute Ruin

The Bible says,

- “...fear **NOT** them, which kill the body, but are **NOT ABLE** to kill the soul: but rather **FEAR Him**, which is **ABLE to DESTROY** both soul and body in **HELL.**” ([Matt.10:28](#))

So, temporary trials are to be expected, but

B. Trials Have Their Limit; and remember

- “...the **SUFFERINGS** of this present time, are **NOT** worthy to be compared, with the **GLORY** which shall be revealed in us.” ([Rom.8:18](#))
- “For our light AFFLICTION, which is but for a moment, **WORKETH** for us, a far more exceeding and eternal weight of **GLORY**; ¹⁸ while we **Look NOT** at the things which are seen, **BUT** (we look) at the things which are NOT Seen: for the things which are **SEEN** are **Temporal**; but the things which are **NOT seen**, are **ETERNAL.**” ([2Cor.4:17-18](#))

The Bible says, Good People will not be utterly cast down ([Psa.37:23-24](#)).

...That's because Good People,

C. CHOOSE Safety

Jesus said,

- “My sheep **HEAR** My voice, and I **KNOW** them, and they **FOLLOW** Me: ²⁸ and I **GIVE** unto them eternal LIFE; and they shall **NEVER** perish, **NEITHER** shall any man pluck them out of My hand.” ([Jn.10:27-28](#))

IF the Weak and Frail CHOOSE SAFETY, they won't be left to self.

- “**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.” ([1Jn.1:7](#))
- “who are **KEPT** by the **POWER** of God, **THROUGH** faith, **UNTO** salvation, **READY** to be revealed, in the last time.” ([1Pet.1:5](#))

IF those who CHOOSE SAFETY, Fall into sin, God ORDERS Remedy.

- “My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye **SIN NOT**. And **IF** any man sin, we have an **ADVOCATE** with the Father, Jesus Christ **THE RIGHTEOUS**.” ([1Jn.2:1](#))
- “Brethren, **IF** a man be **OVERTAKEN** in a fault, **ye which ARE SPIRITUAL**, **RESTORE** such an one, in the spirit of meekness; **CONSIDERING** thyself, lest thou also be tempted.” ([Gal.6:1](#))
- Truly, “...the **GOODNESS** of God, **LEADETH** thee **TO** repentance?” ([Rom.2:4](#))
- “**HAVING** therefore these PROMISES, dearly beloved, Let us **CLEANSE OURSELVES**, from all **FILTHINESS** of the flesh and spirit, **PERFECTING** holiness **IN** the **FEAR** of God.” ([2Cor.7:10](#))

For those who CHOOSE SAFETY, they have the Promise of FORGIVENESS.

- “**IF** we **CONFESS OUR SINS**, He is Faithful and Just, to **FORGIVE** us our sins, and to **CLEANSE** us from **ALL** UNrighteousness.” ([1Jn.1:9](#))
- “**SEEK** ye the Lord, while He may be FOUND, **CALL** ye upon him, while He is NEAR:
⁷ let the **WICKED**, forsake his (own) way, and the **UNrighteous man**, (forsake) his (own) thoughts: and Let him **RETURN** unto the Lord, and He will have **MERCY** upon him; and (return) to our God, for He will abundantly PARDON.” ([Isa.55:6-7](#))

The Bible says,

IV. “The Lord Upholdeth” ([Psa.37:24b](#)) ...Good People ([Psa.37:23a](#))

Not delegated, but

A. Personal Help

- “Let us therefore **COME** boldly UNTO the throne of **GRACE**, that we may obtain **MERCY**, and find **GRACE**, to **HELP** in time of **NEED**.” ([Heb.4:16](#))
- “For in that He Himself hath **SUFFERED**, being tempted, He is **ABLE** to **SUCCOUR** them, that are tempted.” ([Heb.2:18](#))

The Lord Upholdeth Good People, Not just occasional, but...

B. Constant Concern

- “The Lord knoweth, the days of the **UPRIGHT**:
and their **INHERITANCE** shall be for ever.
¹⁹ They shall **NOT be ashamed**, in the evil time:
and in the days of famine, they shall be **SATISFIED**.” ([Psa.37:18-19](#))

So, why do the righteous,

C. Count on God’s Special Concern?

Good People, have assurance,
which the ungodly do not know.

- “For the **EYES of the Lord** are **OVER the righteous**, and His **EARS** are **OPEN unto their prayers**:
but the **FACE of the Lord** is **AGAINST** them that **DO EVIL**.” ([1Pet.3:12](#))

Good People, have revelation,
that the sinner neglects, or does not believe in, nor desires.

- “For they that are **AFTER the FLESH**, do mind the things OF the flesh;
but they that are **AFTER the SPIRIT**, (do mind) the things OF the Spirit.
⁶ For to be **CARNALLY minded** is **DEATH**; but to be **SPIRITUALLY minded** is **LIFE** and **PEACE**.
⁷ Because the **CARNAL mind** is **ENMITY AGAINST** God:
for it is **NOT subject** to the law of God, neither indeed can be.” ([Rom.8:5-7](#))
- “to them who **By PATIENT Continuance IN WELL DOING**,
SEEK for glory and honour and immortality, **ETERNAL LIFE**:
⁸ but unto them that are **CONTENTIOUS**, and **Do NOT OBEY the Truth**,
but **OBEY UNrighteousness**, **INDIGNATION** and **WRATH, TRIBULATION** and **ANGUISH**,
UPON every soul of man that DOETH EVIL, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile;” ([Rom.2:7-9](#))

Good People, Follow that ORDERING.

- Samuel said, “...**Speak, Lord; for thy servant heareth**.” ([1Sam.3:9-10](#))
- Paul’s said, “For God is my witness, whom **I SERVE** with my spirit, **IN the GOSPEL of His Son**,” ([Rom.1:9a](#))

Paul’s service to the Lord, was according to,

- “what saith the scripture?” ([Rom.4:3a](#))

Good People, Depend on His care.

- “The **ETERNAL God** is thy **REFUGE**, and underneath are the **EVERLASTING ARMS**:” ([Deut.33:27a](#))
- “**UPHOLD** me according unto **Thy WORD**, that I may **LIVE**:
and let me **NOT be ashamed** of my **HOPE**.
¹¹⁷ **HOLD** thou me **UP**, and I shall be **SAFE**:
and I will have **RESPECT** unto thy statutes **CONTINUALLY**.” ([Psa.119:116-117](#))

The Lord Upholdeth Good People.

D. Are We Fearful, We Can't Make It?

- Paul prayed that God, “would **GRANT** you, according to the **RICHES of His glory**, to be **STRENGTHENED** with might, **by His Spirit**, in the **INNER MAN**;” ([Eph 3:16](#))
- “...Be **STRONG IN the Lord**, and **IN the POWER of His MIGHT**.” ([Eph.6:10](#))

Paul, confidently proclaimed,

- “I **CAN DO**, all things **THROUGH Christ**, which **STRENGTHENETH** me.” ([Phil.4:13](#))
- “Let your conversation (or conduct) **Be WITHOUT** covetousness; and **Be CONTENT** with such things as ye have: for He hath said, I will **NEVER LEAVE** thee, **NOR FORSAKE** thee.” ([Heb.13:5](#))

Good People, should **MARK** this passage, and **READ** it often.

- “Fear thou **NOT**; for **I AM with thee**: be **NOT** dismayed; for **I AM thy God**: **I will STRENGTHEN** thee; yea, **I will HELP** thee; yea, **I will UPHOLD** thee, with the right hand, of My righteousness.” ([Isa.41:10](#))

Good People are,

E. In the World, NOT of it

- “If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.” ([Jn.15:19](#))

The context that we’ve been studying from Psa.37,
Teaches Good People, to Trust God, do good, and not worry.

The wisdom of Proverbs says,

- “**TRUST** in the Lord, with **ALL** thine heart; and lean **NOT** unto thine **OWN** understanding.

⁶ In **ALL** thy ways **ACKNOWLEDGE Him**, (which is the opposite of being ASHAMED) and He shall **DIRECT** thy paths.” ([Prov.3:5-6](#))

V. IN-CLOSING

Some have never taken the first step, into the path of right and safety.

- For some, Jesus said, “ye will **NOT** come to Me, that ye might have **LIFE**.” ([Jn.5:40](#))

In [Acts 8:5](#), that Bible says that,

- “Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and **PREACHED CHRIST** unto them”.
- And “**WHEN** they **BELIEVED** Philip, **PREACHING** the things concerning the kingdom of God, and (the things concerning) **the NAME of Jesus Christ**, they were **BAPTIZED**, both men and women.” ([Acts 8:12](#))

To the Ethiopian Eunuch,

- Philip "...**PREACHED unto him Jesus.**"³⁶ And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?

³⁷ And Philip said, IF thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, **I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.**

³⁸ And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and **he BAPTIZED him.**
³⁹ And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he **went on his way REJOICING."** ([Acts 8:35-39](#))
- "...And **the Lord ADDED to the church DAILY**, such as should Be SAVED." ([Acts 2:47b](#))

If we are **NOT WILLING**, To Take that First Step, To LIFE, which is the path of RIGHT and SAFETY,
Are we **WILLING**, To Take that Final Step To DEATH, for all of Eternity?

The Bible says,

- "it is **APPOINTED** unto men once to DIE, but after this, the **JUDGMENT:"** ([Heb.9:27](#))
- David said, "...truly as the **Lord** Liveth, and as thy **SOUL** Liveth, there is but a **STEP** between me and **DEATH."** ([1Sam.20:3](#))

Become GOOD now, thru forgiveness.

- "Know ye not, that so many of us, **AS** were Baptized INTO Jesus Christ, were Baptized INTO His DEATH?
⁴ Therefore we are **BURIED with Him**, **By BAPTISM into DEATH:**
that like **AS Christ**, was **RAISED UP** from the Dead, by the glory of the Father,
even so we also, should walk in NEWNESS of LIFE." ([Rom.6:3-4](#))
- Jesus said, "**COME** unto Me,
all ye that labour and are heavy laden,
and I will Give you REST." ([Matt.11:28](#))

Don't neglect the Lord's Invitation.

Come without delay, while together we stand and sing.

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