

## DESIRES OF DAVID

"Shew me thy ways, O Lord; teach me thy paths. Lead me in thy truth, and teach me."  
Psalm 25:4-5a.

This text expresses the deep desires of the soul of David. His desires were worthy and most commendable. He prayed unto God for help to realize the holy ambitions of his soul. Both his desires and his method of obtaining them are most commendable. Being conscious of his need of a Divine Teacher to enable him to understand Divine truth and obey the Divine precepts, he approached the fountain of all wisdom in the words of our text.

### I. David Prayed For Vision.

"Shew me thy ways, O Lord." He prayed not only for a vision of a way, but also for wisdom to see the ways of the Lord. He had a desire to see the mercy, the goodness, the lovingkindness, the justice, and the righteousness of the Lord. He wanted to see how the Lord treats both sinner and saint. His desire for enlightenment emphasizes the importance of a knowledge of God's ways, and signifies a willingness to follow His teachings. The ways of God are often mysterious, circuitous, and difficult to walk in, but they are always safe and lead to peace and happiness. The pride and presumption of man often impel him to shape out a way for himself, but when he does it usually terminates in disaster and ruin. The ways of God are always better than our own, and for that reason we should constantly strive to become acquainted with and walk in them.

We should pray this brief, but expressive, prayer. We need a clear vision of God and His plans for us. A vision of the Lord and of what He has done, of what He is doing, and of what He will do, and of how He does it would greatly enrich the heart of any person. Where there is a clear vision of the Lord and His plan, as Paul had, a soul can march forward and do great things for the Lord.

### II. David Prayed For Knowledge.

"Teach me thy paths." David's desire was for more than a mere vision of the Lord's ways. He wanted to know the paths of the Lord. He was anxious to experience in his own heart the grace of God, the mercy of God, the goodness of God, and the righteousness of God. He earnestly prayed that these holy characteristics might become real knowledge in his life.

Men learn by experience. They come to know the grace of God when they repent of and confess sin, and the Lord forgives. They know the goodness of God by His unspeakable gifts of life, light, love, liberty, health, and happiness. It is wonderful to know the Lord and His plan by the personal experience of His presence and power. He has the way for every life. He will teach anyone who is meek and exercises faith. This path of mercy can be found by talking to Him in earnest prayer.

David's prayer was for Divine teaching -- "O Lord, teach me." Here is an admission of ignorance, of insufficiency, of anxiety, and of application to the right source. He was anxious to understand clearly the Lord's paths, and constantly to walk in them.

### III. David Prayed For Guidance.

"Lead me in thy truth."

God is the Teacher of His people. He teaches by His Word, by His spirit, and by His Providence. In addition to praying for vision and knowledge, David wanted to be led into the Lord's paths and plans. He had a desire to be like the Lord in every way possible. It is one thing to see and another thing to be. It is good to see, it is better to know, but it is best to be and to do. When the Lord guides His own in His way, the result is always a success.

Under any and all circumstances, we should pray for Divine guidance. We need it because we are ignorant of the future, we are so weak, and we dare not try to go alone. Let each of us pray unto the Lord for vision, for knowledge, and for guidance, and then follow in the Lord's way to victory.