

# Friends

## Psalm 25:12-14

Dr. Paul Cannings

### A. Togetherness (v. 12):

1. Who is the man who fears God – Who is the person who is in awe of God because they recognize the holiness of God, His might, and His power? This person lives in constant reverence of God (Hebrews 12:28-29).

a) Those who fear the Lord pay attention to His instructions and thus learn the secrets of God's wisdom (111:10; Prov. 1:7; 3:32).<sup>[1]</sup>

b) Who is the truly God-fearing person? (The term "fear" here implies not terror, anxiety, but an attitude of reverence and awe toward God, which is transformed into an appropriate manner of living). The God-fearing person is directed by God to the way of life which he must consciously choose to live (v 12).<sup>[2]</sup>

2. Lord—The person who lives a reverent life because they constantly reflect on who God is, understand that the Lord has all authority, and desire to be the master of His people's lives. They also understand the Lord will punish them (Hebrews 12:16).

3. He will instruct him—Because a person lives in constant reverence of the Lord, the Lord controls them, so He continually directs them wherever He wants to lead them. This is a transforming process (Romans 12:2).
4. In the way – The man who fears the Lord accepts His instruction and demonstrates his receptiveness to the Lord’s divine will. This causes their actions to be influenced and directed by His Word (Psalm 111:10; Proverbs 1:7; 2:5).
5. He should choose—The person whose actions are influenced and directed by God decisively makes careful, well-thought-out, excellent, and acceptable choices that please God (Philippians 1:9-11).

## **B. Legacy (v. 13):**

1. His soul will abide—The person who fears the Lord and lives daily in reverence of who the Lord is will remain forever in His favor (Psalm 112:1-3).
2. Prosperity – The person who reverently acknowledges God's divine will is guaranteed a pleasant and excellent life. They benefit from the resources of the Lord so that they experience excellent economic well-being.

a) Following the Lord's knowledge and wisdom leads to blessings (Prov. 24:3-5).

3. Their descendants will inherit the land—What the Lord chooses to do for the man who fears Him extends to those who are born and live under his leadership (Psalm 112:1-3).

a) The inheritance of his seed (or “posterity”) would be the *earth* (or “land”); the implication is not that he and his descendants would become great landowners, but that they would continue to share in the possession of the land promised by God to the covenant people (Deut 4:1).<sup>[3]</sup>

### **C. Intimacy (v. 14; Psalm 23):**

1. The secret of the Lord – The Lord shares His confidential, intimate plans with those individuals who fear Him so that they succeed and prosper in all their endeavors. In other words, His will is clearly revealed (1 Corinthians 2:10-15) to those who have come to know Him. Since His Word does not return void (Isaiah 55:11), they are guaranteed success (Proverbs 16:3, 9). *“No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you.”* (John 15:15; NASU)

a) His disciples began questioning Him as to what this parable meant. And He said, *“To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is in parables, so that SEEING THEY MAY NOT SEE, AND HEARING THEY MAY NOT UNDERSTAND.”* (Luke 8:9-10; NASU)

2. For those who fear—The Lord revealing His will so that it becomes an intimate experience of Him only takes place for those who decisively choose to continuously live in reverent awe of Him. Those who are in awe of the Lord recognize His power and authority. These individuals are considered God-fearing believers.

3. Know—The Lord will cause these God-fearing believers to experience (Hebrews 5:14) what is good and bad and to come to an intimate experience of the true meaning of His covenant relationship.

a) When a person becomes the Lord's friend (John 15:12-15) because they abide in His Word (15:1-5), they experience a loving relationship with the Lord (15:7-10).

4. Know—God-fearing people coming to know God is the same as Christ instructing His disciples that no matter what they experience in their lives, He will never leave them nor forsake them (Matthew 28:20). This is a covenant that became a living reality.

a) But the more profound blessing was to be found in the "friendship" of God (v 14), for the covenant was not merely a conditional contract, offering rewards in return for obedience; more than that, it was a privileged and intimate relationship, offered by God to his covenant people. To those who feared, or revered, God, there was held out the promise of an intimate relationship of friendship. It is this bright prospect that prompts the psalmist to return to prayer for the concluding verses of the psalm.<sup>[4]</sup>

**b)** God favours those who fear him with secret and confidential communion (comp. Prov. 3:32). He “comes unto them, and makes his abode with them” (John 14:23), and “teaches them” (John 14:26), and enlightens them, and leads them in his way, and learns them (ver. 5), and “seals their instruction” (Job 33:16). And he will show them his covenant; *i.e.* make them see the full force of it, since his “commandment is exceeding broad” (Ps. 119:96).<sup>[5]</sup>

5. **Know**—Paul tells us that this experience of God moves us to fully surrender our lives to God's full control so that we no longer live (Galatians 2:20; Colossians 3:1-4) because we become drunk with the Spirit of God (Ephesians 5:15-19).

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<sup>[1]</sup> Radmacher, E. D., Allen, R. B., & House, H. W. (1999). [Nelson's new illustrated Bible commentary](#) (p. 665). T. Nelson Publishers.

<sup>[2]</sup> Craigie, P. C. (1983). [Psalms 1–50](#) (Vol. 19, p. 220). Word, Incorporated.

<sup>[3]</sup> Craigie, P. C. (1983). [Psalms 1–50](#) (Vol. 19, pp. 220–221). Word, Incorporated.

<sup>[4]</sup> Craigie, P. C. (1983). [Psalms 1–50](#) (Vol. 19, p. 221). Word, Incorporated.

<sup>[5]</sup> Spence-Jones, H. D. M., ed. (1909). [Psalms](#) (Vol. 1, p. 182). Funk & Wagnalls Company.