

# *The Danger of Doubting*

❌

*1 Sam 27:1*

1

1 Then David said to himself, “Now I will perish one day by the hand of Saul.

What does despair do to you? Despair is defined as...

**Despair**

2

To lose all hope or confidence            ie: Despair of winning

So back to our original question, what does despair do to you? That question can be looked at in two ways...

3

A) In general, how does despair affect us

B) In the specific, how does despair affect me

How does it affect man generally? Solomon says it this way in...

*Prov 11:7*

4

7 When a wicked man dies, his expectation will perish, And the hope of strong men perishes.

What happens to the hope of the wicked? Maybe the better question is just exactly what is the hope of the wicked? What does a worldly man want? Isn't it sad to think that that the wicked have no hope whatsoever after this life? That means that the only things they can have hope for are the things of the world, riches, fame, the fleeting and unfulfilling peace of the world. That's the point of Solomon's statement...

5

7 When a wicked man dies, his expectation will perish

If the only hope that a man has is here, now, then his hope dies with him, and that, my friends is maybe the saddest thing possible. The even sadder part of this whole dynamic is that the wicked don't even know that they are in despair, without hope, hopelessness for any opportunity of a life of reward, hopelessness for anything except this world. The general effect of hopelessness, despair, on the world is a hidden enemy that it doesn't even recognize. They have no hope, because they look for it in a world that offers none.

In the specific, despair, the feeling of hopelessness, saps the strength and energy right of a person. It clouds the thinking, removes common sense, makes people who would normally make good decisions based on scriptural knowledge ignore that knowledge and make bad decisions.

Here then is the statement that David makes, and notice the next part of the verse...

*1 Sam 27:1*

6

1 Then David said to himself, “Now I will perish one day by the hand of Saul. There is nothing better for me than to escape into the land of the Philistines.

The following is an excerpt from a sermon that was preached in 1862 by a denominational preacher, English Particular Baptist. I find it interesting that things really haven't changed a lot, just a slightly different focus. Note what he had to say when speaking about despair...

***“It is humiliating to observe that certain ministers have pampered and petted men in unbelief and distrust of God, being in this matter false to their Master, and to the souls of His people. Far be it from me to smite the feeble of the flock; but their sins I must and will smite, since it is my firm conviction, that to doubt the kindness, the faithfulness, and the love of God, is a very heinous offence. Unbelief is akin to Atheism. Atheism denies God's existence-unbelief denies His goodness, and since goodness is essential to God, these doubts do, in reality, stab at His very being. That can be no light sin which makes God a liar; and yet unbelief does in effect, cast foul and slanderous suspicion upon the veracity of the Holy One of Israel.”***

What he is saying here is that when God is not preached completely and totally in what His Word says, but only in half measures and partial content. Even in 1862, and from a denominational preacher, at that, it was recognized that to doubt what God can and will do for His children makes God a liar and is akin to atheism. I appreciate his statement...

**7** ***“Atheism denies God's existence-unbelief denies His goodness”***

Despair, hopelessness comes from not seeing the way out or recognizing the need for or that there is a way out. That is what this statement is saying...

Unbelief is not seeing the way out, atheism is not recognizing that there is an escape or even the need for an escape.

This then brings us back to David's statement...

**8** ***“I will perish at the hand of Saul”***

There are some thoughts that I think worthy of pursuing from this statement...

- 9**
- 1) The thought of David's heart was false
  - 2) What caused David to not think of God
  - 3) What was the result of David not thinking of God

This first thought...

- 10**
- 1) The thought of David's heart was false

This might be difficult to think of David's thought this way, but bear with me a moment. David was in the depths of despair. He knew he wouldn't take Saul's life because Saul was the anointed king of Israel. All he could do was run and he knew Saul was closing in on him. David is beginning to feel the hopelessness of that, hence the statement that he would die by the hand of Saul. The problem with his statement is found in 1 Sam. 16...

**1 Sam 16:1,13**

**11**

**1** Now the Lord said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul, since I have rejected him from being king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and go; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have selected a king for Myself among his sons.”

**13** Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. And Samuel arose and went to Ramah.

David has already been anointed to replace Saul as king. God has already denied Saul as his choice for king. Yet David finds himself thinking that he is to be killed by Saul. That’s my point when I say that the thought of David’s heart was false. This isn’t to say that David was wicked, rather it speaks to the conclusion of his heart, and it is that conclusion that is false. In spite of knowing that he had been anointed he still came to the conclusion that Saul would kill him.

Sometimes, even knowing that God has promised to give us everything we need, we come face to face with situations or circumstances that cause us to forget what God has said, to come to conclusions that are false according to His Word, just like David did.

Having a false thought, coming to an erroneous conclusion, does not, of a necessity, demand an evil heart or atheist or any such thing, it only means that someone doesn’t put God first.

**Prov 3:6**

**12**

**6** In everything you do, put God first, and he will direct you and crown your efforts with success. **TLB**

Solomon writes here that, according to the Living Bible version, that in everything you do put God first. The NASV reads...

**Prov 3:6**

**13**

**6** In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight. **NASU**

Paul says it this way...

**1 Cor 10:31**

**14**

**31** Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

What both Solomon and Paul are saying is that when we remember God, His Words, and His ways and apply them in our lives, the decisions and judgments we make won’t be without hope, because God is our hope.

**James 1:5**

**15**

**5** But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

God promises that everything we need, He will provide, including the wisdom we need to make good judgments and decisions. Bad decisions and judgments come when we don’t include God in our decisions. This then brings us to our next point...

**16**

2) What caused David to not think of God

This is the question we all have to answer for ourselves. What situations or circumstances that we face that cause us to lose our focus, to stop keeping God foremost in our thoughts? That is what is really under discussion here. Satan seeks to find the circumstances that will cause us to lose our focus and forget God, Christ, what we have learned from the Word. When Satan took Christ and tempted Him Jesus' answer was "it is written." In Ephesians, where the armor of the Lord is described, note...

**Eph 6:17**

**17**

**17** And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

The power of the Spirit, both for defending ourselves and for battling with Satan is the Word of God, His love revealed, His power manifested.

So, why did David lose focus, forget about God? To be honest, the most convenient and easiest answer is that he was a man. The best of men are still men and subject to all the frailties that plague humanity. If we were always faithful in our words and actions, we would not sin.

**Rom 3:23**

**18**

**23** for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

The harsh truth is that we are not perfect. We make mistakes, we sin, we fall short of God's glory. This idea of falling short of God's glory I think is explained in...

**2 Peter 1:2-3**

**19**

**2** Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; **3** seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.

Peter writes God's grace and peace are multiplied in man's knowledge of God and Christ, because he has given man everything He needs through that knowledge of the one who called us to His glory. And how does God call us, through His Word, and what does He call us to, His glory. God's glory is revealed in His Word, through his Word.

**John 1:14**

**20**

**14** And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Christ is the glory of God and if we fall short of that glory, we fall short of Christ and the Gospel.

David had been with a very long trial. Month after month he had been hunted by a man that he would not fight.

Another quote from Spurgeon...

**21**

***The martyrdom of an hour is sudden glory, but the martyrdom of a life-there needs something more than human to endure this.***

The point he is making here is that a sudden onslaught is sometimes easier to endure than a lifetime of dealing with Satan's pressure. Man, by himself, can't endure that kind of pressure. He needs help. He needs the glory of God carry him through.

And that brings us to our last part...

**22** 3) What was the result of David not thinking of God

What happens when man does not include God in his life, in the decisions and judgments that he makes?

**23** ***DESPAIR***

Hopelessness, insecurity, fear, all the things that attack a man's faith. In...

***Ps 22:1-2***

**24**

**1** My God, my God, why have You forsaken me? Far from my deliverance are the words of my groaning. **2** O my God, I cry by day, but You do not answer; And by night, but I have no rest.

David, in his despair and grief, felt like God had forsaken him. This is, unfortunately, a common response that is seen when someone gets overwhelmed with the cares of the world and the burden of sin. This statement has been made famous when Christ quoted it while on the cross...

**25** ***“Eli, Eli, Lama Sabathani”***

The burden of sin can cause even the strongest to feel the hopelessness of being separated from God because of sin. But the point is this, God never forsakes man. David knew that in his heart...

***Ps 22:9-10***

**26**

**9** Yet You are He who brought me forth from the womb; You made me trust when upon my mother's breasts. **10** Upon You I was cast from birth; You have been my God from my mother's womb.

David knew that God is always there. But here is the point of this lesson. If nothing else sticks, put this one into the memory bank; God helps everyone who...

**27** ***“Comes to God on His terms”***

We can't make it without God on our side. Without God, man lives in a state of despair, hopelessness, because that is what sin does, it makes man hopeless.

So is this how we should go through life? Hopeless? We don't have to. We can come to God's glory through His Son Jesus Christ. That's what He invites us to do.