

Psalm 125 (*msg*)

¹⁻⁵ Those who trust in God
are like Zion Mountain:
Nothing can move it, a rock-solid mountain
you can always depend on.
Mountains encircle Jerusalem,
and God encircles his people—
always has and always will.
The fist of the wicked
will never violate
What is due the righteous,
provoking wrongful violence.
Be good to your good people, God,
to those whose hearts are right!
God will round up the backsliders,
corral them with the incorrigibles.
Peace over Israel!

This Week's *Verses*

Psalm 125
Matthew 6:25-33
Hebrews 13:5-6
Mark 14:29-31
Psalm 46:1

Steadfastness
Psalm 125

Week 6

Songs of Ascent



Daily Reading

Steadfastness Psalm 125

One of the sad things about people who call themselves Christians, is that they are afraid of their worries and doubts. Too many people try to push any doubts out of their minds as if even having a doubt is a sin (as if it makes us not steadfast in our trust in Christ). Being steadfast doesn't mean we don't have questions, it means that we believe that ultimately we know (whether we fully understand it or not) who the ultimate answer truly is. Faith in God is not faith untroubled by anxiousness or doubt, it is a faith *in spite* of it. An elderly woman asked the great church reformer, Martin Luther, about faith though she has doubt, he said "tell me, when you recite the creeds, do you believe them?" She says "*yes, most certainly,*" his response was "then go in peace, you believe more and better than I."

Read the Psalm each day as you answer the daily questions.

Day 1 Reflect: Why is faith in God rock-solid? Not because of the strength of our own faith, but because God is immovable.

Pray: Ask God to increase your faith and praise Him that He is all-powerful, secure, and unchanging.

Day 2 Reflect: Do you feel safe in the arms of Jesus' protection?

Pray: Talk with God about the areas you may not feel safe and ask Him to remind you of His constant presence and protection.

Day 3 Reflect: What questions do you currently have that you would like answered in terms of faith?

Pray: Ask God to reveal who you should honestly ask your questions too.

Day 4 Reflect: How can doubts lead to a stronger faith as we trust God, even before we know all the answers?

Pray: Ask God to give you a steadfast confidence in Him even when you have questions.

Day 5 Reflect: How can God give you peace in the midst of your questions and doubts?

Pray: Talk to God about surrendering your fears and insecurities, praising Him that He embraces us in the midst of our weakness.

Community Discussion

As you gather as a community, discuss what you learned through the daily readings.

What is a question you would love for God to answer (any question)?
(If you want to submit questions to ECC leadership, you can email them to: info@ourelement.org)

How is it possible to have a deeper faith even in the midst of questions?

Who is the most steadfast person you know? Why?

What doubts have you had/do you continue to have?

What has your experience been in sharing those doubts with others?

Have you ever been afraid to express a doubt?

How did those experiences (of sharing or not sharing) shape your view of Jesus?

Looking at the people in your group, what would you name as some of their core convictions?

Rather than living in fear of our failures, how can those failures speak of who Jesus is?

How can we be a people who demonstrate that a faith grounded in Jesus allows for questions and doubts?

Define what “steadfast” means in the midst of our doubts.

Songs of Ascent