

GUIDED BY GOD

Steps, Stops, and Stumbles

Psalms 37:23-24

Psalm 37:23-24 (KJV) 23 The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way. 24 Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand.

Our Steps

Psalm 37:23 (KJV) 23 The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.

- The theme of Psalm 37 is patience and confidence in God
- Verse 23 says, ***The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.***
- The word *steps* here is plural suggesting that God's guidance is a *process* or a series of steps
- God has a goal or destination for our lives, but the plan is carried out in a series of steps
- The steps God has for us to take are revealed *one step at a time*
- Why doesn't reveal all the steps of our lives up front?
- God wants us to have faith and depend on Him for guidance and direction with every step of our lives
- God will use every event in our lives, both good and bad to accomplish His purpose for our lives ***Romans 8:28 (KJV) 28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.***
- These *steps* are the steps of a *good man, good woman, a godly person*
 - A godly person is a believer that is committed and surrendered to God and is willing to allow God to guide them
 - They are not stubborn or resistant to God, but they have committed their desires to the guidance of God ***Proverbs 16:9 (KJV) 9 A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps.***
 - The *good or godly* person wants their desires to be in line with the will of God
- These steps are *ordered* by the Lord
 - The word *ordered* here means to set up, to fix, to prepare, to orchestrate, or to choreograph
 - The choreographer determines the steps in dance routine
 - God is the choreographer of our lives
- When we allow God to choreograph the steps of our lives, God *delights* and is pleased with us and the results
 - God is pleased with us following the steps He's laid out for us, but also our attitude along the way
 - When God is pleased, we are blessed
- Jesus' steps were directed, choreographed by God to meet the Samaritan woman at the well ***John 4:4,7 (KJV) 4 And he must needs go through***

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Samaria. ... 7 There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, Give me to drink.

- Jesus was a traveling from Judea to Galilee and He said, *I need to go through Samaria*
- Jesus meets the Samaritan woman at the well and offers her the living water where she will never be *spiritually thirsty* again
- Jesus' steps were ordered by God to minister to the Samaritan woman, but it was also part of a greater mission
- God then *orders the steps* of the Samaritan woman to share her faith with others in the town **John 4:28-29 (KJV) 28 The woman then left her waterpot, and went her way into the city, and saith to the men, 29 Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?**
- God choreographed Jesus' steps to minister to the Samaritan woman by Jesus following those God-ordained steps, it opened the door for others in Samaria to receive Jesus **John 4:39 (KJV) 39 "And many of the Samaritans of that city believed on him for the saying of the woman, which testified, ..."**
- God has a plan and purpose for our lives, but we must let God lead and choreograph the steps of our lives **Romans 8:14 (KJV) 14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.**
- **Question: Are you allowing God to order your steps?**

Our Stops

Acts 16:6-10 (KJV) 6 Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia, 7 After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not. 8 And they passing by Mysia came down to Troas. 9 And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us. 10 And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavoured to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them.

- Not only are our *steps* ordered by God, our *stops* are ordered by Him, too
- Paul and his ministry companions, Silas and Timothy were going from town to town establishing churches in the region
- Paul wanted to expand his missionary work to Asia, but the Holy Spirit *prevented or stopped* him from going
- Paul headed north to Bithynia, but the Holy Spirit prevented of stopped them from going any further
- Paul traveled to Troas and God gave him a vision of a man telling him to "Come to Macedonia and help us"

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- Paul immediately went to Macedonia because the Lord called him to preach the gospel there
- Paul's steps were *ordered* by God through *stops*
- Paul and his team were preaching the gospel and having great results, and God stopped the direction of Paul's plans
- Paul allowed God to *order his steps* by *ordering his stops*, even though his steps were producing great results
- When God says "stop", He's still *ordering our steps*
- God may stop our steps for many reasons
- The key is just as a good person's steps are ordered by the Lord, so are our stops
- **Question: Are you willing to let God stop your steps?**

Our Stumbles

Psalms 37:24 24 Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand.

- We live in a sin-filled world and it's possible for believers to fall, stumble along the way
- We may stumble and fall through sins we commit or through the trials and troubles of life
- But because we are *godly people*, we will not utterly cast down, overthrown, and with no hope of recovery
- You and I can rise again because the Lord upholds us with His hand
- We may stumble in life, but it's good to know God never loses His grip on us
- We may stumble and fall, but we are not forsaken, God is there sustaining us
- If we stumble and fall in life, God is there (Jehovah Shammah) to catch us by the hand and raise us up again ***2 Samuel 12:13 (KJV) 13 And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD. And Nathan said unto David, The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die.***
- God is there to help us up and proceed on the path He *ordered* for our lives
- God is there to guide order our steps, our stops, and help us up when stumble