

THE BENEFITS OF LOYALTY

To whom are you more likely to be close, someone you know and appreciate or someone you have never met? Do you share the same camaraderie with a person whom you have known for most of your life and with whom you have shared many experiences or with someone with whom you share no common interests? I think these answers are obvious to us. We are closer to those like us. We give preference to those who give their loyalty to us and know that they have our loyalty as well.

If you were in trouble, whose attention would you seek? Would you cry out for anybody? Would you expect a response from just anyone? I know I would seek the attention of someone I trusted and with whom I had a close relationship. That person would know how I felt about them and would not doubt my commitment to our relationship based upon my words and actions.

If the roles were reversed, I would definitely do all that I could to help someone that I knew cared about me and for whom I cared greatly. Responding to a situation by pinpointing the problems and understanding their source would help bring the situation to a proper resolution.

In Psalm 18, we see David in a predicament. He begins the song by seeking attention (1-2) of not just anyone but the LORD. He continues by declaring loyalty (3-5) to the one who can see into his heart and mind. David desires deliverance (6-9) at the hand of his God who has shown favor toward him and has provided protection to him throughout his life. He acknowledges his adversaries (10-12) but knows that with the LORD acting on his behalf, a righteous resolution will be reached (13-15) and everything will be made right.

Do I (or do you) see my (or your) relationship with the Lord in this psalm? When God looks into my (or your) heart and mind, does he find loyalty - not sinless perfection, rather humility and a desire to please him before anyone or anything else? David was called a man after God's own heart, not because he never sinned (he had some whoppers), but because his loyalty was always to the LORD and he was humble enough to admit when he was wrong. Loyalty like that will benefit from God's attention and will be delivered through any difficulty the enemies of God can throw its way.

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