

Day 54 – Apr. 13

God's promises to David, and now to Solomon, were not condition-less. Each began with a frightening word: "if". "If you will follow me with integrity and godliness..." And then the blessed word: "then". "...then I will establish the throne of your dynasty over Israel forever." It is a frightening thing to ponder the "if" of God's promise.

"If" means that we have a part in our own salvation. "If" means we can fail and lose our "then". "If" means God expects something of us. And for David and Solomon this was so. But look at what God expected. "If you will follow me with integrity and godliness..." Not perfection, not sinlessness, and not, heaven forbid, performance. The call to these two kings was integrity and godliness.

Integrity – moral uprightness, the state of being whole or united. God wants his leaders to be moral and to be whole within themselves, not two-faced or split depending on which crowd they stand with at the moment.

Godliness – piety, the state of being devoutly religious. God wants his leaders to not just act the part of God-followers but to be pious, to live the life and feel the feels of following God. They cannot pretend – God will know – and they cannot act the part.

Does God have any "if"s for us in His promises? Do we have responsibilities for our own salvation? Does God expect integrity, wholeness, from us? Does God expect piety, reality rather than pretense, in our faith?