

Studies in Psalms by [John T Polk II](#)
For [The Fellowship Room](#)

Psalm 131

4/16/13

There is uncertainty regarding the author, time, or circumstances of these Psalms, but it is apparent [Psalms 120-134](#) work together, and are called the "Songs of Degrees," and sometimes "Songs of Ascension." This Psalm is attributed to David, but also could have been written about David, for it seems to express his child-like humility before God.

Psalm 131

What It Means To "Grow Up"

Verse 1 defines humility;
Verse 2 describes contentment;
Verse 3 distributes this among his countrymen.

Verse 1: "LORD, my heart is not haughty." Humility is not downgrading oneself, but accepting oneself in view of God. "Before destruction the heart of a man is haughty, And before honor *is* humility" ([Proverbs 18:12](#)). "By humility *and* the fear of the LORD Are riches and honor and life" ([Proverbs 22:4](#)).

"Nor my eyes lofty." The way up is down, for "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble" ([James 4:6](#)). Paul taught Christians "to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men" ([Titus 3:2](#)). Moses was humble ([Numbers 12:3](#)), but God can: "Exalt the humble, and humble the exalted" ([Ezekiel 21:26](#)). Every person is a "creature" needing the Gospel ([Mark 16:15-16](#)).

"Neither do I concern myself with great matters...Nor with things too profound for me." "Great matters" are out of my control, and "profound" things are above my head. In other words, everything in this world doesn't need everybody's opinion! Facebook or Tweet that! This is not a "head-in-the-sand" approach to life, but a realization that all matters may not be our personal concern. Probably this verse is in the Law of Jesus Christ in [Romans 12:16](#): "Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion."

Verse 2: "A weaned child" has made the transition from suckling to satisfied. Comfort in the mother's breast is no longer also the child's sustaining food. "A weaned child" has learned that life is no longer dependent upon mother alone. The process of maturing has progressed. To be a Christian, one must be "converted and become as little children, [*or else*] you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven" ([Matthew 18:3](#)).



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Then Peter expressed spiritual progress in the faith:

Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious ([1 Peter 2:1-3](#)).

Many who do not become Christians have refused the humility of repentance and baptism "in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins ([Acts 2:38](#)).

Many of those who have become Christians have refused to be "weaned" from the "milk" of the Word of God. Spiritual growth is stunted without study.

For everyone who partakes *only* of milk *is* unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, *that is*, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil ([Hebrews 5:13-14](#)).

Verse 3: "O Israel, hope in the LORD From this time forth and forever."

This is a challenge for David's brethren to move forward in their faith. The church of Christ is thus challenged: "We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of your love for all the saints; because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel" ([Colossians 1:3-5](#)).

