

# Psalms 101:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Mine eyes shall be upon the faithful of the land, that they may dwell with me: he that walketh in a perfect way, he shall serve me.

## Analysis

**Mine eyes shall be upon the faithful of the land, that they may dwell with me: he that walketh in a perfect way, he shall serve me.** After negatively defining who David will exclude (vv. 3-5, 7-8), this verse positively describes who he will appoint to positions of influence. "Mine eyes shall be upon" (einai b'ne'emunei-eretz, עינִי בְּנֵאמֹנֵי-אֶרֶץ) indicates intentional selection—David will actively seek out righteous individuals rather than passively accepting whoever seeks office.

"The faithful of the land" (ne'emunei eretz, נְאָמָנֵי אֶרֶץ) uses ne'emani (אמני), meaning faithful, reliable, or trustworthy—from the same root as emunah (אמנה), faithfulness). These are people characterized by covenant loyalty, consistent integrity, and dependable character. David will surround himself with those whose lives embody God's values.

"That they may dwell with me" (lashev et immadi, לְשַׁבֵּת עַמְּדֵי) refers to proximity to the king—serving in palace or administration. In ancient monarchies, court officials wielded enormous influence over policy, justice, and national direction. By appointing only the faithful, David ensures his administration reflects righteous values rather than being corrupted by self-serving bureaucrats.

"He that walketh in a perfect way, he shall serve me" (holek b'derek tamim hu y'shareteni, הַלֹּךְ בְּדֶרֶק תָּמִימָם הוּא יִשְׁרְתֵּנִי) reiterates the qualification. Shareteni (ישרתני)

means to minister or serve in official capacity—not merely general service but governmental/priestly roles. Moral integrity is the prerequisite for leadership, more important than competence, wealth, or political connections.

## **Historical Context**

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David's commitment to appointing only the faithful contrasts with typical ancient Near Eastern court politics, where positions were often hereditary, purchased, or awarded based on political loyalty rather than moral character. Mesopotamian, Egyptian, and other royal courts were notorious for nepotism, bribery, and factional intrigue.

Biblical narratives illustrate the importance of faithful advisors. Joseph served Pharaoh with integrity (Genesis 41). Daniel and his friends maintained faithfulness in Babylonian courts despite pressure to compromise (Daniel 1-6). Conversely, corrupt advisors led kings into disaster—Rehoboam's young advisors counseled harshly, splitting the kingdom (1 Kings 12).

David's own court included both faithful servants (Nathan the prophet, Benaiah, the mighty men) and problematic figures (Joab, who murdered rivals; Ahithophel, who betrayed David during Absalom's rebellion). The psalm represents David's aspiration, though he didn't perfectly achieve it—a reminder that even righteous leaders struggle with personnel failures.

For the church, this principle appears in qualifications for elders and deacons (1 Timothy 3:1-13, Titus 1:5-9). Character precedes competence. Leaders must first be faithful in personal life before being entrusted with spiritual authority over others.

## **Related Passages**

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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1. How can leaders today identify and recruit the 'faithful' rather than the merely talented, connected, or charismatic?
2. What organizational cultures or structures help ensure that integrity remains the primary qualification for leadership positions?
3. In what ways might churches, businesses, or governments compromise by appointing those who lack moral character despite other qualifications?

## Interlinear Text

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עִינֵּי	בְּנָאָמְנִי	אָרֶץ	לְשָׁבֶת	עַמְּדֵי
Mine eyes	shall be upon the faithful	of the land	that they may dwell	H5978
H5869	H539	H776	H3427	
הַלְּגָה	בַּדְּרָה	תָּמִימָה	הַאֲמָתָה	וִשְׁרָתָנוּ
with me he that walketh	way	in a perfect	H1931	he shall serve
H1980	H1870	H8549		H8334

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 119:63** (Parallel theme): I am a companion of all them that fear thee, and of them that keep thy precepts.

**Revelation 21:3** (Parallel theme): And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

**John 17:24** (Parallel theme): Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.

**John 12:26** (Parallel theme): If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour.

**Psalms 15:4** (Parallel theme): In whose eyes a vile person is contemned; but he honoureth them that fear the LORD. He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not.

**Matthew 24:45** (Faith): Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season?

**Psalms 34:15** (Parallel theme): The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry.

**Proverbs 29:2** (Parallel theme): When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.

**Proverbs 28:28** (Parallel theme): When the wicked rise, men hide themselves: but when they perish, the righteous increase.

**John 14:3** (Parallel theme): And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.