

MAKE ME

I don't know about you, but recess was my favorite period in school. During semi-supervised activity on playground equipment installed over asphalt pads, we would jockey for position in true Darwinian fashion in our jungle called school. The freedom of recess allowed us to test the boundaries and set the pecking order. As confident kids would take a stab at the dominance of their peers by bossing them around, a common defiant phrase would echo throughout the chaos, "Make me!" Sadly, this attitude stuck with me and drove me through my formative years. Likewise, it led my mind to a rebellion against authority. As I desperately clawed for my autonomy, I rejected anyone who would exert any dominance over me. "Make me!" almost led to my demise.

David was imperfect yet known as a "man after God's own heart." Sometimes, he tried to live life his way and be his own boss. Those times didn't work out so well for him. If that didn't work (like it didn't work for me), then what is the secret sauce?

David explains in Psalm 25:4-5,8-10:

*4 Make me to know your ways, O Lord;
teach me your paths.*

*5 Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all the day long.*

*8 Good and upright is the Lord;
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.*

*9 He leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches the humble his way.*

*10 All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness,
for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.*

David tells us that the key to success is the same exact phrase. However, it has a different attitude behind it. Instead of shaking a defiant fist in the air and saying "Make me!" as if to challenge God to force you to do something you don't want to do, the key is to realize two things. I am a sinner, and I am not God. With that humility, we approach the creator of the universe again and say, "Make me." This time, it is with reverence and compliance. But, you may be asking, why on earth would I yield that power to the Lord? The list is extensive, but to boil it down, (1) He is the only place that salvation is found, (2) he is completely good, and (3) his ways are upright. Even more, the path he provides is steadfast love and faithfulness.

How is your path going? Who is leading the way?

I am a broken sinner who doesn't know the way. Thank God he does.

John 14:6

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

To the Lord, I say, "Please, make me!"

Shalom,
Ryan