

*THE  
BOOK  
OF  
PSALMS*

## Psalm 5

- 0** To the Chief Musician. With flutes. A Psalm of David.
- 1** Give ear to my words, O LORD,  
Consider my meditation.
- 2** Give heed to the voice of my cry,  
My King and my God,  
For to You I will pray.
- 3** My voice You shall hear in the morning, O LORD;  
In the morning I will direct *it* to You,  
And I will look up.
- 4** For You *are* not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness,  
Nor shall evil dwell with You.
- 5** The boastful shall not stand in Your sight;  
You hate all workers of iniquity.
- 6** You shall destroy those who speak falsehood;  
The LORD abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man.
- 7** But as for me, I will come into Your house in the multitude of Your  
mercy;  
In fear of You I will worship toward Your holy temple.
- 8** Lead me, O LORD, in Your righteousness because of my enemies;  
Make Your way straight before my face.
- 9** For *there is* no faithfulness in their mouth;  
Their inward part *is* destruction;  
Their throat *is* an open tomb;  
They flatter with their tongue.
- 10** Pronounce them guilty, O God!  
Let them fall by their own counsels;  
Cast them out in the multitude of their transgressions,  
For they have rebelled against You.
- 11** But let all those rejoice who put their trust in You;  
Let them ever shout for joy, because You defend them;  
Let those also who love Your name  
Be joyful in You.
- 12** For You, O LORD, will bless the righteous;  
With favor You will surround him as *with* a shield.

# Introduction

## Title:

“To the Chief Musician. With flutes. A Psalm of David. ”

Like Psalm 4, Psalm 5 is addressed to “the Chief Musician”. Also, neither Psalm 4 nor Psalm 5 describe any occasion or circumstances as a motivation for the psalms or explanation of events or allusions. Psalm 4 included musical instruction for the Psalm to be accompanied with stringed instruments. Psalm 5 requires flutes.

## Theme:

Daily prayer, offered in humble worship of God, expresses our faith that the nature of God compels Him to defend and bless His people.

# Introduction

## Recurring Phrases, Images, and Concepts:

Psalm 5:2	“Give heed to the voice of my cry.”
Psalm 3:4	“I cried to the Lord with my voice,”
Psalm 4:1	“Hear me when I call,”
Psalm 5:3	“My voice you shall hear”
Psalm 3:4	“And He heard me”
Psalm 5:3	“In the morning I will direct it to You. And I will look up.”
Psalm 4:5	“Offer the sacrifices of righteousness, And put your trust in the Lord.”
Psalm 5:4	“Nor shall evil dwell with You.”
Psalm 1:5	““Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.”
Psalm 5:5	“ The boastful shall not stand in Your sight.”
Psalm 1:5	“Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment,”
Psalm 5:6	“You shall destroy those who speak falsehood”
Psalm 4:2	“And seek falsehood”
Psalm 5:7	“ I will come into Your house in the multitude of Your mercy”
Psalm 4:3	“the Lord has set apart for Himself him who is godly”
Psalm 5:10	“Pronounce them guilty, O God!”
Psalm 1:6	“the way of the ungodly shall perish.”
Psalm 2:5	“He shall speak to them in His wrath.”

### Recurring Phrases, Images, and Concepts:

Psalm 5:10	“Cast them out”
Psalm 2:9	“You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter’s vessel.”
Psalm 5:11	“let all those rejoice who put their trust in You.”
Psalm 2:12	“Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.”
Psalm 5:11	“let all those rejoice . . .shout for joy . . . Be joyful”
Psalm 4:7	“You have put gladness in my heart”
Psalm 5:12	“For You O Lord will bless the righteous”
Psalm 1:6	“For the Lord knows the way of the righteous”
Psalm 2:12	“Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.”
Psalm 3:8	“Your blessing in upon Your people.”
Psalm 5:12	“You will surround him as with a shield”
Psalm 3:3	“But You, O Lord, are a shield for me”
Psalm 4:8	“For You alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.”

## Structure

The structure of Psalm 5 is interesting because there is no general agreement among commentators on its structure.

J.J. Stewart Perowne states the Psalm 5 has three parts:

- Verses 1-3 Earnest pleading for God to hear the sigh of his heart and the voice of his lips.
- Verses 4-7 Confidence of the righteous man in approaching God who hates iniquity.
- Verses 8-12 Prayer for guidance, protection, and blessing.

Charles H. Spurgeon states that Psalm 5 has two parts:

- Verses 1-7 David vehemently begs God to hear his prayer.
- Verses 8-12 Repeats the first part in different language.

## Structure

Bob Curley – Psalm 5 consists of four stanzas and each stanza contains three verses.

I.vv. 1-3 Commitment to pray with mind and heart daily, trusting God to hear and answer.

II.vv. 4-6 Dependence on the character of God for answer to prayer.

III.vv. 7-9 Trust in the mercy of God for guidance and protection.

IV.vv.10-12 Contrasts God's judgment of the ungodly with His blessing of the righteous.

# Exposition

I. Commitment to pray daily with mind and heart, trusting God to hear and answer. vv. 1-3

A. “Give ear to my words . . . my meditation . . . the voice of my cry”

1. Here, David pleads with God to hear the words of his prayer, as well as his unspoken thoughts, deliberations, groaning, and sighs. He understands that God not only hears the things that he can state clearly in words, but also the thoughts that flow through his mind as he focuses his thinking on his situation, on what he knows about God, on his fears, and on his search for answers and direction. Such thoughts flash through his heart and mind without following logical patterns and include a plethora of random bits of information, ideas, and images that swirl around a vortex of truths, concepts, arguments, and feelings. And, God hears the unspoken struggles of the soul, best described as groaning and sighing, that communicate our needs and grief that cannot be expressed in words; but, God understands them clearly. Romans 8:26; Psalm 12:5



## Exposition (Cont.)

### B. “My King and my God,” v. 2

1. Although David is a king himself, He humbles himself before God. Not only does David call Him God, but he also calls Him King, declaring that God has total authority over his life and that he is a loyal and obedient subject of his King.

### B. “My voice You shall hear in the morning, O LORD;” v. 3

1. David announces his resolution to pray daily. This is a commitment to prayer.

### B. “In the morning I will direct *it* to You, And I will look up.” v. 3

1. Now, when we first read this statement, it sounds like David is saying that he will send or point his prayer toward God. But, the Hebrew word for “direct” is “*arakh*”. It means “to arrange or set in order”. The word is used most frequently in connection with the sacrifices in the OT.

### Examples of Uses of “direct” in the Old Testament

Genesis 22:9 Then they came to the place of which God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the wood in order; and he bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, upon the wood.

Exodus 40:23 and he set the bread in order upon it before the LORD, as the LORD had commanded Moses.

Leviticus 1:7 The sons of Aaron the priest shall put fire on the altar, and lay the wood in order on the fire.

Leviticus 6:12 And the fire on the altar shall be kept burning on it; it shall not be put out. And the priest shall burn wood on it every morning, and lay the burnt offering in order on it; and he shall burn on it the fat of the peace offerings.

2. So, David says, “I will offer my prayer to you as an act of worship, a sacrifice, and “I will look up, and expect to receive the answer by fire from heaven to consume the sacrifice.” (Spurgeon)
3. It is a picture of serious, worship-filled prayer that is prayed full of faith, fully expecting an answer.

### II. Dependence on the Character of God for Answer to Prayer. vv. 4-6

- A. In this second stanza, David simply states specific aspects of the character of God that emphasize God's hatred of sin. God abhors "wickedness", "evil", "the boastful", "all workers of iniquity", "those who speak falsehood", and "the bloodthirsty and deceitful man."
- B. As we will see in the third (vv. 7-9) and fourth stanzas, vv. 10-12, David does this in order to establish a foundation for asking God to pass judgment on David's enemies and punish them. David's argument is that his enemies are actually God's enemies because they embody the things God hates.

### III. Trust in the Mercy of God for Guidance and Protection vv. 7-9

- A. "But as for me, I will come into Your house in the multitude of Your mercy; In fear of You I will worship toward Your holy temple." v. 7
  - 1. "But" David is not like the men in vv. 4-6. He is able to approach God, because of God's great mercy, "the multitude of His mercy."
  - 2. And, in reverent "fear" David commits himself to worshipping God, and directing his worship towards heaven.

## Exposition (Cont.)

B. “Lead me, O Lord, in Your righteousness because of my enemies; Make Your way straight before my face.” v. 8

1. David admits his need for God to direct and guide him “in [God’s] righteousness”, because, in the face of ferocious enemies, he is especially vulnerable to temptation and sin. While he knows he must be wise, careful, and forceful in dealing with his enemies, he also knows that to sin in the process is worse than being defeated by his enemies. Also, his enemies are ungodly men; so, if they witness David sinning, they will rejoice because they have enticed him to rebel against his God. This is also a humbly submitting himself to God and seeking God’s plan, rather than taking action based on his own ideas and strength – just going his own way.
2. Notice, v. 9 connects David’s enemies with those God hates in vv. 4-6. So, these are not primarily David’s enemies, they are God’s enemies, and David is asking God for guidance and protection from God’s enemies.

### IV. Contrast of God's judgment of the ungodly with His blessing of the righteous.

A. "Pronounce them guilty, O God! Let them fall by their own counsels; Cast them out in the multitude of their transgressions, For they have rebelled against You." v.10

1. David asks God to manifest His own character, as described in vv. 4-6, by declaring these men guilty and causing them to fall by their own actions, because they have rebelled against God – not because they are simply David's enemies. God's punishment for sin and rebellion in this life, most often comes in the form of God simply allowing sinful actions to produce their natural, logical consequences, which in themselves are destruction. Notice, the contrast between "the multitude of their transgressions" with "the multitude of [God's] mercy."

## Exposition (Cont.)

B. “But let all those rejoice who put their trust in You;  
Let them ever shout for joy, because You defend them;  
Let those also who love Your name  
Be joyful in You.” v.11

1. David contrasts his request for God to declare the ungodly guilty with his prayer for all those who put their trust in God. David asks for God to let them rejoice, shout for joy, and be joyful *in Him, in God* – not in their success or victory or abundance, but in the display of God’s righteousness and mercy.

## Exposition (Cont.)

- B. “For You, O Lord, will bless the righteous; With favor You will surround him as with a shield.”  
v. 12
1. The Psalm ends with a promise from God. God will bless His people. He will surround His people with His kindness and support and care.

## Exposition (Cont.)

- B. “For You, O Lord, will bless the righteous; With favor You will surround him as with a shield.”  
v. 12
1. The Psalm ends with a promise from God. God will bless His people. He will surround His people with His kindness and support and care.



## Applications:

1) Like David, we should cultivate a habit of worshipping God in prayer daily with both our minds and hearts, and we must remind ourselves constantly to trust God to hear and answer our prayers.

2) We can be certain God will answer our prayers if we pray in harmony with the nature and character of God.

1) We must trust that the preaching and teaching of the Word of God is an expression of God's mercy to us in order to train us in righteousness and lead us through every event, issue, and path in life. The more we know God's Word, the more we know God, and the more we know God, the more His revealed will in the Bible works in us to guide us and protect us.

2) The holiness of God and His certain judgment of those who rebel against Him should fill us with constant thanksgiving and praise and worship for His mercy in forgiving and saving us.