

Psalm 25

A Psalm of David.

¹ To You, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

² O my God, I trust in You; Let me not be ashamed; Let not my enemies triumph over me.

³ Indeed, let no one who waits on You be ashamed; Let those be ashamed who deal treacherously without cause.

⁴ Show me 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; On You I wait all the day.

⁶ Remember, O LORD, Your tender mercies and Your lovingkindnesses, For they are from of old.

⁷ Do not remember the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions; According to Your mercy remember me, For Your goodness' sake, O LORD.

⁸ Good and upright is the LORD; Therefore He teaches sinners in the way.

⁹ The humble He guides in justice, And the humble He teaches His way.

¹⁰ All the paths of the LORD are mercy and truth, To such as keep His covenant and His testimonies.

¹¹ For Your name's sake, O LORD, Pardon my iniquity, for it is great.

¹² Who is the man that fears the LORD? Him shall He teach in the way He chooses.

¹³ He himself shall dwell in prosperity, And his descendants shall inherit the earth.

¹⁴ The secret of the LORD is with those who fear Him, And He will show them His covenant.

¹⁵ My eyes are ever toward the LORD, For He shall pluck my feet out of the net.

¹⁶ Turn Yourself to me, and have mercy on me, For I am desolate and afflicted.

¹⁷ The troubles of my heart have enlarged; Bring me out of my distresses!

¹⁸ Look on my affliction and my pain, And forgive all my sins.

¹⁹ Consider my enemies, for they are many; And they hate me with cruel hatred.

²⁰ Keep my soul, and deliver me; Let me not be ashamed, for I put my trust in You.

²¹ Let integrity and uprightness preserve me, For I wait for You.

²² Redeem Israel, O God, Out of all their troubles!

Lead Me and Help Me **Psalm 25**

INTRO:

Several titles are attached to this Psalm. The one I like the best is from the NASB. It reads, *“Prayer for Protection, Guidance and Pardon.”* One commentator called this a lament. A lament is by definition a passionate expression of grief or sorrow. David does sorrow over his sin. He also is not happy about his enemies. Yet, this Psalm has many positive points and prayer requests. This is a Psalm of urgent prayer and great confidence in Yahweh, whom David loves.

I. David’s Need (v. 1-7)

II. God’s Character (v. 8-14)

III. David’s Pleas (v. 15-22)

I. David’s Need (v. 1-7)

A. David opened his hymn with a commitment to Yahweh.

v.1 *“To You, O LORD, I lift up my soul”*

We often sing these words without thinking very much about what we are saying. David gave his real self unreservedly to the faithful God. This is equivalent to saying, “I am yours God lock stock and barrel.”

B. Starting from the place of total submission to the LORD, David now pleads with God.

vs.2-3 *“O my God, I trust in You; Let me not be ashamed; Let not my enemies triumph over me. Indeed, no one who waits on You will be ashamed; Let those be ashamed who deal treacherously without cause.”*

The idea of ashamed here is to be in a place of dreadful loss because something we trusted in has failed us. **Verse 2** is a plea that God will give him strength and deliverance against his enemies. **Verse 3** is his confidence in God. This is not a hope or a desire. It is a reality. God’s word and promise will not fail. Yahweh, the God of the Universe guarantees it! Those who do not know the LORD, on the other hand, will find the things they trust deceitful and they will fail to their destruction.

C. Now David makes his requests. Request number one is: I need to know where I am supposed to go.

vs.4-5 *“Show me Your ways, O LORD; Teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth and teach me, For You are the God of my salvation; On You I wait all the day.”*

Here is a threefold Hebrew parallelism. This was so important to David he said it three times. This is understanding God's truth and living and walking where God wants him to go. Note again, he does not say, "Show me and I will decide if that is what I want to do." He said, "Show me and teach me and I will do it."

D. Finally, David asks God to forget something and to remember something else.

vs.6-7 *"Remember, O LORD, Your tender mercies and Your lovingkindnesses, For they are from of old. Do not remember the sins of my youth, nor my [rebellions]; According to Your [loving kindness] remember me, For Your goodness' sake, O LORD."*

David's only hope was God's grace. David loved the LORD but he fought his sin and had to be forgiven. We need God's tender mercies and we must have His loving kindness. We cannot live without His forgiveness.

II. God's Character (v. 8-14)

A. Like in his prayer David no sooner prayed his supplications than he cites the truth about God which guaranteed God would answer.

vs.8-10 *"Good and upright is the LORD; Therefore He teaches sinners in the way. The humble He guides in justice, And the humble He teaches His way. All the paths of the LORD are mercy and truth, to such as keep His covenant and His testimonies."*

God's promise to lead us and helps us will happen, if we put our trust in Him through Jesus Christ and if we submit ourselves to Him. Notice the promises are for the "humble" and those who are in the covenant and keep it.

B. Because David thought about the wonder of Who God is, he cannot help dwelling on his sinfulness. David wanted to glorify God and he was always aware of his sin. So, he pauses in the midst of his meditation on the true and living God to plead for forgiveness again.

v.11 *"For Your name's sake, O LORD, Pardon my iniquity, for it is great."*

David could not plead anything in himself only Yahweh's great character and promises

C. David concludes his second stanza by reciting promises for those who seek to please the LORD.

vs.12-14 *"Who is the man that fears the LORD? Him shall He teach in the way He chooses. He himself shall dwell in prosperity, And his descendants shall inherit the earth. The secret [close relationship] of the LORD is with those who fear Him, And He will show them His covenant."*

Yahweh blesses those who are in awe of Him. He leads them and He blesses that one. This is a uniquely Old Testament promise when the covenant was tied to a land. The far greater promise is found in **verse 14**. An intimate relationship with Yahweh is promised to those who know Him and seek to love and serve Him.

III. David's Pleas (v. 15-22)

A. Finally, David pours out his feelings and struggles to Yahweh.

vs.15-18 *"My eyes are ever toward the LORD, For He shall pluck my feet out of the net. Turn Yourself to me, and have mercy on me, For I am desolate and afflicted. The troubles of my heart have enlarged; bring me out of my distresses! Look on my affliction and my pain, and forgive all my sins."*

When we have a fellowship with the true and living God we can pour out our struggles to Him.

1. David's first note is confident. I am focused on You and You will take me out of my troubles.

2. Then, David speaks of both his external problems and his internal pain.

vs.16-18 *"Turn Yourself to me, and have mercy on me, For I am desolate [lonely] and afflicted. The troubles of my heart have enlarged; bring me out of my distresses! Look on my affliction and my pain."*

The Lord never forgets He made us a unit: physical, spiritual, and emotional. David asks help with each of these areas.

3. Finally, for the third time in this Psalm, David remembers to ask forgiveness for his sin.

v.18b *"And forgive all my sins."*

David knew God and he knew how to plead with Yahweh and bring his needs to Him. But David still was a sinner, only a forgiven one.

B. David now returns to those who oppose him.

"Consider my enemies, for they are many; and they hate me with cruel hatred. Keep my soul, and deliver me; Let me not be ashamed, for I put my trust in You."

David had many enemies. He asked the LORD to keep his soul and deliver him from those who hate him. He wants to not be left hanging. He pleads that God would come through for Him. God will never fail David or any of us who know and trust the Lord. Can we truly say we trust God even when we cannot see what He is doing?

C. David uses the words *"integrity"* and *"uprightness"* here.

vs.19-20 *"Let integrity and uprightness preserve me, For I wait for You. Redeem Israel, O God, Out of all their troubles!"*

Isn't this the guy who three times pleaded his sins be forgiven? David had integrity and uprightness because he trusted Yahweh and had been forgiven. Remember 1 John 1:9?

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

This is the Lord's great promise to us so we can walk with Him in the light as He is in the light and have fellowship one with the other, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

D. Finally, David wanted us to know these blessings were not just for him alone. They were the promises for God's people too.

What do we take from this?

1. We need to begin with a commitment to the Lord. David started with a statement of commitment to Yahweh. Do we think this is the first time David gave himself to God? If we read the **Psalms**, we know he did this several times before and after this time. This is a commitment we make sincerely and have to confess our sin and renew it again.

2. David wanted God to lead him and show him where he should go. There is no magic formula here. If we seek to obey and are willing to follow, we will find ourselves in the way God wants us to go.

3. David confesses his sin and begs Yahweh's forgiveness. He does not doubt the forgiveness or he could not use the words integrity and forgiveness in **verse 21**. He was just very aware how he could do nothing for forgiveness, but had to rely on God's grace.

4. David knew God well and He knew Him personally. How much of a relationship do you and I have with the living God?

5. Remember the source of healing internally and externally is God alone. Will we ask God for His help in our struggles.

Hymn #418 *All Your Anxiety*