

## Psalm 25

**Read Psalm 25:1-3:** We have been talking about having only two nations in the world. God's people and the unbelieving masses. This psalm talks about the person who has put their trust in God; and who is now feeling the gravity of that decision.

This psalm is about putting our lives in God's hands. *Christianity as a theory or philosophy is much different than it is as a practice.* Once we commit, and need to strap in for the ride as we *start seeing bridges burn behind us.* Now we have *skin in the game.* It is like comparing the reading of a history book on the civil war to watching a Rocky movie. Taking a position, and being in the fight is far more stimulating and engaging. A person who only attends church at their convenience and has no further commitment to God has the freedom to: reverse their course, recant their position, create loopholes, backslide, or put their fickle hope in whatever pleases them.

This world is clearly going away from God's standards. The blessing of God allowing this world to fall a bit is that *we are forced to make some further commitments to our faith.* In a sense, God is bringing the game to us. The stakes are being raised. The world and the faith are separating further from each other. That leaves all seemingly alone; in our position. We can feel vulnerable. We can feel that we blew it. It is a target for spiritual warfare. Some consider us to be naive for placing our hope in what is invisible. The good news is that this commitment increases our faith and spiritual strength. To be honest; we battle more with the *mental gymnastics of what could happen;* than any true *concrete and measurable consequences* of our faith position. Paul and David had much higher praises than we do because they were in a real-physical battle and visible spiritual war.

The big picture in this psalm is that David is a great guy; but he has developed many enemies who have tried to bring him harm. He is a hero who is being trashed. He is a valiant rescue ranger who is being cursed and pursued by the ignorant. David is also a pleaser; which requires approval of his peers to feel confirmed. He is losing all of that. It is not just a matter of having his peers developing differing opinions. They hate him for what he stands for. Many times

there is no logical reason for these antagonists to have any issues. There are people who will dislike you for who you are, and for who you are not.

The sooner that we can get above all of this playground envy and manipulation; the sooner we will be free to be who we are in Christ. There are things that need to happen for our faith to soar. We have things that we take comfort in that may have to be lost. Living the normal life of a responsible citizen can only take you so far. The question has been debated: Do circumstance make the man, or does the man make the circumstance? Psychologists would tell us that the harsh or desperate circumstances force *the real character* to emerge and engage and take hold. In other words, we are like baby eagles who need to be pushed out of our *comfortable nests* if we are going to learn how to soar.

*And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who[i] have been called according to his purpose. 29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. 30 And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.(Romans 8:28-29)*

The actions of malice from evil men can serve as a tool to push us into a lane that we would not normally travel in. I personally try to avoid conflict when possible. God uses the ill will of others to teach us how to become overcomers of evil with added faith. David was taught to soar because of King Saul's envy. Joseph was taught to soar, because of his brothers' envy. Daniel was taught to soar by his fellow governors; who maligned and framed him. In all cases, the character of these men was a billboard advertisement for any man who trusts in God.

Christians will increasingly find themselves at odds for keeping God's word.

*“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. 14 [c]Because narrow is the gate and [d]difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it. (Matthew 7:13-14)*

We will seem more strict and separate as our nation dives. We are not to support sinful lifestyles. Our society has become accustomed to the gradual transition from what was taboo; to now supporting sinful lifestyles. People who champion some social injustice causes use a false premise to back up their cause. For example, the left and homosexual rights people used to stand on the *freedom of speech* part of the constitution. Now these groups are shutting down conservative public communication venues; and classifying them as misguided and potentially dangerous.

David's faith in God seems to be on display. He is holding an unpopular position. David is remaining true to loving God and to protecting his people. Sometimes our zeal is seen as going too far; or creating a poor reflection on others who are less zealous.

*“If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. 19 If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. 20 Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also. (John 15:18-20)*

**It is really God's battle.** David needs God's help to prevent him from trading evil for evil; or losing his composure. His mighty men tell him to go in for the kill. He waits for God's direction. It is not his nature to be indecisive. He seems to be all alone. David knows that his secret path to safety is in his intimacy with God.

Job was also a man who held on to God closely, as he was senselessly attacked for his exemplary faith; and his world fell apart. His wife told him to curse God and die. On the surface it seems unfair to such a charitable and faithful man. He lost his large agricultural enterprise. He lost his cherished family and his health. He lost his happiness. Meanwhile the Devil was attempting to get him to turn his back on God.

David's life is on display for our learning.

*Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to [b]edification. 3 For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me." 4 For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the [c]patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. (Romans 15:2-4)*

The temptation in the days to come will be to cave in; and go with the flow of popular opinion. A time is coming when we will have to make unpopular choices...and employment choices...and take financial hits...and put ourselves in harm's way to hold our position in Christ. It is better to anticipate that happening; and get comfortable with it. All of the biblical heroes had to *go it alone*; just like Clint Eastwood. David knows that if he has miscalculated or misunderstood God's promises, he will be ashamed and feel abandoned by God.

Somebody is going to experience a humbling. Either he will die as a martyr or his enemies will be destroyed. He is putting it all on the line, based on God's commands and promises. When God delivers us, it is to his glory.

**Read Psalm 25:4-5:** Another reason to be stuck in our position; with nobody on our side, except God is that it gets us to focus. Once we find ourselves way out on a limb with God we are all ears. Take a breath; and reflect on God's instructions. We know that our other bridges have been burned.

God's people were miraculously freed from Egyptian bondage. Once they followed God's escape route they were attacked. *It seemed almost like God led them into a trap.* It was actually Pharaoh who was being baited into a trap.

*Now the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: 2 "Speak to the children of Israel, that they turn and camp before Pi Hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, opposite Baal Zephon; you shall camp before it by the sea. 3 For Pharaoh will say of the children of Israel, 'They are bewildered by the land; the wilderness has closed them in.' 4 Then I will harden Pharaoh's heart, so that he will pursue them; and I will gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his army, that the Egyptians may know that I am the Lord." And they did so....the heart of Pharaoh and his servants was turned against the people; and they said, "Why have we done this, that we have let Israel*

go from serving us?” **6** So he [[a](#)]made ready his chariot and took his people with him. **7** Also, he took six hundred choice chariots, and all the chariots of Egypt with captains over every one of them. **8** And the Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he pursued the children of Israel; and the children of Israel went out with boldness....And when Pharaoh drew near, the children of Israel lifted their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians marched after them. So they were very afraid, and the children of Israel cried out to the Lord. **11** Then they said to Moses, “Because there were no graves in Egypt, have you taken us away to die in the wilderness? Why have you so dealt with us, to bring us up out of Egypt? **12** Is this not the word that we told you in Egypt, saying, ‘Let us alone that we may serve the Egyptians’? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than that we should die in the wilderness.” **13** And Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid. **Stand still, and see the salvation[b] of the Lord, which He will accomplish for you today.** For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. **14** The Lord will fight for you, and you shall hold[c] your peace.” (Exodus 14)

We want to make sure that we clearly understand the path forward; and what God expects of us. Gaining greater awareness of what God is saying requires that I get closer..and sit still...and have more fellowship and friendship and time together.

*You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. **15** No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. (John 15:14-15)*

**Read Psalm 25:6-7:** We are only here because God loves us. He wants us to connect with him. We are his brainchild. We are really nothing more than his thought incarnate.

We are subject to God’s mercy.

*Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow [[h](#)]we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit”; **14** whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that*

*appears for a little time and then vanishes away. 15 Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.” (James 4:13-15)*

We have not earned mercy or rewards. It is God’s nature to be patient and kind to sinners; wishing that no man would perish. God wants us to fully feel that vulnerability and share the gospel with others.

*For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. 12 Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. (Jeremiah 29:11-12)*

*But Zion said, “The Lord has forsaken me, And my Lord has forgotten me.” 15 “Can a woman forget her nursing child, [i]And not have compassion on the son of her womb? Surely they may forget, Yet I will not forget you.16 See, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands; (Isaiah 49:14-16)*

It is very humbling to know that our only hope is according to God’s grace.

**Read Psalm 25:8-10:** One of the definitions of a Christian is one who shares God’s heart and mind on things. Their lives reveal their convictions; regardless of their public professions of belief. God has implanted a conscience in us. We need a sense of what is wrong and right to be different than animals.

*and the Lord said to him, “Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and cry over all the abominations that are done within it.” (Ezekiel 9:4)*