

### David Looks to the Lord for his Needs

#### Psalm 25

**Psalm 25** - *“To You, O LORD, I lift up my soul. O my God, I trust in You. Let me not be ashamed; let not my enemies triumph over me. Indeed, let no one who waits on You be ashamed. Let those be ashamed who deal treacherously without cause.*

*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. Remember, O LORD, Your tender mercies and Your loving kindnesses, for they are from of old. Do not remember the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions. According to Your mercy remember me, for Your goodness’ sake, O LORD.*

*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. For Your name’s sake, O LORD, pardon my iniquity, for it is great. 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 of the LORD is with those who fear Him, and He will show them His covenant.*

*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. 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. Let integrity and uprightness preserve me, for I wait for You. Redeem Israel, O God, out of all their troubles!”*

#### Background Notes

Psalm 25 is an alphabetic acrostic psalm. This means that each verse begins with successive letters of the Hebrew alphabet. It is not a perfect acrostic, however, because a couple of letters were left out, and there are other irregularities. It is not known if this was done purposely. In any case, Psalm 25 is one of several alphabetic acrostic psalms. The most well known acrostic psalm is of course is Psalm 119.

Psalm 25 has a three-part structure. Verses 1-7 are a prayer to the Lord, and verses 16-22 are a prayer to the Lord. Between the two prayers, verses 8-15 are about Lord and the blessings He provides for those who trust in Him.

In Psalm 25, David looked to the Lord for needs in his life – and for the life of every believer: guidance, forgiveness, instruction, deliverance, comfort, and protection. David looked to the Lord with confidence, knowing that he could depend on God's goodness - and so can we!

## Doctrinal Points

### 1. Committed believers look to the Lord for guidance and forgiveness

In verses 1-3 of the first prayer, David's concern was that no enemy would be able to gloat or exult over him because the Lord had failed to rescue him, even though he had trusted the Lord. He was confident that this would never happen - that the Lord would not let him be ashamed in this way. He was confident that the Lord would turn the tables, and in the end those who had opposed the Lord and had dealt treacherously with David would be ashamed. And the Lord can turn the tables today, too. Just keep trusting Him!

In verses 4-5 David looked to the Lord for guidance. But notice - he wasn't looking for God's stamp of approval on plans about which David had already decided! No! David wanted to be *led* in the true and righteous paths of *God's choice*. Is that our desire? Or do we just ask God to approve what we have already decided to do, so we can call it God's guidance?

In verses 6-7 of the prayer, David asked that the Lord would not remember his past sins. He based his request on God's compassion, loving-kindness and goodness. We, too, can pray this prayer. But we can pray this with much more assurance, now that Christ has come and died for our sins, and we have the teaching of the New Testament. 1 John 1:9 says that "*If confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*" We don't have to ask the Lord to forgive our sins. Our sins are eternally forgiven when we become believers, but we still sin. And sin in our lives disrupts our fellowship with the Lord.

So what do we do? As believers, when we sin we must recognize and identify the sin in our lives, and then we must confess these sins. We must bring them before the Lord. Forgiveness is guaranteed, and our fellowship will be restored. Committed believers look to the Lord for guidance and forgiveness.

### 2. Committed believers look to the Lord for instruction and deliverance.

The first seven verses and the last seven verses are prayers, but verses 8-15 of the psalm are not a prayer - even though verse 11 is addressed directly to the Lord. "*For Your name's sake, O LORD, pardon my iniquity, for it is great.*"

Verses 8 -15 emphasize that the obedient and committed believer can depend on the Lord for instruction and deliverance. Verse 8 tell us why the Lord is willing to instruct sinners and that includes all of us – it’s because the Lord is good and upright: *“Good and upright is the LORD; therefore He teaches sinners in the way.”*

Although the Lord instructs all of us, these verses teach that He is especially pleased to teach those who are humble: *“The humble He guides in justice, and the humble He teaches His way” (v9).*

The Lord loves to instruct the obedient in His loving-kindness and truth. *“All the paths of the LORD are mercy and truth, to such as keep His covenant and His testimonies” (v10).*

Verse 11 is a short prayer of repentance in the middle of the instruction section of the psalm. *“Do not remember the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions. According to Your mercy remember me, for Your goodness’ sake, O LORD.”*

The committed believer who fears the Lord receives special blessing and personal instruction, including the secret or deep things of God. *“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 of the LORD is with those who fear Him, and He will show them His covenant” (v12-14).*

The fear of the Lord doesn’t mean we should be afraid of God. No! It means we should honor Him in our lives, and we should show reverence to our God, who is all-powerful and holy.

In verse 15, David was confident that the Lord would deliver him out of the entangling net of his present trouble and affliction. *“My eyes are ever toward the LORD, for He shall pluck my feet out of the net.”* Did you ever feel that you were meshed and trapped in a net of troubles, maybe even of your own making? Listen! Determine to do the right thing, and then look to the Lord for instruction and deliverance. Doing the right thing and going the right way may not be easy, but committed believers will always look to the Lord for instruction and deliverance.

### **3. Committed believers look to the Lord for comfort and protection.**

Verses 16-22 are David’s second prayer in Psalm 25. In these verses we see that the emphasis is on David’s desire for the Lord’s comfort and protection. Have you ever been lonely? I mean really lonely, with no friends or family around for comfort and fellowship? Where do you turn at times like this? The Lord wants us to turn to Him, as David did. *“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” (v16-18).*

Notice - David acknowledged that his problems of loneliness and affliction might partly be his own fault when he mentioned his sins (v18). The good news here is that the Lord will never leave us or forsake us (Hebrews 13:5). Even when we have sinned, if we look to the Lord and confess our sin to Him, our fellowship with Him will be restored. And our loneliness will be removed as we experience the comfort of the Lord.

David looked to the Lord for protection from his many enemies. *“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”* (v19-20).

Do you have any “enemies”? If you’re in a position of leadership over God’s people as David was, you’re bound to face some kind of opposition. People will disagree with your decisions. They’ll talk behind your back, and may even do things to hurt you. So what do you do? You don’t take revenge! The Lord says, *“Never take your own revenge!”* (Romans 12:19). In your distress, turn to the Lord - just as David did. David was confident that the Lord would vindicate him, and he was confident that he would not be disappointed that he had put his trust in the Lord. He knew that integrity and uprightness would preserve and protect him. *‘Let integrity and uprightness preserve me, for I wait for You.*

David wasn’t claiming his own integrity and righteousness as meritorious, or that we reach heaven by our own good deeds. No! David knew that the righteous character of God and righteous dealings of God would vindicate him.

In verse 22 David prayed for the whole nation of Israel, as he prayed for himself: *“Redeem Israel, O God, out of all their troubles!”* This psalm will be certainly prayed by the godly remnant of restored Israel during the future “tribulation period.” Committed believers look to Lord for comfort and protection.

## **Practical Application**

### **Praise the Lord that He answers Psalm 25:7!**

Look back at the beginning of verse 7: *“Do not remember the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions...”*

In light of the rest of Scripture, we know that David’s prayer is forever answered. David’s sins, and the sins of all believers, are *“remembered no more”* (Hebrews 10:17). Our sins are removed *“as far as the east is from the west”* (Psalm 113:12). They are *“cast into the depths of the sea”* (Micah 7:19).

How many of you are glad that the Lord does not remember the sins of your teenage years – and the sins of our adult years as well? I think we can all agree. Praise the Lord that He answers Psalm 25:7!