

Psalm 25:1-10

- 1 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.
- 2 O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me.
- 3 Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.
- 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 day long.
- 6 Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.
- 7 Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O Lord!
- 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 decrees.

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- The focus of the psalmist is on worship, with eyes and heart fixed on the Lord.

- Compare with Psalm 24:4, “*He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.*”
 - David turns away from the world and earthly agendas as he approaches God. How important is our attitude as we come to worship? Does our approach to worship determine the essence or the outcome of our worship?
 - Asking not to be “put to shame” in this context is asking God not to disappoint. David is asking that his hope in the Lord ultimately be vindicated.
 - Struggles and trials can be stumbling blocks, but if we trust God, they can also open our hearts and strengthen our souls.
 - The Working Preacher notes, “*While we don’t have here a description of the precise nature and source of the Psalmist’s suffering, it is clear that the situation is dire; the Psalm is rife with the language of shame, guilt, loneliness, and affliction.*”
 - When the going gets tough, do the tough get going, or do they turn humbly to God?
 - Even the upright suffer adversaries, and sinners need no provocation to torment the righteous.
 - To “wait on the Lord” is to trust in the Lord's leading and to persevere patiently. It does not imply a passive faith.
 - Are the wanton and treacherous ever ashamed?
- 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 day long.*

- David echoes the prayer of Moses in Exodus 33:13, “...*teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you.*”
- For Christians, this is a two-fold request:
 - > Show me the paths that Jesus would take.
 - > Light the paths that Jesus would want ME to take.

6 *Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.*

7 *Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O Lord!*

- There is a hint of complaint in verse 6: *You've been there before, where are you now?*
- Trusting, praising, and serving God allows for sincere and heartfelt complaints!
- God is unchanging, and the rivers of forgiveness and mercy will continue to flow.
- Past blessings build our trust in further dispensations.
- David is seeking deliverance from enemies, but this time of trial compels him to lay bare his own sins.
- Notice that his case is not built on repentance, but on the tender mercies of the Lord.
- We often reference the transgressions of our youth. Are we less sinful as mature adults? Perhaps we've better learned to refine or rationalize our sin!

- Isn't it interesting that we want our God to remember his love and mercies, but to be forgetful when it comes to our sins, missteps, and transgressions.

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.*

- The psalmist has asked of God three things: deliverance, guidance, and forgiveness. Now his prayer transitions to reflection and contemplation.
- Enumerating the graces of God tends to bring peace and comfort to the soul.
- “Good and upright” reflect both the love and justice of God. David has no trouble linking these two, but we sometimes struggle: “If God is a loving God, then why does God ever allow evil or tragedy to prevail?”

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

- In the Hebrew, “steadfast love” can also be translated “covenant loyalty” or, simply, “grace,” and “faithfulness” can be translated “truth.”
- Here, many scholars see a transition from law to gospel—a yearning for a relationship with God such as is offered by Jesus Christ.