

Psalms 17

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Psalms 17

YouTube Prayer Link

Psalm 17

A whole new life

Psalm 17

This psalm is David's prayer, and in verse 1 you can feel the urgency of David's heart. His prayer was a sincere prayer: "Hear righteousness, O Lord, and incline your ear to my appeal; Harken unto my prayer, which is not of deceitful lips." There are three times in this verse that God is asked to hear his prayers. David knew who he prayed to, demonstrating God's justice and truth.

The poem begins with a cry to God (vv.1~2), then pleads for one's innocence (vv.3~5), pleads with God to deliver him from the enemy's hands (vv.6~9), goes on with a description of the enemy's viciousness (vv.10~12), punishes God (vv.13~14), and ends with the righteous living and justice being done (vv.15).

The mind and tongue are the most susceptible to sin. "Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks", the tongue is fire, which defiles the whole body; Only the Holy Spirit can rule over one's own heart, (James 3:2). "He is perfect and able to restrain himself without fault in his words" here is a great inspiration for us to be careful with our words and focus on what God says.

David believed that he was acting upright (vv.3–5) if God tested (tested..... Inspecting Temper him, and you will see his purity.

What is the content of this world? Lots of treasure? The "treasures" that God allows the wicked to possess are short-lived; On the contrary, the resurrection (awakening) before God is eternal. Many children? "They are content with having children. Not all of them are true! (Job 21:7–15); When we can't help but envy and compare the earthly benefits of the world, we should ask God to quickly carry us on the wings like eagles and bring us to the heavenly realm, so that we may be saved (v.14) 'from the blessed world in this life', so that we will not lose our vigilance in the earthly realm and fall into the snare of the world.

"The time of awakening" may refer to the time of the future resurrection. And in the future every man will wake up, and he who walks the word of God will be raised to life; Those who do evil are resurrected to condemn (John 5:29). Christ has risen from the dead as the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep," so we need not envy the fleeting happiness of the wicked in this life, for we have the hope of being with God after the resurrection.

Verse 8 David prays for God to place him in the center of God's care, and the psalmist is pleading with God to give him direct and careful care.

From this psalm we can also read the shadow of Jesus. He was innocent, but he was humiliated, scourged, and killed for our sins. He also prayed to God for God's protection in all things. Finally, His resurrection made him now with God. As verse 15 says, "When I wake up, I will be satisfied to see your image."

Psalm 17 shows the growth of the saints. 1. Turn away from sin by the word of God's mouth; 2. Steadfast in God, hidden in Christ; 3. Live each day with the hope of eternal life. And the secret of Christian victory is this: Leave nothing to worry about, but in everything, by prayer, supplication, and thanksgiving, tell God what you want. Let God be our only fulfillment in this life and in eternity. David focused not only on what he would say, but also on what God would say. Whatever decision David makes, he thinks first of what God will say.

The attitude of the wicked towards the godly is like that of a lion grasping for food. The devil himself is like a lion, so Peter warns the believers: "Be vigilant, for your adversary, the devil, is like a roaring lion, walking about the country, seeking whom to devour, and you must resist him with firm faith."

We pray.

Thank you, dear Lord, for teaching us how to trust you with David's prayer! Lord, you are a God of righteousness, a God of love, and a God of power. Purify my heart and my mouth so that we may walk in your paths. Pray that the Lord will use your mighty hand to protect us from all enemies, to free us from the temptations of this world, and to become a man who seeks the blessings of heaven, and to make you our only satisfaction. Lord Jesus, you have risen from the

dead and conquered death. Let us also have hope of the resurrection. Pray that the Lord will help me to live out the new life you have given me.

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ we pray, amen.

Psalm 17

King James Version

1 Hear the right, O Lord, attend unto my cry, give ear unto my prayer, that goeth not out of feigned lips.

2 Let my sentence come forth from thy presence; let thine eyes behold the things that are equal.

3 Thou hast proved mine heart; thou hast visited me in the night; thou hast tried me, and shalt find nothing; I am purposed that my mouth shall not transgress.

4 Concerning the works of men, by the word of thy lips I have kept me from the paths of the destroyer.

5 Hold up my goings in thy paths, that my footsteps slip not.

6 I have called upon thee, for thou wilt hear me, O God: incline thine ear unto me, and hear my speech.

7 Shew thy marvellous lovingkindness, O thou that savest by thy right hand them which put their trust in thee from those that rise up against them.

8 Keep me as the apple of the eye, hide me under the shadow of thy wings,

9 From the wicked that oppress me, from my deadly enemies, who compass me about.

10 They are inclosed in their own fat: with their mouth they speak proudly.

11 They have now compassed us in our steps: they have set their eyes bowing down to the earth;

12 Like as a lion that is greedy of his prey, and as it were a young lion lurking in secret places.

13 Arise, O Lord, disappoint him, cast him down: deliver my soul from the wicked, which is thy sword:

14 From men which are thy hand, O Lord, from men of the world, which have their portion in this life, and whose belly thou fillest with thy hid treasure: they are full of children, and leave the rest of their substance to their babes.

15 As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.

Psalm 17 is a heartfelt prayer for justice and protection, traditionally attributed to David. It expresses a deep reliance on God's protection and an unwavering commitment to righteousness, even when faced with hostile enemies. The psalm is both a plea for deliverance from evildoers and an affirmation of the psalmist's hope in seeing God's face. Here's a detailed look at each section and the key verses within it:

Verses 1-2: Appeal for Justice

"Hear me, LORD, my plea is just; listen to my cry. Hear my prayer— it does not rise from deceitful lips. Let my vindication come from you; may your eyes see what is right."

These opening verses reflect the psalmist's appeal to God, asking Him to listen and judge fairly.

The psalmist's claim of honesty and integrity— "it does not rise from deceitful lips"— underscores his confidence that he is in the right and asks God to see the truth of his case.

Verses 3-5: Claim of Innocence

"Though you probe my heart, though you examine me at night and test me, you will find that I have planned no evil; my mouth has not transgressed. Though people tried to bribe me, I have kept myself from the ways of the violent through what your lips have commanded. My steps have held to your paths; my feet have not stumbled."

Here, the psalmist testifies to his integrity. He speaks of a life examined by God, assured that no sin or evil intent will be found in him.

The psalmist claims he has followed God's guidance and kept himself from sin, staying on God's path.

Verses 6-9: Prayer for Divine Protection

"I call on you, my God, for you will answer me; turn your ear to me and hear my prayer. Show me the wonders of your great love, you who save by your right hand those who take refuge in you from their foes. Keep me as the apple of your eye; hide me in the shadow of your wings from the wicked who are out to destroy me, from my mortal enemies who surround me."

The psalmist's trust in God's love and deliverance is evident here. He calls on God's faithfulness and asks for protection as "the apple of your eye" and to be hidden "in the shadow of your wings"—images that convey intimacy and care.

The enemies are portrayed as dangerous forces closing in, and the psalmist seeks shelter in God's love.

Verses 10-12: Description of the Enemies

"They close up their callous hearts, and their mouths speak with arrogance. They have tracked me down, they now surround me, with eyes alert to throw me to the ground. They are like a lion hungry for prey, like a fierce lion crouching in cover."

The psalmist paints a vivid image of his enemies, showing them as proud, arrogant, and threatening.

They are likened to a hungry lion waiting to ambush, emphasizing the danger and hostility they pose.

Verses 13-14: Plea for Deliverance

"Rise up, LORD, confront them, bring them down; with your sword rescue me from the wicked. By your hand save me from such people, LORD, from those of this world whose reward is in this life. May what you have stored up for the wicked fill their bellies; may their children gorge themselves on it, and may there be leftovers for their little ones."

The psalmist asks God to act decisively against the wicked, describing them as people focused on earthly rewards.

He seeks deliverance from those who prioritize worldly pleasures, contrasting their temporary satisfaction with his own spiritual pursuits.

Verse 15: Declaration of Hope in God

"As for me, I will be vindicated and will see your face; when I awake, I will be satisfied with seeing your likeness."

The final verse reflects the psalmist's ultimate hope and confidence—his desire is not for earthly riches, but for God's presence.

The phrase "when I awake" implies a hope in the resurrection or an afterlife, where he believes he will see God's face and be fully satisfied.

Key Takeaways and Themes

Appeal to Justice: The psalmist repeatedly calls on God's justice, seeking divine intervention against the wicked.

Claim of Righteousness: The psalmist declares his innocence and asks God to examine his heart and actions.

Dependence on God's Protection: Using intimate and tender imagery, the psalmist likens himself to "the apple of [God's] eye" and asks to be hidden under God's wings.

Confidence in God's Presence: The psalm concludes with the psalmist's ultimate hope—to see God's face, which is a source of deep, eternal satisfaction.

Important Verses

Verse 1: Sets the tone of a just plea, "Hear me, LORD, my plea is just; listen to my cry."

Verse 8: "Keep me as the apple of your eye; hide me in the shadow of your wings"—one of the most memorable images of God's protection.

Verse 15: "As for me, I will be vindicated and will see your face... I will be satisfied with seeing your likeness"—a profound statement of the psalmist's ultimate hope in God alone.

In Psalm 17, the psalmist expresses a profound confidence that God is just, aware of his innocence, and protective. It encourages readers to place their ultimate hope in God's presence and promises, especially when confronted with earthly injustices.