

DAVID'S PRAYER FOR GOD'S GUIDANCE

BIBLE TEXT : Psalm 5:1-12

LESSON 343 Senior Course

MEMORY VERSE: "My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O LORD; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up" (Psalm 5:3).

BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

Psalm 5:1-12

¹ Give ear to my words, O LORD, consider my meditation.
² Hearken unto the voice of my cry, my King, and my God: for unto thee will I pray.
³ My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O LORD; in the morning will I direct *my prayer* unto thee, and will look up.
⁴ For thou *art* not a God that hath pleasure in wickedness: neither shall evil dwell with thee.
⁵ The foolish shall not stand in thy sight: thou hatest all workers of iniquity.
⁶ Thou shalt destroy them that speak leasing: the LORD will abhor the bloody and deceitful man.
⁷ But as for me, I will come *into* thy house in the multitude of thy mercy: *and* in thy fear will I worship toward thy holy temple.
⁸ Lead me, O LORD, in thy righteousness because of mine enemies; make thy way straight before my face.
⁹ For *there is* no faithfulness in their mouth; their inward part *is* very wickedness; their throat *is* an open sepulchre; they flatter with their tongue.
¹⁰ Destroy thou them, O God; let them fall by their own counsels; cast them out in the multitude of their transgressions; for they have rebelled against thee.
¹¹ But let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice: let them ever shout for joy, because thou defendest them: let them also that love thy name be joyful in thee.
¹² For thou, LORD, wilt bless the

BIBLE REFERENCES:

I A Prayer of David's

1. He petitions the Lord to hear his cry, Psalm 5:1, 2;
Psalm 3:4
4 I cried unto the LORD with my voice, and he heard me out of his holy hill. Selah.
Psalm 65:2
2 O thou that hearest prayer, unto thee shall all flesh come.
James 5:16
16 Confess *your* faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.
2. He makes his prayer early, and looks in faith for the answer, Psalm 5:3;
Psalm 88:13
13 But unto thee have I cried, O LORD; and in the morning shall my prayer prevent thee.
Micah 7:7
7 Therefore I will look unto the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation: my God will hear me.
Habakkuk 2:1
1 I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what he will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am reproved.
3. The Lord hates workers of iniquity, Psalm 5:4-6;
Psalm 55:23
23 But thou, O God, shalt bring them down into the pit of destruction: bloody and deceitful men shall not live out half their days; but I will trust in thee.
Revelation 21:8
8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.
4. Through mercy and in fear David will worship the Lord, Psalm 5:7.
5. He prays to be led in a straight path, Psalm 5:8;
Proverbs 15:19
19 The way of the slothful *man is* as an hedge of thorns: but the way of the righteous *is* made plain.
Matthew 7:13
13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide *is* the gate, and broad *is* the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:
Matthew 7:14
14 Because strait *is* the gate, and narrow *is* the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.
6. He describes the state of the wicked and predicts they will fall by their own counsel, Psalm 5:9, 10;
Luke 11:44
44 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are as graves which appear not, and the men that walk over *them* are not aware of *them*.
Romans 3:13
13 Their throat *is* an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps *is* under their lips:
7. He shows the joyfulness of those who trust in the Lord, and the

righteous; with favour wilt thou
compass him as *with* a shield.

blessings that follow, Psalm 5:11, 12;

Isaiah 65:13-14

¹³ **Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, my servants shall eat, but ye shall be hungry: behold, my servants shall drink, but ye shall be thirsty: behold, my servants shall rejoice, but ye shall be ashamed:**

¹⁴ **Behold, my servants shall sing for joy of heart, but ye shall cry for sorrow of heart, and shall howl for vexation of spirit.**

Habakkuk 3:17-19

¹⁷ **Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls:**

¹⁸ **Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.**

¹⁹ **The LORD God is my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' feet, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places. To the chief singer on my stringed instruments.**

NOTES:

Early Worship

In the preceding Psalm David says that he could lie down and sleep in peace because the Lord made him dwell safely. He awakened with a prayer on his lips directed to the God who had protected him through the night. When one goes to sleep with praises on his lips, he often awakens with a prayer in his heart. What a blessed way to start the duties of the day — with prayer and supplications to the God who watches over all!

The Value of Importuning

David was a man who importuned at the Throne of Grace. He pleaded with the Lord to give ear to his words; and when words failed, he asked that the meditations, the longings, the desires of his heart be considered by his King, his sovereign, his righteous vindicator — and his God, his acknowledged leader, the Creator whom he loved and worshiped. And when his soul was pressed even beyond his own understanding, and God's specific will was veiled, he pleaded, "Hearken unto the voice of my cry," the "groanings which cannot be uttered" (Romans 8:26, 27).

David realised his enemies were many and his only protection was the wings of the Almighty. The child of God has the same enemies today. There has always been the one common foe — the devil. We meet the enemy on the same battlefield that David did. There are Goliaths to meet today, and we need faith in our weapons of warfare just as David had faith that the Lord would direct that small stone sent by his only weapon, a little sling, right to the spot that would defeat the enemy. The weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but are mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds. "Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ" (II Corinthians 10:4, 5). (**Ephesians 6:10-18** **10 Finally, my**

brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. 11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. 13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; 15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. 17 And take the

helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: 18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;)

Looking Up

"My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O LORD." David was determined that the first and choicest of his time would be given to prayer and to meditating upon God's Word, concentrating his thoughts upon it and opening his heart to it, so that he might have an understanding of God's will and plan.

I will "direct my prayer unto thee" — and I will set my prayer in order before Thee. I will bring praises and thanksgiving; I will present my petitions, my arguments, my supplications. A habit that hinders prayer is that which allows one's thoughts to wander when he is seeking God. Every power and faculty of our being — our mind, our thoughts, and our all — must be centred upon the Lord. What can God think of any manner of prayer that a man will mumble if his thoughts be upon his business, family, cares of life, or anything else? It is a good thing to ask the Lord to break any such habit and enable us to pray fervently and diligently. The heavens will begin to open; God will begin to work in our behalf. "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" (James 5:16).

David said he would "look up" for the answer — look in faith toward God, toward the promises. God has said, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." "If we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: and if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him" (1 John 5:14, 15).

Halfhearted seeking becomes a routine habit with some; they pray without any expectation of receiving an answer to their prayers. If they do not receive an answer today, they think that perhaps they will tomorrow. Seeking becomes a chronic habit with them without any definite results at all. When one begins to fall into that rut he should ask God to bring him out of it and do something for him that will bring results from Heaven. "Ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart" (Jeremiah 29:13).

Holiness or Hell

God is holy. He loved holiness and hates iniquity. Evil shall not dwell with the Almighty. That is why sin can never enter Heaven. While God hates sin, He loves the souls of sinful men. "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). God has provided a remedy whereby a soul that is defiled by sin can repent of sin, plead for mercy, and with faith in the atoning Blood of Jesus Christ can be made free from sin and have his garments washed in the Blood of the Lamb. He can then go triumphantly through the Pearly Gates, forever to dwell in a holy Heaven with a holy God.

David knew that the foolish would not stand in God's sight. A man may think he can make himself fit for God's sight by his own works, but such a one sooner or later finds his resources are exhausted. The slow decay of his unfinished building of life testifies to his folly in not abandoning his own ways and thoughts and trusting God for daily guidance as David did. **(Luke 14:28-33 28 For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? 29 Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, 30 Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish. 31 Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first,**

and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand? 32 Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace. 33 So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.)

But if a soul persists in remaining in sin, and refuses God's mercy, that soul will be banished forever from the presence of a holy God and will never have the privilege of dwelling in a holy Heaven with a holy people. Other portions of Scripture confirm the fact that they who work iniquity, they who speak leasing (all liars), and bloodthirsty and deceitful men will have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone (**Revelation 21:8** ⁸ **But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death. Psalm 101:7** ⁷ **He that worketh deceit shall not dwell within my house: he that telleth lies shall not tarry in my sight.**). But they who follow the example of Jesus "who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth" (I Peter 2:22), shall stand "without fault before the throne of God" (Revelation 14:5). Someone has made the statement that it is "holiness or hell."

David's Decision

"As for me, I will come into thy house in the multitude of thy mercy: and in thy fear will I worship toward thy holy temple." David realised that he had once been foolish and wicked, and it was only through God's mercy that he was saved. The Apostle Paul wrote in his Epistle to Titus:

"We ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another.

"But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared,

"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

"Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour;

"That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life" (Titus 3:3-7).

The foolish man is the one who rejects God. The wise man chooses salvation and eternal life. Have you made that wise choice? If not, you can make it today. No one has ever deserved God's mercy, but God through His great love for fallen humanity has extended mercy to us. How can we reject it?

Godly Fear

It was with godly fear that David worshiped the Lord — a fear lest he displease one so mighty, so holy, so powerful that He could speak this world into existence — a fear lest he fall from, or be separated from, the mercy and grace of God. "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall" (I Corinthians 10:12).

God deserves a reverential fear. David felt that, and said, "In thy fear will I worship toward thy holy temple." The wise man said: "Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man."

Prayer for Guidance

David prayed for the Lord to lead him in the straight and narrow path of righteousness. He realised there were many bypaths that led astray. There are many deceptions in the religious world today: false cults, false religions on every hand. John says, "Many deceivers are entered into the world" (II John

QUESTIONS

1. When did David make his prayer unto the Lord?
2. What did Jesus say about importuning prayer?
3. Why did David pray for God's guidance?
4. What kind of fear did David have when he went to the Temple to worship?
5. What is God's attitude toward the wicked?
6. In whose counsel will the wicked fall?
7. Contrast the difference between the wicked and the righteous.
8. Name some of the things that cause the righteous to rejoice.

7). The land is full of deceivers. How many ministers are preaching from the pulpit that there is a hell, and saying in the words of Jesus, "Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish" (Luke 13:3)? How many are warning against today's awful prevailing sin — adultery? Many church pews are filled with men and women living with another man's wife or another woman's husband. How many are declaring from the pulpit that "ye must be born again"? and that when you are born again you will make restitution? How many are saying that you must be sanctified and have a clean, holy heart, with the inbred sin destroyed? Such vital subjects are not preached from many pulpits. Nevertheless, these truths are in God's Bible, and the Bible declares that if anyone adds to or takes from the Word of God, he will not have a part with God. "Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar" (Proverbs 30:6). (**Deuteronomy 4:2 2 Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you. Deuteronomy 12:32 32 What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it. Joshua 1:7 7 Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest Revelation 22:18-19 18 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: 19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.**)

David knew that the people of the world were watching him. He wanted everything he said and did to be a credit to the family of God, to bring honour to the great name of his heavenly Father. "Strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it" (Matthew 7:14).

Iniquity Hated

This Psalm tell us that the Lord hates "all workers of iniquity." If a soul persistently rebels against God's merciful call to repentance, purposing to practice sin, the holiness of God must be vindicated. "Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity" (Habakkuk 1:13).

The Lord rained fire and brimstone on Sodom and Gomorrah because their sins were very grievous. In Noah's day the people were so wicked that the Lord repented that He had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at His heart. God is grieved today with the workers of iniquity, and His righteous judgments will soon be poured out upon the earth again.

The Blessings of the Righteous

"Let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice: let them ever shout for joy, because thou defendest them: let them also that love thy name be joyful in thee." There are enough promises to the righteous to cause them to rejoice day and night. To be set free from sin fills the heart with peace. The promise of eternal life gives joy to the soul. The hope of Heaven makes one shout aloud God's praises. Peter declares that this salvation causes us to rejoice "with joy unspeakable and full of glory."

The child of God is hated by the devil and looked on with scorn by sinful men. But he is beloved of the Father, watched over by Jesus, and comforted by the Holy Ghost. He has that blessed hope of one day seeing Jesus and dwelling forever in that pearly white city John saw coming down from God out of Heaven.