

Psalm 025 - A Prayer for Help and Forgiveness

Psalm 25

[A Psalm of David.]

A Prayer for Help and Forgiveness

1 To You, LORD, I lift up my soul.

1 To You, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

1 I will lift up my soul to you, LORD.

1 Unto thee, O LORD, do I lift up my soul.

2 My God, in You I trust, Do not let me be ashamed; Do not let my enemies rejoice over me.

2 O my God, in You I trust, Do not let me be ashamed; Do not let my enemies exult over me.

2 I trust in you, my God, do not let me be ashamed; do not let my enemies triumph over me.

2 O my God, I trust in thee: let me not be ashamed, let not mine enemies triumph over me.

3 Indeed, none of those who wait for You will be ashamed; Those who deal treacherously without cause will be ashamed.

3 Indeed, none of those who wait for You will be ashamed; Those who deal treacherously without cause will be ashamed.

3 Indeed, no one who waits on you will be ashamed, but those who offend for no reason will be put to shame.

3 Yea, let none that wait on thee be ashamed: let them be ashamed which transgress without cause.

Our Help Comes from God

This is a prayer that reveals the dependence that David had upon God. One day Israel will also realize this. The time will come when that remnant of Israel will find themselves in a position where there is no one upon whom they can depend but God. And it is good for us to come to that place also. Woe to the warrior that discards his shield!

4 Make me know Your ways, LORD; Teach me Your paths.

4 Make me know Your ways, O LORD; Teach me Your paths.

4 Cause me to understand your ways, LORD; teach me your paths.

4 Shew me thy ways, O LORD; teach me thy paths.

5 Lead me in Your truth and teach me, For You are the God of my salvation; For You I wait all the day.

5 Lead me in Your truth and teach me, For You are the God of my salvation; For You I wait all the day.

5 Guide me in your truth and teach me; for you are the God who delivers me. All day long I have waited for you.

5 Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day.

- Moral, providential, and mental forms of guidance are all precious gifts of a gracious God to teachable people

— But, are you a receptive student? 4x in these two verses, David applies for a scholarship in the college of grace.

6 Remember, LORD, Your compassion and Your faithfulness, For they have been from of old.

6 Remember, O LORD, Your compassion and Your lovingkindnesses, For they have been from of old.

6 Remember, LORD, your tender mercies and your gracious love; indeed, they are eternal!

6 Remember, O LORD, thy tender mercies and thy lovingkindnesses; for they have been ever of old.

7 Do not remember the sins of my youth or my wrongdoings; Remember me according to Your faithfulness, For Your goodness' sake, LORD.

7 Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; According to Your lovingkindness remember me, For Your goodness' sake, O LORD.

7 Do not remember my youthful sins and transgressions; but remember me in light of your gracious love, in light of your goodness, LORD.

7 Remember not the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions: according to thy mercy remember thou me for thy goodness' sake, O LORD.

- In courts of law, much is made of precedents. An unchangeable God is the most effectual argument to remind us of ancient mercies and His eternal love

Our God Can Be Trusted

There are two ways a man can go. He can go God's way or his own way. God gives us a choice. We can walk in the path of our choosing. "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Prov 14:12). What a glorious thing it is to be able to call out to God and ask Him to show us the way we should go. When you pray, fix your eyes, as David did, on the fact that God is good, upright, willing to instruct sinners, loving, faithful, and forgiving. What confidence we can have in prayer, not because we pray well, but because of the nature of the God to whom we pray.

8 The LORD is good and upright; Therefore He instructs sinners in the way.

8 Good and upright is the LORD; Therefore He instructs sinners in the way.

8 The LORD is good and just; therefore he will teach sinners concerning the way.

8 Good and upright is the LORD: therefore will he teach sinners in the way.

9 He leads the humble in justice, And He teaches the humble His way.

9 He leads the humble in justice, And He teaches the humble His way.

9 He will guide the humble to justice; he will teach the humble his way.

9 The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way.

10 All the paths of the LORD are faithfulness and truth To those who comply with His covenant and His testimonies.

10 All the paths of the LORD are lovingkindness and truth To those who keep His covenant and His testimonies.

10 All the paths of the LORD lead to gracious love and truth for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

10 All the paths of the LORD are mercy and truth unto such as keep his covenant and his testimonies.

11 For the sake of Your name, LORD, Forgive my wrongdoing, for it is great.

11 For Your name's sake, O LORD, Pardon my iniquity, for it is great.

11 For the sake of your name, LORD, forgive my sin, for it is great.

11 For thy name's sake, O LORD, pardon mine iniquity; for it is great.

- The psalmist reiterates his prayer for instruction in the true way (Cf. v4-5) and pardon (Cf. v6-7) for his afflicted soul, but now his prayer is grounded on the revealed character of the Lord

12 Who is the person who fears the LORD? He will instruct him in the way he should choose.

12 Who is the man who fears the LORD? He will instruct him in the way he should choose.

12 Who is the man who fears the LORD? God will teach him the path he should choose.

12 What man is he that feareth the LORD? him shall he teach in the way that he shall choose.

- He who fears God has nothing else to fear

13 His soul will dwell in prosperity, And his descendants will inherit the land.

13 His soul will abide in prosperity, And his descendants will inherit the land.

13 He will experience good things; his descendants will inherit the earth.

13 His soul shall dwell at ease; and his seed shall inherit the earth.

14 The secret of the LORD is for those who fear Him, And He will make them know His covenant.

14 The secret of the LORD is for those who fear Him, And He will make them know His covenant.

14 The intimate counsel of the LORD is for those who fear him so they may know his covenant.

14 The secret of the LORD is with them that fear him; and he will show them his covenant.

15 My eyes are continually toward the LORD, For He will rescue my feet from the **net**.

15 My eyes are continually toward the LORD, For He will pluck my feet out of the net.

15 My eyes look to the LORD continuously, because he's the one who releases my feet from the trap.

15 Mine eyes are ever toward the LORD; for he shall pluck my feet out of the net.

- "...net" - a common metaphor for temptation

16 Turn to me and be gracious to me, For I am lonely and afflicted.

16 Turn to me and be gracious to me, For I am lonely and afflicted.

16 Turn toward me and have mercy on me, for I am lonely and oppressed.

16 Turn thee unto me, and have mercy upon me; for I am desolate and afflicted.

17 The troubles of my heart are enlarged; Bring me out of my distresses.

17 The troubles of my heart are enlarged; Bring me out of my distresses.

17 The troubles of my heart have increased; bring me out of my distress!

17 The troubles of my heart are enlarged: O bring thou me out of my distresses.

18 Look at my misery and my trouble, And forgive all my sins.

18 Look upon my affliction and my trouble, And forgive all my sins.

18 Look upon my distress and affliction; forgive all my sins.

18 Look upon mine affliction and my pain; and forgive all my sins.

19 Look at my enemies, for they are many, And they hate me with violent hatred.

19 Look upon my enemies, for they are many, And they hate me with violent hatred.

19 Look how many enemies I have gained! They hate me with a vicious hatred.

19 Consider mine enemies; for they are many; and they hate me with cruel hatred.

20 Guard my soul and save me; Do not let me be ashamed, for I take refuge in You.

20 Guard my soul and deliver me; Do not let me be ashamed, for I take refuge in You.

20 Preserve my life and deliver me; do not let me be ashamed, because I take refuge in you.

20 O keep my soul, and deliver me: let me not be ashamed; for I put my trust in thee.

21 Let integrity and uprightness protect me, For I wait for You.

21 Let integrity and uprightness preserve me, For I wait for You.

21 Integrity and justice will preserve me, because I wait on you.

21 Let integrity and uprightness preserve me; for I wait on thee.

22 Redeem Israel, God, From all his distress.

22 Redeem Israel, O God, Out of all his troubles.

22 Redeem Israel, God, from all its troubles.

22 Redeem Israel, O God, out of all his troubles.