

**Psalm 17 — “Crying Out to God When Oppressed By Opponents”**

- **Matt. 5:11** *“Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me.*
  - **Matt. 5:44** *“But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you*
  - **John 15:20** *“Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A slave is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you*
- So, when oppressors oppose us, what must you think and do? And, how do you pray? [*from Ps 17*]
    1. you must cry to God (1) and pray to God (1b)
    2. Call upon God (6) and know God will answer (6b)
    3. depend & lean on God’s covenant-love (7)
    4. pray for God to deal with the enemies (13)
    5. love your enemies & await the Beatific Vision (15)

**THESIS — Psalm 17 models \*how to pray\* when you’re oppressed by opponents:**

1. Be Humble! **Test** me, O GOD! (vv1-5)
2. Be Urgent! **Keep** me, O GOD! (vv6-12)
3. Be Expectant! **Deliver** me, O GOD! (vv13-15)

*Ps 17 is a model prayer. David pleads with biblical language/metaphors/texts for God to hear him, for God to examine him, for God to deliver him, and for heaven’s hope to come near to him. (Bill Barrick)*

**I. TEST ME, O GOD (1-5)**

- A. try my **heart** (3)
- B. try my **mouth** (3b)
- C. try my **conduct/paths** (4-5)

*Paul said: “my confidence is the testimony of my conscience” (2 Cor 1.12)*

**The Glory of a Clean Conscience** — ask the LORD to “test me”. 5 helps on *maintaining a clear conscience...*

1. Live under the watchful eye of God
2. Keep short accounts with God
3. Do nothing in private you wouldn’t do in public
4. At each inclination: pray, confess, draw near & commune with God
5. Remember the gospel. Christ’s substitution should energize piety.

*Theodore Beza had often prayed: “LORD, perfect what you have begun in me, that I may not suffer shipwreck when I am almost at heaven’s haven.”*

## **II. KEEP ME, O GOD (6-12)**

### A. keep me **by protecting me** (6-8)

How does God \*wondrously [*amazingly*] show His *Covenant-Love*\*?

- *in giving up his own son to make you the object of His love! (Eph 1.3-5)*
- *in wondrously decreeing your election, justification, adoption & glorification!*
- *in living for you, dying for you, living in you and empowering you!*
- *in delivering you daily & providentially in countless ways you’re unaware of.*
- *in meeting with you in ordinances, corporate worship, Bible reading & prayer.*

### B. keep me **from persecuting men** (9-12)

*When I fear my faith will fail Christ will hold me fast  
When the tempter would prevail He will hold me fast  
I could never keep my hold Through life’s fearful path  
For my love is often cold He must hold me fast*

## **III. DELIVER ME, O GOD (13-15)**

v.13-14 - “Bring Him Low...”

**Psalm 17 — “Crying Out to God When Oppressed By Opponents”**

Bring him low — make him sink upon his knees; make him bow as a the conquered before the conqueror!

What a glorious sight to behold Satan prostrate beneath the foot of our glorious Lord!! Oh hasten that day! (Spurgeon)

★**Christian: If you’re going thru this — remember, Christ your Savior and Lord and Leader and Champion** - went before you & endured this also. He understands. He relates. He helps you. He prays you thru life & prays you to heaven! Praise Him! (Hebrews 4:14-16).

v.15 - **\*But as for me\*** — Note the promise of heaven, of the resurrection & of the *Beatific Vision* ...

- I will gaze on my God’s face [“Beatific Vision” — lit: ‘the sight that makes happy’]
- I will be clothed in righteousness in perfect glory
- I will be infinitely satisfied
- I will be conformed to Christ
- I will be His at the instant of Death

*“After they have had the pleasure of beholding the face of God millions of ages, it will not grow a dull [=boring] story; the relish of this delight will be as exquisite as ever!” (Jonathan Edwards)*

*That blessedness will consist in three things:—[1.]The immediate vision of God and his glory: I shall behold thy face, not, as in this world, through a glass darkly. The knowledge of God will there be perfected and the enlarged intellect filled with it. [2.]The participation of his likeness. Our holiness will there be perfect. This results from the former (1 Jn. 3:2): When he shall appear we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. [3.]A complete and full satisfaction resulting from all this: I shall be satisfied, abundantly satisfied with it. (Matthew Henry)*

*What is the meaning of the word “Satisfied”? Sufficiently filled; filled full; filled up in every part. And when God’s work is complete, we shall stand before Him, and, with the bright ideal and glorified conception of heavenly aspiration upon us, looking up to God, and then back on ourselves, we shall then say: “I AM SATISFIED” for we shall all be like him! Amen! (Henry Ward Beecher)*

*We will be satisfied when we see our GOD. Who would put anything in a balance with our GOD? Who would weigh a feather against a mountain of gold? God excels and surpasses all other things infinitely. ... God is the chief good, and the enjoyment of God forever is the highest felicity and joy of which the soul is capable. (Thomas Watson)*

**ARISE MY SOUL ARISE**

Arise, my soul, arise; shake off thy guilty fears;  
 The bleeding sacrifice in my behalf appears:  
 Before the throne my surety stands,  
 Before the throne my surety stands,  
 My name is written on His hands.

He ever lives above, for me to intercede;  
 His all redeeming love, His precious blood, to plead:  
 His blood atoned for all our race,  
 His blood atoned for all our race,  
 And sprinkles now the throne of grace.

Five bleeding wounds He bears; received on Calvary;  
 They pour effectual prayers; they strongly plead for me:  
 “Forgive him, O forgive,” they cry,

“Forgive him, O forgive,” they cry,  
 “Nor let that ransomed sinner die!”

The Father hears Him pray, His dear anointed One;  
 He cannot turn away, the presence of His Son;  
 His Spirit answers to the blood,  
 His Spirit answers to the blood,  
 And tells me I am born of God.

My God is reconciled; His pardoning voice I hear;  
 He owns me for His child; I can no longer fear:  
 With confidence I now draw nigh,  
 With confidence I now draw nigh,  
 And “Father, Abba, Father,” cry.

**PSALM 17: *The Psalter***

*Tune: “There is a fountain filled with blood”*

Lord, hear my plea, attend my cry;  
 unto my prayer give heed.  
 My righteous plea does not from false,  
 deceitful lips proceed.  
 Let vindication of my cause  
 proceed, O Lord, from You;  
 Your eyes see what is right, so give  
 my vindication due.

Show me Your wondrous steadfast love:  
 You save by Your right hand  
 all those who take refuge in You  
 from foes that 'gainst them stand.  
 Keep me as safe as You would keep  
 the apple of Your eye;  
 And in the shadow of Your wings,  
 allow me safe to hide.

From wicked ones who trouble me,  
 who do my soul surround,  
 From all my mortal enemies  
 who compass me around.  
 They close their callous hearts, and speak  
 with arrogance profound;  
 They track us down with eyes alert,  
 to throw us to the ground.

Rise up and come confront my foes,  
 and bring them down, O Lord,  
 Come rescue me from wicked ones  
 by power of Your sword.  
 But as for me, in righteousness,  
 Your face I know I'll see!  
 When I awake, Your likeness will  
 be fullest joy to me!