

## “Prayer and Meditations of a Mature Believer”

### Psalm 25

(Preached at Trinity, May 9, 2010)

I’m supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord’s Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

**Disclaimer:** These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I’ll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. The Christian life is a journey in grace. We continue to mature and hopefully grow nearer to Christ. Our minds should be fixed more upon the things of God. In **Psalm 25** we find the heart of such a man.
2. This psalm is more difficult to unfold than some of the other psalms. It is difficult to place it during any particular conflict of David. We don’t find any definite divisions in the Psalm or variations of subject, yet it carries a couple unique characteristics.
  - A. It is an acrostic psalm.
    1. There are nine such psalms. In an acrostic psalm each verse begins with a letter of the Hebrew alphabet in their proper order. Psalm 119 is the most familiar. Psalm 25 isn’t complete. In verse 2 the second word begins with beth, and two letters are omitted.
    2. There are several various explanations for the acrostic psalms. Perhaps it was used to add to the poetic beauty of the psalm. It might have been used as a tool for memorizing.
  - B. Psalm 25 is the second of seven Penitential Psalms. The others are psalm 6, 32, 38, 51, 102, 130, and 143.
3. Another characteristic that stands out is that this is a psalm of prayer and meditation.
  - A. We know that this psalm was written in the latter years of David’s life.  
**Psalm 25:7** – “Remember not the sins of my youth”
  - B. David’s life had been one of prayer and meditation.  
Such is the heart of the man of God. Such is the life of one who is growing in maturity. He is a man who gives himself to prayer and meditation.
4. Finally, a theme of instruction runs throughout this psalm as David describes how God instructs those who fear Him.  
**Psalm 25:4-5** – “Shew me thy ways, O LORD; teach me thy paths. <sup>5</sup> Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou *art* the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day.”  
**Psalm 25:8-9** – “Good and upright *is* the LORD: therefore will he teach sinners in the way. <sup>9</sup> The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way.”
5. Tonight we’ll look at David’s prayers and meditations as we examine God’s instruction for us.

## I. Prayer, Psalm 25:1-7

## A. David begins with a prayer unto God

**Psalm 25:1** – “Unto thee, O LORD, do I lift up my soul.”

1. A central element of this prayer is the word, “Ashamed”  
Once in Verse 2 and twice in Verse 3
2. We often use this word in the sense of being embarrassed  
The meaning of the word here is the idea of being disappointed
3. Those who trust God will never be disappointed

**Psalm 25:2** – “O my God, I trust in thee”

B. Why would David, a mature saint, pray in **Verse 2**:

**Psalm 25:2** – “let me not be ashamed”

1. The Christian has his hope upon Christ. He has confidence that Jesus will be able to fully accomplish all that He has promised.  
**2 Timothy 1:12** – “For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.”  
**Philippians 1:6** – “Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform *it* until the day of Jesus Christ:”  
**2 Timothy 2:19** – “Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his.”
2. There are a couple issues David holds up to God:  
His enemies and his sin. Both of these might cause thoughts of abandonment by immature believers. David’s trust was in the living God.  
**Psalm 25:3** – “Yea, let none that wait on thee be ashamed:”
3. First, David calls to mind his enemies  
**Psalm 25:2** – “O my God, I trust in thee: let me not be ashamed, let not mine enemies triumph over me.”  
**Psalm 25:19** – “Consider mine enemies; for they are many; and they hate me with cruel hatred.”
  - a. As a mature believer David is aware all the more of his dependence upon God as his Deliverer
  - b. There are many issues that accompany immaturity
    - (1) There is the danger of over confidence.  
We can see this with children. They are often fearless running into danger without caution.
    - (2) They often fail to recognize enemies – they are over trusting. We have to warn them of the danger of strangers
  - c. David knew of his own weakness and he knew his enemies  
The Christian has several fierce and terrible enemies  
**Satan** – an enemy lurking with cunning deceit as a fierce lion. He has brought great harm many weak believers. Paul warned Timothy of the danger of immature pastors.  
**1 Timothy 3:6** – “Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil. Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.”

**The world** – seeks to lure us to its endless pursuit of pleasure and idolatry.

**The flesh** – our terrible enemy within.

- d. David prays that his enemies will not cause him to forsake his trust in God.

**Psalm 25:2** – “O my God, I trust in thee: let me not be ashamed, let not mine enemies triumph over me.”

4. Then there was the issue of his sin

**Psalm 25:7** – “Remember not the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions: according to thy mercy”

- a. Perhaps he was recalling the Bathsheba incident  
 b. Again, the immature believer comes to know himself better. David knew he was still in danger of sin.

**1 Corinthians 10:12** – “Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.”

- c. Are you aware of your danger? We can never rest. We are never at ease.

- C. David beseeches God for His hand of instruction.

1. He seeks God’s wisdom and direction

**Psalm 25:4** – “Shew me thy ways, O LORD; teach me thy paths.”

- a. We are blind and ignorant apart from Christ  
**1 Corinthians 1:30** – “But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption.”  
**Proverbs 3:5-6** – “Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. <sup>6</sup> In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”  
**Psalm 119:105** – “Thy word *is* a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”

- b. The mature believer seeks God’s wisdom all the days of his life. There is no greater blindness than the one who doesn’t know he’s blind.

**1 Corinthians 14:38** – “But if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant.”

2. David patiently sat before the instruction of God

**Psalm 25:5** – “Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou *art* the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day.”

- a. Christians will persevere until the end. We will endure. We will not be disappointed.  
 b. On the other hand, Christianity is not sitting passively in neutral. We press on. We intensely seek Christ all the days of our life.  
 c. It is the Christian that seeks God’s truth that finds it  
**Psalm 25:3** – “Yea, let none that wait on thee be ashamed: let them be ashamed which transgress without cause.”

- II. Meditation, Psalm 25:8-10 (David then turns his heart to mediation)
- A. We see both God's sovereignty and our responsibility
1. God's continued instruction is the result of His goodness  
**Psalm 25:8** – "Good and upright *is* the LORD: therefore will he teach sinners in the way."
  2. But God teaches those who humbly submit to Him – The rebellious are unteachable.  
**Psalm 25:9** – "The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way."
- B. God remembers His covenant and we keep His covenant  
**Psalm 25:10** – "All the paths of the LORD *are* mercy and truth unto such as keep his covenant and his testimonies."
1. The word for mercy is **חֶסֶד** - covenant love  
ESV – "steadfast love" NAS – "lovingkindness"
  2. The word for "truth" refers to faithfulness, reliability, firmness
- III. Prayer, Psalm 25:11
- A. David's heart returns to the matter of his sin  
**Psalm 25:11** – "For thy name's sake, O LORD, pardon mine iniquity; for it *is* great."
1. Again, David recognizes his sin, his weakness
  2. There is no effort to diminish his sin or cover it up – "for it *is* great."
- B. Far too often we seek to justify our sin
- IV. Meditation, Psalm 25:12-15
- A. Again we find God's sovereignty along side human responsibility
1. God teaches those who fear Him  
**Psalm 25:12** – "What man *is* he that feareth the LORD? him shall he teach in the way *that* he shall choose."
  2. Those who submit to the teachings of God find true peace  
**Psalm 25:13** – "His soul shall dwell at ease"
  3. Notice in **Verse 14** that God shares with the faithful His secret counsel  
**Psalm 25:14** – "The secret of the LORD *is* with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant."  
The picture is that of intimate relationship like that between a husband and wife.
- B. David rested in the comfort of God  
**Psalm 25:15** – "Mine eyes *are* ever toward the LORD; for he shall pluck my feet out of the net."
1. This is the nature of faith – we keep our eyes ever upon Christ  
**John 15:5** – "I am the vine, ye *are* the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing."
  2. For those who look to Him they find a mighty God  
**Isaiah 9:6** – "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."

- V. David then closes the psalm with prayer – Psalm 25:16-22
- A. David lays his many afflictions before God  
**Psalm 25:16** Turn thee unto me, and have mercy upon me; for I *am* desolate and afflicted.
1. There were emotional distresses  
**Psalm 25:17** – “The troubles of my heart are enlarged”
    - a. David was king. With leadership comes both joy and sorrow
    - b. Every pastor knows such sorrow of heart. Serving the loving and obedient brings great joy – the stubborn bring great grief.  
**Hebrews 13:17** – “Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that *is* unprofitable for you.”
    - c. This is also true with parenting. David also knew this.  
**Proverbs 10:1** – “The proverbs of Solomon. A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish son *is* the heaviness of his mother.”
  2. There were physical distresses  
**Psalm 25:18** – “Look upon mine affliction and my pain”
  3. There were spiritual distresses  
**Psalm 25:18** – “and forgive all my sins.”  
 Perhaps David saw a connection between his distress and his sin
  4. There was the constant threat of his enemies  
**Psalm 25:19** – “Consider mine enemies; for they are many”  
 Besides David’s external enemies, every leader constantly knows that there are some who are opposed to his leadership.
- B. At the end of the day, in spite of our many afflictions, our hope continues to rest in Christ.  
**Psalm 25:20** – “O keep my soul, and deliver me: let me not be ashamed; for I put my trust in thee.”
1. David prays, “keep my soul and deliver me.” The word for “keep” means “to guard” -- The Hebrew word is used 468 times in the OT.  
 God’s all compassing watch care over His people.
  2. And do not let me be disappointed for I put my trust in Thee.”
  3. (**Verse 21**) David found comfort in the integrity of his life. His holy character was a constant reminder of God’s presence in His life.
- C. David closes with a prayer for the congregation  
**Psalm 25:22** – “Redeem Israel, O God, out of all his troubles.”
1. David was a part of a covenant community. He was the king of a nation.
  2. David was beseeching God as the God of Israel. He was concerned for himself; he was concerned for the whole body.

#### Conclusion:

1. May God grant this psalm to be our psalm.  
 May our lives be filled with prayer and mediation.
2. May our hearts be fixed on trusting God, seeking Him, following Him, obeying Him.  
**Psalm 25:4-5** – “Shew me thy ways, O LORD; teach me thy paths. <sup>5</sup> Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou *art* the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day.”