

Psalm 25 is a psalm in which David totally and completely trusts in God, because he has sinned and because he is surrounded by various enemies and afflictions, and because he wants to understand the Word of God and will of God.

In other words, David's inability to get rid of his sinfulness and his inability to deliver himself from enemies brought him to the place where he totally had to trust in God, and as a result he saw God do great and powerful things for him.

It is very possible that when David wrote this psalm, he was sensing that many of the negatives he was experiencing was due to his own sin. It would appear David was older when he wrote it, because he looks back on the sins of his youth (25:7). It would also appear as if David had a profound sense of his own sinfulness (25:7, 8, 18). Although we do not know for sure when David wrote this psalm, we do know what the overall message of the psalm is:

**DAVID TOTALLY AND COMPLETELY TRUSTED IN THE FORGIVENESS OF GOD FOR HIS SINS, FOR DELIVERANCE FROM ENEMIES AND AFFLICTION, AND FOR DEVELOPMENT IN UNDERSTANDING GOD'S WORD AND WILL.**

All of the trouble and grief that David experienced ultimately drew him into a deeper dependency on God. Sin in David's life, trouble in David's life, enemies in David's life and ignorance in David's life were all things God used to draw David closer to Himself. There were actually positives to all of the negatives that hit David's world in that everything caused him to draw closer to God.

Now notice how the psalm opens; David commits his soul to God (25:1-2a). David did not depend on himself or his works; he depended totally and completely in God and as this psalm opens, it is clear that he is acknowledging to God that he was totally depending on Him. Let us remember that David is already a believer, so this prayer was something he is making to God long after his faith had been established. It was sin and trouble and sorrow that continually drew his soul to God. He wanted forgiveness, he wanted resolution, and he wanted deliverance.

It must thrill the heart of God when He hears His people so wanting Him and His help in times of trouble. It must thrill the heart of God when He hears that His people are totally depending on and trusting in Him. As a parent, what joy it would bring to hear your son or daughter say, "I am so wrong and I need your help to guide me and deliver me." That is what David does here.

Now after acknowledging to God that he is totally trusting in Him, David gives us nine reasons that motivated him to pray this prayer:

**REASON #1** – David was totally trusting in God because he did not want to be ashamed .  
**25:2, 3, 20**

This thought of one day being ashamed before God, haunted David. As one commentator said, it haunted him like a ghost.

The Hebrew root word for “ashamed” is interesting. It is a word that means to be ashamed in the sense of having once been fruitful and alive, but now dried up (William Gesenius, *Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 328).

David did not want to ever be dried up and dead in his relationship with God, so he went to God in prayer, totally trusting in Him and he specifically asked God not to let this happen to him.

**REASON #2** – David was totally trusting in God because he did not want to be defeated.  
**25:3, 19**

Shame needs to be sent to the right owners, our enemies. Enemies need to blush in a shame of repentance or they will blush in the fire of everlasting shame. Make no mistake about this; if you are one who loves God and His Word, you will have many enemies who will hate you and arrogantly verbally assault you.

The key to defeating these diabolical agents of Satan does not lie in your personal ability; it lies in your personal trust in God. When we find ourselves surrounded by enemies, we need to go to the Lord in prayer and specifically let Him know we are totally and completely trusting in Him.

**REASON #3** – David was totally trusting in God because he wanted to understand God’s Word. **25:4-5, 8-9, 12**

It is so easy to confuse our ways as being God’s ways, when in fact at times they are not. This is why we need a great understanding of the Word of God, and to gain a great understanding of the Word of God, we need God’s help.

Understanding God’s precious Word is not an automatic guarantee for any believer. Picking up a Bible and reading it does not mean God will automatically enable one to understand it. In order for that to happen, God must see that there is a real passion to know His Word and ways and that passion is demonstrated by specific prayer to grasp the Word of God.

God is the only person who can cause one to truly understand and decipher His Word and specific prayer for this is necessary for one to move God in causing that to happen.

The famed Charles Haddon Spurgeon observed that it is a shame that many professors of the Bible do not realize this important truth. Many follow their own devices in deciphering Scripture, but few go to God and ask Him for the grace to understand His Word. However, if one is to grasp God’s Word, he must sense and admit his own ignorance and apply for a scholarship at God’s college of grace (Charles Spurgeon, *Psalms*, p. 124).

If we truly want to grow deep in God’s Word, we must ask God for this privilege. This is certainly true both in the Old Testament (Prov. 2:3) and the New Testament (Eph. 1:15-18; Phil. 1:9-10).

As great a man as David was and as smart a man as David was, he still sensed his own ignorance when it came to understanding the precious Word of God. He still sensed his own need to know more and no one will ever know more without the help of God.

**REASON #4** – David was totally trusting in God because he knew of the character of God.  
**25:6, 8, 10**

David went to God in prayer, even as a sinner, because he knew of God's character. David knew that God was a God of compassion, lovingkindness, mercy and truth. He knew that God was a good and upright God.

When David found himself in difficult situations and even sins, he went to God and committed himself to God because he knew these realities about the character of God. David could totally trust in God, knowing who God was and what God was like.

Many people sin and run from God, when they should run to God. He is a merciful God. Many think that the study of theology and doctrine is a waste of time. It is the study of theology and doctrine that teaches us these great truths about God.

**REASON #5** – David was totally trusting in God because he knew he was a sinner .  
**25:7, 8, 11, 18**

Charles Spurgeon said the mark of a saint is that sorrows remind him of his sins (*Psalms*, p. 122). David not only admitted he was a sinner, he admitted to God that he was a “great” sinner who had committed many transgressions against God.

**There were two things David wanted God to do for him concerning his sin: 1) He wanted God to forget his sin (25:7); 2) He wanted God to forgive his sin (25:11, 18). Carefully observe that he specifically asks God to forgive and forget “all” of his sins (25:18).**

Now, let us remember that when David prayed this prayer, he obviously is a believer. So this is not some “sinner’s prayer for salvation.” This is a saint’s prayer for sanctification.

There are three key observations we want to make:

- 1) When a person is young, either physically or spiritually, he will commit transgressions. There is no such thing as a sinless person—saved or unsaved.
- 2) God will forgive and forget sins of people who have greatly sinned against Him.
- 3) A person must privately and honestly and humbly go to God in prayer about this sin matter. If an unbeliever refuses to pray, he will not be saved. If a believer refuses to pray, he will not be sanctified.

God is a gracious God and He will forgive and forget sin, but the sin must be honestly faced before Him. Sinners who are really right with God see themselves as great sinners. They do not try to hide or cover this fact.

There is a great illustration of one who was never right with God, in the illustration of Pharaoh, from the book of Exodus. In Exodus 8:8, he wanted God to remove the plague of frogs, but not the sin that brought the plague of frogs to him. It is that way with many people. They want forgiveness but do not want to admit the sin. But without admission of the sin, there is no forgiveness.

**REASON #6** – David was totally trusting in God because he wanted God’s leading. **25:9-10**

David wanted to be led by God. He did not want to walk in his own way; he wanted to walk in God’s way. David knew God would always lead him in life in ways that were right and true and in ways that were best for him. So David committed his life and his soul to God, and asked God to lead him.

Notice what he says in **verse 10**. He wanted God to lead him in all of the paths of God—the positive paths and the negative paths. If this is truly our desire, then we cannot be skipping verses in the Bible.

**REASON #7** – David was totally trusting in God because he feared God. **25:12-15**

Someone wisely said, “He who fears God has nothing else to fear.” David “feared” the LORD. He had a reverence and an intimidating fear of God and David knew that the man who feared God was destined for many benefits:

- 1) He will receive God’s instruction. **25:12b**
- 2) His soul will prosper. **25:13a**
- 3) His descendants will be blessed. **25:13b**
- 4) He would know God’s secrets. **25:14**
- 5) He would have God’s protection. **25:15**

Knowing the secrets of God demands that a person trust God and fear God. If a believer purposes to totally trust God and fear Him, he can know the mind of God and he can know, as Dr. Unger said, “His confidential counsel.”

Dr. J. Vernon McGee really hit the nail on the head when he wrote: “There are so many people today who are just question marks as far as their Christian lives are concerned. They don’t understand this or that verse of Scripture, and they don’t understand why God does certain things. Their lack of understanding is almost a dead giveaway. They are constantly in a questioning state. But “the secret of the LORD is with them that fear him” (*Psalms*, p. 716).

People who do not fear God will never grasp the deeper secrets of God. Those who remain at surface level in their thinking about God will never know God's secrets concerning His program and concerning their lives.

**REASON #8** – David was totally trusting in God because he was emotionally troubled.  
**25:16-18a**

David was lonely and afflicted. His heart was troubled and hurting. What do we find David doing—going to the Lord in prayer. Godly people will have their share of emotional trouble and turmoil.

What is so sad is that many people who profess to know God run to anyone but God with their problems. People complain about being lonely or burdened, and yet these people do not fall on their knees before God and take their burdens to Him. God is the most powerful and caring person that has ever existed and when we have emotional struggles or problems, the first thing we should do is get on our knees and ask God for His help. That is what David did.

**REASON #9** – David was totally trusting in God because he wanted God's protection. **25:20**

God was David's refuge. God was the One who could protect him and David went to the LORD in prayer.

Notice carefully **verse 21**—David waited on God for his deliverance and for Israel's redemption.

What this tells us is that God's answer to prayer requires our trust in His time. We must trust God through time if we are to experience His deliverance in time.

Troubled times are wonderful times for us to turn to the Lord and trust Him. May the opening words of the psalm, "To Thee, O LORD, I lift up my soul," be the testimony of each and every one of us.