

## **A Prayer for the People of God Who are in Distress**

**Psalm 25**

**August 23, 2020**

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The way a person prays says a lot about that person especially when that prayer is in the midst of troubles and afflictions.

Example: My niece, Krissy

Psalm 25 is considered a psalm of lament but it is also filled with confident expectation of deliverance based upon who God has revealed Himself to be.

This psalm is an acrostic, each verse beginning with a successive letter in the Hebrew alphabet (although not perfectly like Psalm 119).

### Structure:

Verses 1-7, & 11a are a direct address to the LORD. (The emphasis is on “You”).

Verses 8-10 & 12-15 are addressed to others and are declarations of David’s faith in the LORD

Verses 11b, & 16-21 are again addressing the LORD. (The emphasis is on David’s needs)

Verse 22 is addressed to God on behalf of the people of God

### Prayer

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

### The Setting

Enemies – vv. 2c, 3b, 15b, 19

Loneliness – v. 16

Affliction – vv. 16, 18

Troubles – 17a

Distresses – 17b

A conscience dealing with sins past and present – vv. 7, 11, 18b

**The Requests**

Do not let me be ashamed; (vv. 2b, 20b)  
Do not let my enemies exult over me. (2c)

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

Lead me in Your truth/faithfulness and teach me, (v. 5a, b)

Remember, O LORD, Your compassion and Your lovingkindnesses, (v. 6)

Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; (v. 7a)

According to Your lovingkindness remember me,  
For Your goodness sake, O LORD. (v. 7b)

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

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

Bring me out of my distresses. (v. 17b)

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

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

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

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

Redeem Israel, O God,  
Out of all his troubles. (v. 20)

## The Confident Requests and Declarations are Founded on the LORD

### a. about the LORD

#### The LORD is:

Faithful – “none of those who wait for will be ashamed” (v. 3a)

“All the paths of the LORD are lovingkindness and truth/faithfulness” (v. 10)

Savior – “You are the God of my salvation;” (v. 5b)

Compassionate (v. 6) See also Ex. 33:19; 34:6

Abounding in lovingkindness (vv. 6, 10). See also Ex. 34:6-7

Good – “For your goodness sake, O LORD.” (v. 7c)

“Good and upright is the LORD. (v. 8a)

Upright – Good and upright is the LORD” (v. 8a)

He instructs sinners in the way, (v. 8b)

He leads the humble in justice. (v. 9a)

He teaches the humble His way. (v. 9b)

### b. about his faith

Notice the personal nature of his faith –

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

O my God, in You I trust. (v. 2a)

Indeed, none of those who wait for you will not be ashamed;  
Those who deal treacherously without cause will be ashamed. (v. 2b-c)

For You are the God of my salvation; (v. 5b)

For You I wait all the day. (v. 5c)

My eyes are continually before the LORD  
For He will pluck my feet from out of the net. (v. 15)

I take refuge in You. (v. 20b)

I wait for You. (v. 21)

### **The Requirements**

Humility – “He leads the humble in justice; and He teaches the humble His way. (v 9)

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

Reverence – “Who is the man who fears the LORD,  
He will instruct him in the way he should choose” (v. 10)  
“The secret of the LORD is for those who fear Him,  
And He will them know His covenant.” (v. 14)

Patient Expectation – “My eyes are continually toward the LORD,  
For He will pluck my feet out of the net.” (v. 15)

Also vv. 2 “trust”, 3, 5, 21 “wait”

### **The Blessings**

Assurance of forgiveness - (vv. 5-11, 18)

Guidance – (vv. 4-5, 8-10, 12-13)