

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.  
O my God, in you I trust;  
let me not be put to shame;  
let not my enemies exult over me.  
Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame;  
they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

Make me to know your ways, O LORD;  
teach me your paths.  
Lead me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation;  
for you I wait all the day long.

Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love,  
for they have been from of old.  
Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;  
according to your steadfast love remember me,  
for the sake of your goodness, O LORD!

Good and upright is the LORD;  
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.  
He leads the humble in what is right,  
and teaches the humble his way.  
All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,  
for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

For your name's sake, O LORD,  
pardon my guilt, for it is great.  
Who is the man who fears the LORD?  
Him will he instruct in the way that he should choose.  
His soul shall abide in well-being,  
and his offspring shall inherit the land.  
The friendship of the LORD is for those who fear him,  
and he makes known to them his covenant.  
My eyes are ever toward the LORD,  
for he will pluck my feet out of the net.

Turn to me and be gracious to me,  
for I am lonely and afflicted.  
The troubles of my heart are enlarged;  
bring me out of my distresses.  
Consider my affliction and my trouble,  
and forgive all my sins.

Consider how many are my foes,  
and with what violent hatred they hate me.  
Oh, guard my soul, and deliver me!  
Let me not be put to shame, for I take refuge in you.  
May integrity and uprightness preserve me,  
for I wait for you.

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

Psalms 25

## Friendship with God | Psalm 25

Vision: We're endeavoring to read through the Bible together as a church in 2019. I want this morning to preach Psalm 25, which is a psalm about cultivating friendship with God.

At the outset, I want to redefine the win of 2019.

- not reading everything (though I long for that)
- the win is cultivating friendship with God. (which will include his Word)
- not perfection, but perseverance

As we embark to cultivate friendship with God, we will have the spiritual forces of evil against us. **A real enemy.** We'll have tension in trying to **discern God's will** for our life and be guided by him. And we'll need to **resolve our guilt.**

### Dealing with Enemies

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.  
O my God, in you I trust;  
let me not be put to shame;  
let not my enemies exult over me.  
Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame;  
they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.  
Make me to know your ways, O LORD;  
teach me your paths.  
Lead me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation;  
for you I wait all the day long.  
Psalm 25:1-5

We do have an enemy.

- one who prowls around like a roaring lion
- accuses the brethren day and night
- lies to us, seeks to kill, steal, and destroy

This will show up clearly as we seek to be with God. He acts by

- distracting (bills, undone work, Twitter, anything else)
- accusing of past sin
- lying (you can't, no need, God won't come through)

We also have our flesh and sinful desires to fight as well as the pull of the world

So how are we to meet the threefold enemy of our flesh, the devil, and the pull of the world?  
By declaring the promise of God and then crying out to him.

- I won't be put to shame if I wait for God AND
- Make me to know your ways, O LORD;  
teach me your paths.  
Lead me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation;  
for you I wait all the day long.

How will we know his ways? In view of enemies, what shall we do?  
Think of Jesus and how he handled the devil in the wilderness  
If you are the Son of God...

Stones—>Bread (physical temptations, lust)  
Jump off the Temple (going outside of God's timing/testing God)  
Worship me and everything is yours (glory without a cross)

What does Jesus do? 3x: "IT IS WRITTEN."  
He responds to him with the Word of God  
where? the book of Deuteronomy! Deut 8:3 (man shall not) Deut 6:16 (test) Deut 6:13  
(worship Lord your God and him alone)

Oh, that I would be a man of God and we'd be men and women of God who knew his Word!  
-My tempt. (cutting words, kill lust, be satisfied)  
- If the Son of God would use Deuteronomy against the Devil, why should we not endeavor to read through and know all of Scripture!

The primary way we are led in truth and taught the ways and paths of God are by seeing how he has revealed himself through his Word throughout history.

### **We deal with enemies by knowing God's ways**

This is not just a book

-2 Timothy 3:16-17 | All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16-17

-2 Peter 1:19-21 | The prophetic word...no prophecy of Scripture comes from man's interpretation...no prophecy every produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. 2 Peter 1:19-21

-Deut. 8:3 | Our true Bread that we live on Deuteronomy 8:3

-Psalm 19 | Perfect, reviving to the soul, sure, rejoicing to the heart, enlighten to the eyes, endures forever, true and righteous altogether, more to be desired than gold, sweeter than honey or McConnel's or Rori's ice cream, it is more sure than the podcasts you listen to, more proven than the self-help or Christian book you're reading. IT IS THE WORD OF GOD

Unbreakable, infallible, without err. It makes us wise unto salvation and in it, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit we possess all things we need pertaining to life and godliness! It is the sword of the Spirit we wield against our enemy and the balm to deal with our hurts.

Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love,  
for they have been from of old.

Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;  
according to your steadfast love remember me,  
for the sake of your goodness, O LORD!

Psalm 25:6-7

Here, David shows us what to do as we read the Bible.

-we recall the stories of old and see God's steadfast love and mercy  
-we apply those things to where we are needy.

We see Abraham=wreck at times and righteousness comes from trusting God can and will  
We see how David sinned in some ways early in life that haunted him. We pray along with him, forgive me for the sins of my youth. We see that God says David was a man after my heart.

### **Longing for guidance**

Good and upright is the LORD;  
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.  
He leads the humble in what is right,  
and teaches the humble his way.  
All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,  
for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

For your name's sake, O LORD,  
pardon my guilt, for it is great.  
Who is the man who fears the LORD?  
Him will he instruct in the way that he should choose.  
His soul shall abide in well-being,  
and his offspring shall inherit the land.  
The friendship of the LORD is for those who fear him,  
and he makes known to them his covenant.  
Psalm 25:8-14

One of the primary motivations we have in reading God's Word is to gain wisdom and be guided in our decision making. That's good.

- What job should I take? What ministry should I serve in? Whom should I marry?

Psalm 25 holds out something better than a simple answer to these questions. But in order to get there, we must be **humble in heart** and **fear the Lord**.

- Be humble, which means acknowledging God is wiser than we are and we need his wisdom.  
-I graduated from Westmont College with a Religious Studies degree without ever having read through the Bible  
-and it's because I was proud. I rather read theology volumes Oh how many foolish decisions I'd be saved if I had daily submitted myself to reading through Proverbs over and over again and obeying it. God leads those who are willing.  
-those who know they are sinners

- Fear the Lord  
-it's the beginning of all knowledge  
-it's not to be afraid of punishment, for those who have trusted in Christ, but to say God, you are holy. You are powerful.  
-fear in the right way hones you in. Everything else fades to the background. One thing is important. One thing demands your attention. We think it's because it could harm us, but it's actually simply because it's powerful.  
-we are in awe of him and his power the way we're in awe of the staggering drop of the Grand Canyon or the 60' waves at Mavericks. Yet we're safe.

And it's to the humble and those who fear him that God gives himself in friendship.

The friendship of the LORD is for those who fear him,  
and he makes known to them his covenant.  
Psalm 25:14

Now, this verse has arrested my heart over the past few months as I've been seeking the Lord in decision-making.

- God please help me. I need an answer on this.

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

## Psalm 25:14 NASB

“Friendship is the Hebrew word *sôd*, meaning both ‘council and ‘counsel’: both the circle of one’s close associates and the matters that are discussed with them... This whole approach to divine guidance is personal and mature, unlike the basically pagan search for irrational pointers and omens.” -Derek Kidner

This means as we seek the will of God for our life and seek his face, there is the friendship of God on offer.

- both his nearness and his wisdom
- we sometimes only want his wisdom
- but God loves us too much. He will only give us the right wisdom at the right time in the right way.

“Walking with God is the best way to know the mind of God; friend who walk together impart their secrets to one another: “The secret of the Lord is with them that fear him.” Noah walked with God, and the Lord revealed a great secret to him, of destroying the old world, of having him in the ark. Abraham walked with God, and God made him one of his privy council: “Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do?” (Genesis 24:40; 18:17). God doth sometimes sweetly unbosom himself to the soul in prayer, and in the holy supper, as Christ made himself known to the disciples in the breaking of bread. (Luke 22:35).” -Thomas Watson

As we daily get up and seek to know God in his Word and prayer. He meets us and gives us his friendship.

- at times he’ll reveal to us very clearly what we should do with something
- at other times, he’ll give us his presence, his nearness. And that is enough!

And I also want to remind you that we’ve been told the secret that angels have longed to look into: one way we could say it is the Jesus Christ, eternal Son of God came to make us and call us his friends while we were his enemies.

My eyes are ever toward the LORD,  
for he will pluck my feet out of the net.

Psalm 25:15

### Resolving our Guilt

We deal with our enemy by knowing the ways of God  
We seek guidance from God and get the friendship of God  
and lastly, as we read the Word, we consistently resolve our guilt.

Here’s the real reason I picked Psalm 25. constant humility and reality that David is a sinner

Turn to me and be gracious to me,  
for I am lonely and afflicted.  
The troubles of my heart are enlarged;  
bring me out of my distresses.  
Consider my affliction and my trouble,  
and forgive all my sins.

Consider how many are my foes,  
and with what violent hatred they hate me.  
Oh, guard my soul, and deliver me!  
Let me not be put to shame, for I take refuge in you.  
May integrity and uprightness preserve me,

for I wait for you.  
Psalm 25:16-21

Here's the truth:

- you're not going to be perfect in 2019
- don't let that stop you from seeking friendship with the Lord.

Your guilt? David brings it God consistently.

Your circumstances? (I don't like my relationship status, I hate my job, I don't like myself)

Turn to me and be gracious to me,  
for I am lonely and afflicted.  
The troubles of my heart are enlarged;  
bring me out of my distresses.  
Consider my affliction and my trouble,  
and forgive all my sins.  
Oh, guard my soul, and deliver me!  
Let me not be put to shame, for I take refuge in you.  
May integrity and uprightness preserve me,  
for I wait for you.

Redeem Israel, O God,  
out of all his troubles.  
Psalm 25:15-22

You can be ruthlessly honest with God. This was one of my constant prayers when I felt like I had just made a train wreck of my own life.

It's not perfection, but perseverance that we're after.

-So I don't want to say to you, "We'll all blow it so it's all good."

but rather, here would be life for you. God's Holy Word. You won't be perfect, but because this book is from the mouth of God and he is perfect, because he loved us while we were yet his enemies, because his friendship is for those who fear him, let us all say, "I may fall, but I will never stop getting up."

The only lasting change I have ever seen in my own life has come from when I said, "I'll never stop confessing this. I'll never stop bringing this to the Lord in prayer. I'll never stop repenting."

This isn't extra credit for the already there Christian. This is our means of grace.

-whose integrity and uprightness? not David's, but his friend's.

### **Practically**

Plan, pray, partner, persevere.

time, place, great coffee  
incline my heart. God help me.  
create a text group  
never stop getting up.

### **Notes**

[on enemies]

Now, once we get into the Psalms in our reading plan, or as you read them individually we're going to get to needing to deal with how we think about our enemies.

Derek Kidner, in his excellent commentary on the Psalms says we should keep these things in mind when reading imprecations

1. We should focus first on their substance rather than tone
2. They lived on the other side of the cross

“Between our day and theirs, our calling and theirs, stands the cross. We are ministers of reconciliation, and this is a day of good tidings.” -Derek Kidner

-we see the satisfaction of the wrath of God upon evil in the cross of Christ. If it were not for Christ loving his enemies, we'd have no hope. So we pray for those who persecute us.