

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ. Amen.

God has put right in the center of the Bible the book of Psalms that enhances our prayer lives and worship of God. I think of the Psalms as a prayer book and hymnal all in one. If you are a person who struggles with praying to God, please read the Psalms because the language of the writers/composers is most often directed toward God. The book gives us the prayer language that we can use to deepen our time with God. So often we do not know how to pray. The Psalms literally gives us hundreds of prayers that we can use to teach us how to pray.

Psalm 25 is more on the quiet side. It is filled with a quiet trust and confidence in God stating that the only life worth living is living your life for God. God is the only true foundation who is trustworthy and reliable 24/7. Sometimes the best reaction to difficulties is to simply be quiet and know deep in your soul that God will make all things right in His timing. That is what it means to have a quiet trust in God. Instead of becoming hysterical, we learn from our past that God will bring good out of what is happening in our lives even if we do not like at all what is happening. Of course, there are other Psalms of crying out to God in panic situations but not Psalm 25. The Psalmist is asking God to teach him the right paths, the right way, to teach him truth through his own particular circumstances. Friends, God has something to teach you in everything that you are facing these days. The Psalmist knows this and is open to whatever God has to say to him.

David finds himself surrounded by enemies. He prays to God, "Let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies exalt over me" (vs 2). The term shame in this context means to suffer disappointment or being let down by a person you trusted completely. It has the sense of being abandoned by a person you thought would always come through for you. David is giving everything over to God. *To you O' Lord I lift my soul, I give to You God everything. O my God in you I trust.* David is joyfully trusting in God when surrounded by enemies and states emphatically, "those who wait [trust] in you shall not be put to shame (vs 3). David has the

utmost confidence that God will protect him even as God had protected him and others in the past.

Friends, I know there are times that we all panic when hard things happen to us completely outside of our control. Anxiety attacks, panic attacks, and melt downs have become a way of life. Psalm 25 is God's remedy for such situations. David knows a catastrophe could take place and senses deep in his soul that God will avert the catastrophe and teach David truths about God in what is happening to him.

A few years ago, someone I greatly respect said to me, "Pastor, you need to listen to your own sermon." What he meant was you need to live out what you preach to us. It is much easier to preach a quiet confident trust in God than do it. I can honestly say what that person said to me was correct. Pastor don't just preach about trusting in God. Do it. I can say with absolute confidence in God that when it looks like your enemies are about to have their way in your life, God will use that to teach you exactly what He wants to teach and you. God will only let your enemies do what He allows them to do for your good and His greater glory. David has insight into his situation that God will overcome David's enemies and he will not be overcome. I like that trust.

Having said that I know there are times that it looks like our enemies have won. But in God's economy, in God's way of working, they have not won at all. They are just storing up for themselves God's correction when God brings those persons to justice in God's way and timing. In the meantime, God has you in His school to teach you. And when we listen, our quiet trust and confidence in God blossoms.

Friends we have at least three enemies that we face every day that want to discourage us, defeat us, knock us flat and worse. The first enemy is what the Bible calls the world. By the world I mean those people and forces that oppose every good and godly thing. It is the secular world's way of thinking that has utter contempt toward God, complete disrespect for the Bible,

and does everything it can to destroy the Christian's life and faith. If you believe in Christ and listen to Christ, the world tells you that you are insane. It is atheism on steroids. 2. The devil is our enemy. The Bible calls the devil the father of all lies (John 8:44). He prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour (1 Peter 5:8). 3. The third enemy we face is what the Bible calls our flesh which is our old sinful nature. Our sinful nature is that part of us that wants us to be naughty and do things that God forbids. After we cave in, our sinful nature loves to remind us of our former sins in order to discourage us and keep us defeated with guilt and shame. The good news of God's truth exposes these enemies for what and who they are as we listen to our Instructor, God.

Dr. James Montgomery Boice commenting on Psalm 25 writes this. "Although it is true that God will not let us down, abandon us, or disappoint us, this blessed truth of perseverance is not something that merely works itself out automatically or mechanically. Rather it is something that requires responsible learning, obedience, faithfulness, trust, and deep reverence on our part" (James Montgomery Boice, Psalms Vol 1, pg 225). Friends, it is never easy to stay on the right path, God's path, the path of day-to-day obedience. We have people around us who want to knock us off that path. We have our own internal doubts and insecurities to contend with. Even worse the memory of past sins and internal desires that go against God.

David lists ten truths about who God is that helped him not be overcome by his enemies. All of these are found in chapter 25. 1. God is faithful and will not let you down (vs 3). 2. God is always truthful, and God's ways are the ways of truth for God cannot lie (vs 4-5). 3. God is our Savior (vs 5). 4. God is merciful and loving (vs 6). 5. God is good and upright – your best days are still ahead of you (vs 8). 6. God is loving and faithful in all His ways (vs 10). 7. God is forgiving – He no longer holds your sins against you (vs 11). 8. God is open with his people and confides in them. God speaks the truth to you in love (vs 14). 9. God is gracious (vs 16). 10. God is our rescuer and is therefore our refuge (vs 16,20). David knew that to keep his quiet

trust and confidence in God he had to keep learning and reminding himself who God actually is. He had to listen to God and let God's teaching sink in so as not to panic and be overcome by his enemies, the world, the flesh and the devil.

I conclude this sermon answering the question, "How do we receive the blessing of God's truth that sustains us?" 1. Verse 9, "He leads the humble in doing right teaching them his way." The Bible says, "Humble yourself in the sight of the Lord and He will pick you up (1 Peter 5:6). James 4:6, "God opposes the proud and gives grace to the humble." Friends when we humble ourselves before God, we open ourselves to receive God's teaching at its best. 2. Obedience to God. Friends, I know it is God's grace working in our lives that moves us to obey. I also know obedience unto the Lord opens up our eyes to see God's blessing we would not normally see. The smallest thing we normally overlook becomes a major encouragement to you that God is blessing you. This week I met a young gentleman at the funeral home where Jack McCarty spent a large portion of his life working. The young man was thrilled to tell me that he and his wife had their first child 8 days ago. Fortunately, he did not have pictures. I said to him, Let's stop and pray for William. At the end of the prayer, I looked up at this new father and he said, "You don't know how much I appreciate that." He acted like I was the first pastor who ever prayed with him and just maybe I was. My point is praying with another person is so personable. Most people are not used to receiving prayer, but do they ever appreciate it. I could have been operating in the flesh being full of myself nervous meeting new people in a new place that I had never been before. When we walk in the power of the Holy Spirit, we find ourselves thinking more of others and we try ways to touch people for the sake of Christ and bring God into the conversation. I walked away thinking what a privilege. 3. An attitude of reverence toward God opens up your soul to receive God's blessing and truth from God.

Psalms 25:12, 14(NIV) ¹²Who, then, is the person that fears the LORD? He will instruct him in the way chosen for him. ¹⁴The LORD confides in those who fear him; he makes his covenant

known to them. 4. Having an attitude of expectation toward God as the Psalmist writes in verse 15, "My eyes are ever on the Lord." Waiting expectantly on God opens your eyes to see God in action. God is your rescuer, your redeemer, your instructor, your Savior.

Quiet trust and confidence in God are signs of Christian maturity. May God bring this about in our lives. Amen and Amen.