

The Risen King
(The Psalm of Resurrection Hope)
Psalm 16; Acts 2:25–36; 13:35–37

MAIN IDEA: God's Faithful One is kept from Sheol and finds joy in God's presence.

CHRIST CONNECTION: God did not allow His Faithful One to see decay. Christ rose victorious, securing resurrection hope for all who trust in Him.

KEY TAKEAWAY: The God who raised Jesus from the grave will raise all who belong to Him. Death is not the end for the believer—it's the doorway into eternal joy with Christ. Because the Faithful One was not abandoned to decay, every follower of Jesus can face death with confidence and peace—knowing that our bodies will rest securely and one day rise to everlasting life and eternal joy in His glorious presence.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT: Psalm 16 belongs to the genre of individual confidence psalms—prayers where King David expresses unwavering trust in God, even in the face of danger, suffering, or death. Historically, David appears to have written this psalm during a time of threat or uncertainty, possibly when his life was in danger and his future seemed fragile. Yet, rather than collapsing into fear, David confesses that his security is not in circumstances, but in God Himself: *"You are my Lord; I have nothing good besides You."* It expresses David's confidence that his life, death, and eternal destiny are all safe in God's hands. In its original context, it reflects David's personal faith that God would preserve him from destruction and be his inheritance forever. But the Holy Spirit carried David's words far beyond his own experience. The Apostle Peter, in **Acts 2:25–36**, declares that David, as a prophet, was speaking of Christ when he wrote, *"You will not allow Your Faithful One to see decay."* Similarly, the Apostle Paul, in **Acts 13:35–37**, proclaims that this psalm was fulfilled in Jesus' resurrection. So, Psalm 16 is not only **historical**—it is also **prophetic** and **typological**. David's confidence prefigures the perfect trust of the Messiah, and his hope of deliverance finds its ultimate fulfillment in the greater Son of David, Jesus Christ, whose body did not see corruption and who rose to guarantee resurrection life for all who belong to Him.

1. The Lord is My Refuge (vv. 1–2)

- A. David begins with prayer and confession:** He confesses that every good thing he has comes from God: *"I have nothing good besides You."*
- B. David has Confidence in God's Protection:** David begins with a prayer of trust. His safety is not in walls or armies, but in God Himself. The phrase *"I take refuge in You"* pictures a fugitive finding safety in a fortress—God alone is his shelter.
- C. NT Connection:** Jesus perfectly embodied this trust. He prayed, *"Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit"* (Luke 23:46). Christ's refuge was not escape from death but confidence in His Father beyond it.
- D. Application: Take Refuge in God's Protection:** When life feels uncertain, cry out, *"Protect me, God."* True safety is found not in control but in surrender to God's care. Refuge isn't found by running from problems, but by running to God. (Psalm 46:1; Philippians 4:6–7)

2. The Lord is My Portion (vv. 3–6)

- A. David has Delight in God's People and in His Provision:** He rejects idols and rejoices that the Lord is his inheritance. That is, he finds joy not in worldly possessions but in the people and presence of God. *"The Lord is my portion"* implies that God Himself is David's greatest treasure, his inheritance. Unlike idolaters who chase false gods that bring sorrow, David is satisfied in God's goodness and guidance.

- B. NT Connection:** Jesus, the greater David, came not to gain earthly wealth but to share His Father's kingdom with His people (Luke 12:32). Believers now share that same inheritance through Christ: *"If children, also heirs—heirs of God and coheirs with Christ"* (Romans 8:17).
- C. Application: Find Contentment in God's Portion:** The world multiplies sorrows by chasing idols—career, comfort, control. Contentment isn't found in having more; it's found in knowing Christ. Be content with what you have, for He has said, *"I will never leave you or abandon you"* (Philippians 4:11–13; Hebrews 13:5); A believer can say with David, *"The Lord is my portion and my cup."*

3. The Lord is My Counselor (vv. 7–8)

- A. David has Confidence in God's Guidance:** God's counsel sustains David even in the darkest nights (even when he cannot see clearly). *"At my right hand"* is a symbol of strength and support—God stands beside him as his defender.
- B. NT Connection:** In His earthly ministry, Jesus lived by His Father's counsel and will (Jn.5:19). The risen Christ now sends the Holy Spirit to guide believers (Jn.14:26).
- C. Application: Seek Guidance by God's Counsel:** Trust God's Word and Spirit to guide you (Psalm 119:105; John 14:26; James 1:5). When you can't see the way forward, keep your eyes on the Lord who never moves. *"Because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken."* That's stability in a shaking world.

4. The Lord is My Resurrection Hope (vv. 9–11) "For You will not abandon me to Sheol; You will not allow Your faithful one to see decay." (v. 10)

- A. David has Assurance of Life Beyond Death:** He will not be abandoned to Sheol. *Note: Sheol — The Hebrew term for "the grave" or "the realm of the dead" refers not necessarily to eternal punishment but to the shadowy existence beyond death.*
- B. David's words go beyond his immediate experience.** The "Faithful One" (v. 10) points ultimately to God's Faithful One — Christ, who did not see decay.
- C. David foreshadows Christ:** David's confidence in divine preservation prefigures Christ's trust in the Father through suffering and death.
- D. New Connection (Acts 2:25–32; Acts 13:35–37; 1 Cor. 15:20–23; John 11:25–26)** Jesus is the true "Faithful One" of Psalm 16. God did not allow His body to decay, but raised Him from the grave on the third day. Through Christ's resurrection, believers share in that same victory over death. The resurrection is the ultimate fulfillment of God's promise of preservation and life.
 - **Peter's Sermon – Acts 2:25–32:** Peter quotes Psalm 16:8–11, declaring it fulfilled in Jesus' resurrection. *David is both dead and buried [...] But he was a prophet and knew that God had sworn an oath to him [...] Seeing what was to come, he spoke concerning the resurrection of the Messiah. (v.29–31, paraphr.)*
 - **Paul's Sermon – Acts 13:35–37:** Paul echoes Peter and Psalm 16:10: *"David fell asleep and was buried [...] But the one God raised up did not see decay."*
- E. Application: Hope in God's Preservation (Made Possible Only Through Christ):** Even death cannot separate believers from the love of God in Christ. Because Jesus rose, we too will rise. God's people can be sure that even death cannot separate them from His presence (Ro. 8:38–39; 1 Thess. 4:14–17).

Layers of Fulfillment in Psalm 16: **Historical:** David expressed personal confidence that God would preserve his life and future. **Prophetic:** The Spirit led David to speak of something far greater—the resurrection of Christ. **Typological:** David himself serves as a type (foreshadowing pattern) of Christ. His trust, deliverance, and hope prefigure Christ's perfect trust and ultimate deliverance from death. **Redemptive:** The same God who raised His Faithful One, also secures resurrection life for all those who trust in Him by faith.