

## **GOING DEEPER STUDY** (August 10, 2025) PERSONAL OR GROUP STUDY

Why do we pray? What should we say when we pray? How should we approach God when we come to Him with our prayers? What happens when we pray?

The book of Psalms is often called a book of prayers. In it we find prayers, honest prayers, troubling prayers. There are prayers for personal health and for prayers for divine rescue from enemies. There are prayers of praise and prayers of sorrow and regret. Of the 150 Psalms in the Bible nearly half, 73, are attributed to David, Israel's greatest king. Through David God unified a fractured nation. Through David God defeated the enemies of Israel. With God's strength and courage David bested the giant Goliath. David trusted God. In his prayers he spoke passionately, and intimately, to God. Our passage for this morning is one of David's additional prayers. What can we learn from this poet, this musician, this praying king, who lived 3000 years ago?

Prayers are offered in Tibet, Glasgow, Moscow, Kenya, Kiev, Sao Paulo, Manila, Mumbai, Shanghai, and here in Yakima. From every nation, in every tongue, billions of prayer are offered to God each day. Christian faith provides a beautiful understanding of the who, what, when, where, and why, of prayer. That understanding comes directly from the source, from God Himself. And so ... we pray.

### **Ordinary People Extraordinary Lives: A King's Prayer** (2 Samuel 7:12-29)

<sup>16</sup> ... 'your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.' <sup>17</sup> In accordance with all these words, and in accordance with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David.

<sup>18</sup> Then King David went in and sat before the Lord and said, '**Who am I, O Lord God**, and what is my house, that you have brought me thus far?' <sup>19</sup> And yet this was a small thing in your eyes, O Lord God. You have spoken also of your servant's house for a great while to come, and this is instruction for mankind, O Lord God! <sup>20</sup> And what more can David say to you? For **you know your servant, O Lord God!**

<sup>21</sup> Because of your promise, and according to your own heart, you have brought about all this greatness, to make your servant know it. <sup>22</sup> Therefore you are great, O Lord God. For there is none like you, and there is no God besides you, according to all that we have heard with our ears. <sup>23</sup> And who is like your people Israel, the one nation on earth whom God went to redeem to be his people, making himself a name and doing for them great and awesome things by driving out before your people, whom you redeemed for yourself from Egypt, a nation and its gods? <sup>24</sup> And you established for yourself your people

Israel to be your people forever. And you, O Lord, became their God. <sup>25</sup> And now, O Lord God, confirm forever the word that you have spoken concerning your servant and concerning his house, and do as you have spoken. <sup>26</sup> And your name will be magnified forever, saying, "The Lord of hosts is God over Israel," and the house of your servant David will be established before you. <sup>27</sup> For you, O Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, have made this revelation to your servant, saying, "I will build you a house." Therefore **your servant has found courage to pray this prayer to you.** <sup>28</sup> And now, O Lord God, you are God, and **your words are true, and you have promised this good thing to your servant.** <sup>29</sup> Now therefore may it please you to bless the house of your servant, so that it may continue forever before you. For you, O Lord God, have spoken, and with your blessing shall the house of your servant be blessed forever."

## **WHAT DOES IT SAY?**

1. How did David begin his prayer? (verse 18)
2. What does David acknowledge about God in his prayer?
3. What are three things David includes in his prayer?

## **WHAT DOES IT MEAN?**

4. What does, "for you know your servant" mean? (verse 20)
5. What does, "your words are true" mean? (verse 28)

## **WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO YOU?**

6. Who is the most famous person you've ever spoken directly to? What did you say to them?
7. When you talk to your family and friends what do you talk to them about? How do you begin your conversation with them?
8. How important is prayer in your relationship with God? How do you begin your conversation with God?
9. What do you believe happens when you pray? Do you believe your prayers change things? Discuss.
10. What is one thing you've prayed for regularly?
11. How does God respond to your prayers? If God knows everything in advance, why should we pray? Discuss.
12. Who, or what, should you pray for, or about, right now?

As you spend time praying, remember that prayer is meant to be a natural part of your day. Prayer is a conversation: talking to God and listening to God. Thank God for His invitation to pray. Thank God that He loves you and hears your prayers. Ask God to help you pray. Ask God to help you know who you should pray for. God will help you, because He loves you and He is eager to talk with you.