



## Psalms for Life

*I Will Set the Lord Always Before Me*

"I will set the Lord always before me."  
Psalm 16:8

**Daily Reading: Psalms 15-21 (August 15-21)**

### **Memory Verses:**

"I will delight in the law of the Lord and on his law I will meditate day and night."

**Psalm 1:2**

"I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart; I will recount all of your wonderful deeds."

**Psalm 9:1**

"I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken."

**Psalm 16:8**

Psalm 16 ESV

1 Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

2 I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord;  
I have no good apart from you."

3 As for the saints in the land, they are the excellent ones,  
in whom is all my delight.

4 The sorrows of those who run after another god shall multiply;  
their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out  
or take their names on my lips.

5 The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup;  
you hold my lot.

6 The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;  
indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.

7 I bless the LORD who gives me counsel;  
in the night also my heart instructs me.

8 I have set the LORD always before me;  
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.

9 Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices;

my flesh also dwells secure.  
10 For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol,  
or let your holy one see corruption.  
11 You make known to me the path of life;  
in your presence there is fullness of joy;  
at your right hand are pleasures forevermore. Psalm 16 ESV

“I will set the Lord always before me.”  
Psalm 16:8

### 1. What are we to do when everything is going right?

- This Psalm may have been written during a time of peace unlike many others written in times of crisis and chaos, pain and persecution.
- Moments of tranquility are not to be wasted in selfish consumption or pursuits but they justify and call for our consistent thanksgiving and praise.
- We can take these moments and hoard them or take them for granted. Or we may use them as opportunities to praise God for his love and peace and provision.
- We can use times of blessing to share the peace that passes all understanding with others who know not the savior.

### 2. What are we to do when everything is going to wrong?

- The confession of confidence in God exemplifies a deep trust in the Lord in both life and death and all that falls between. (Expositor's Bible Commentary, Vol. 5, p. 153)

And he said, “Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.”  
**Job 1:21**

Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.  
**Philippians 4:11-13**

- The Psalmist expressed great confidence in the Lord for His peace in this life and the life to come. The inclusion of the quote from Psalm 16 in Acts further solidifies the confidence available to those who trust God and believe in the resurrection of Jesus! Acts 2:25-28 (Verses 8-11) and Acts 13:35 (Verse 10) (Expositor's Bible Commentary, Vol. 5, p. 153)

### 3. The Path of Life - There is only one!

“You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.” **Psalm 16:11**

- What path are you following? Life? Death?

“Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.” *Matthew 7:13-14*

- Narrow way leads to life.
- Wide way leads to destruction.

I will set the Lord always before me

I have set the Lord always before me

I set the Lord always before me

I will set the Lord always before me and because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved!

The heart of a godly man doth freely choose God and Christ for his portion. Take away all torment and set hell aside and he could and might have his choice and he would choose God rather than anything else. If the godly man might have his choice either to live always in this world in the enjoyment of all manner of worldly prosperity or else in God's time die and go to heaven to dwell forever there in the enjoyment of God and Jesus Christ, he would choose the latter. Jonathan Edwards (In The Lord I Take Refuge, Dane C. Ortlund, p. 45)

## Life Application Questions

1. When was the last time everything in your life was amazing? Did you tell anyone? What did you do to celebrate?
2. When was the last time everything in your life was terrible? Did you tell anyone? What did you do to survive?
3. What life experiences and situations test/attack your faith most? What do you do during those times?
4. What life experiences and situations prove/affirm your faith most? What do you do during those times?
5. Have you tried praise and thanksgiving when your faith is tested/attached most? What were the results?
6. Have you tried praise and thanksgiving when your faith is proved/affirmed most? What were the results?
7. Can you say with Job and Paul that your faith remains firm no matter life challenges or blessings? (Job 1:21, Philippians 4:11-13) Describe a time when you had an experience like this in your faith journey and share what you learned.
8. PRAY: Ask the Lord to give you and those you know and love the strength and vision to remain faithful in all seasons of life!