

The Book of PSALMS

PSALMS 55 – 57

“False Friends—A True Friend—Trust”

PSALM 55 – “False Friends”

(v1-3) Our enemies strengthen our prayer life! “to moan nosily”- In regards to the Holy Spirit- Rom 8:26-27- Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

Regarding Jesus in Hebrews 5:7-10 - in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear, though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him

(v4-7) Honest emotions & desire - There’s **hope & promise in God’s Word** for those who are terrified of death – **1 Corinthians 15:51-58; 2 Corinthians 5:1-8.**

(v8-11) Living in the city of destruction & oppression -

(v12-15) False friends – The inside story - **2 Sam 15:30-31-** So David went up by the Ascent of the Mount of Olives, and wept as he went up; and he had his head covered and went barefoot. And all the people who were with him covered their heads and went up, weeping as they went up. Then someone told David, saying, "Ahithophel is among the conspirators with Absalom." And David said, "O LORD, I pray, turn the counsel of Ahithophel into foolishness!"

(v16-19) Prayer is the answer – Notice “Evening, morning & at noon” (A note from G. Campbell Morgan, *The Practice of Prayer*) **Peace is the promise** - **Romans 5:1-5** - Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

(v20-23) Cast your burden on the LORD - **1 Peter 5:6-7** - Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

PSALM 56 – “A True Friend!”

(v1-7) Whenever we are afraid, “In God We Trust!” – “In God (I will praise His Word)”- Why? Psalm 119

(v8-11) Christ is our true friend! - **John 15:11-25**

(v12-13) Praise Him! “What a Friend We Have In Jesus!”

*What a friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit,
Oh, what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer!*

*Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged—
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful,
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
Take it to the Lord in prayer.*

*Are we weak and heavy-laden,
Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge—
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In His arms He’ll take and shield thee,
Thou wilt find a solace there.*

*Blessed Savior, Thou hast promised
Thou wilt all our burdens bear;
May we ever, Lord, be bringing
All to Thee in earnest prayer.
Soon in glory bright, unclouded,
There will be no need for prayer—
Rapture, praise, and endless worship
Will be our sweet portion there.*

PSALM 57 – “Trust!”

(v1-2) My soul trusts in you – Notice how personal David’s relationship is with God.

(v3) “He shall send from heaven and save me . . . God shall send forth His mercy and His truth” – John 1:1-14
John 1:14 - And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

(v4-6) Battle the lions! – 1 Peter 5:8-11- *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you. To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.*

(v7) Let’s have a steadfast heart! – David’s heart is calm, firm, happy, resolute, and established. People’s behavior can change, but is their heart steadfast with the LORD.

(v8-11) AWAKE! AWAKE! SING PRAISES TO OUR GOD! This points all believers to Revelation 5:8-14 -
Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song, saying:

*"You are worthy to take the scroll,
And to open its seals;
For You were slain,
And have redeemed us to God by Your blood
Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,
And have made us kings and priests to our God;
And we shall reign on the earth."*

Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice:

*"Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
To receive power and riches and wisdom,
And strength and honor and glory and blessing!"*

And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying:

*"Blessing and honor and glory and power
Be to Him who sits on the throne,
And to the Lamb, forever and ever!"*

Then the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever.