



~ Thought For The Day ~

~gathering from the 4 winds~

"come just as you are"

Refresh, Restore, Rebuild = Healing

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Worship Music

[The Prayer-RyanDan](#)

[The Face-Ryan Dan](#)

[High-RyanDan](#)

Prayer

Lord, I thank You for holding back the evil forces that want to manifest in the world today. It's hard to imagine what the world would be like if Your Spirit no longer suppressed the evil in the hearts of men. I thank You for working in the world today, and I thank You for giving my friends, family, associates, and acquaintances one last chance to come to You. Please help me recognize divinely appointed moments when I can present the Gospel to those who are near me. And I ask You to help me formulate my words so they can understand what I am communicating to them. Holy Spirit, as I speak to people, I ask You to do the work of conviction in their hearts so they will have a desire to believe and to repent. In Jesus' name. Amen....

Sparkling Gems from the Greek.

Video's / New Information/ Prayer Requests

Matthew 24:36 (AMP)

36 But of that [exact] day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

["The Cross"](#)

Billy Graham

[" The Cure "](#)

Pastor Chuck Smith

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[KWVE ...Calvary Chapel](#)

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Cathe Laurie](#)

Chapel Flock.....text a prayer..... request telephone number.....

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Or----

If you have a prayer request...please e-mail it to us so we can pray for you...or a person.....

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Psalm 52:1-9 (AMP)

1 WHY BOAST you of mischief done against the loving-kindness of God [and the godly], O mighty [sinful] man, day after day? 2 Your tongue devises wickedness; it is like a sharp razor, working deceitfully. 3 You love evil more than good, and lying rather than to speak righteousness, justice, and right. Selah [pause, and calmly think of that]! 4 You love all destroying and devouring words, O deceitful tongue. 5 God will likewise break you down and destroy you forever; He will lay hold of you and pluck you out of your tent and uproot you from the land of the living. Selah [pause, and calmly think of that]! 6 The [uncompromisingly] righteous also shall see [it] and be in reverent fear and awe, but about you they will [scoffingly] laugh, saying, 7 See, this is the man who made not God his strength (his stronghold and high tower) but trusted in and confidently relied on the abundance of his riches, seeking refuge and security for himself through his wickedness. 8 But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God; I trust in and confidently rely on the loving-kindness and the mercy of God forever and ever. 9 I will thank You and confide in You forever, because You have done it [delivered me and kept me safe]. I will wait on, hope in and expect in Your name, for it is good, in the presence of Your saints (Your kind and pious ones).

Psalm 52 is to the chief musician. It is a prayer of David. It is a poem or a song that he wrote when Doeg, the Edomite, came and told Saul and said unto him, "David has come to the house of Ahimelech." Now David, when he was fleeing from Saul, went up to Bethel, and there he went into the priest and he asked for some food for he and his men. The priest said, "Well, I don't have anything but the showbread." And only the priest was supposed to eat this showbread. It was the bread, twelve loaves that they put out on the table. Each loaf representing one of the tribes of Israel. And it was set out on the table in order that, the idea was that God might be constantly reminded of each of the twelve tribes. It was there within the tabernacle on the right hand side, as the priest would enter there into the tent, on the right hand side there was this table with the twelve loaves of bread.

Now, we say loaves of bread and you picture the white Wonder Bread loaf or something. But actually, what they have, it's a flatbread and it's round. Loaves about twelve inches in diameter. And when they bake it, it may rise about an inch or an inch and a half. It is good. It's got a lot of substance to it. It is chewy, and you really know that you are eating bread when you eat that bread. It is so good. Over in Bethlehem, right near the hokey church that they say is where Jesus was born, in a cave underneath of it, tourists, it seems, always want to see the site of the birth of Jesus. And so, they have a hokey tradition that the site is there down in this cave. And so they take you in, and it is a trip. I don't like to go in there. The guide is always laughing at me because he says, "This year it is your turn to take them in." He doesn't like to go in there either. And we are always trying to out do each other so that we don't have to go in there. Because I like to go up the street. Up one of the side streets there, there is a baker and he has this... he is sort of the public baker in a sense. He has this oven there, open fire in it. The ladies come with big pans of dough, and they sit there in this little dark room. And he is down in a little sort of a dug out place with this oven going, and he has a big spoon, much like they use in the pizza parlors, big flat kind of a shovel thing. And these ladies will sit there visiting with each other, and each of them have their own pan of dough. And every once in a while they will knead their dough and all, and then when it is their turn, he takes, and he has a flour board, and he kneads it, flattens it out, and he bakes it. And then when they get all of their loaves baked, they put them back in the pan, cover them with their towel, and they take off with the pans of bread on top of their heads. And you see the ladies walking up the steps with these pans of dough on top of their heads coming to the baker to have him bake their bread. Well, if you smile at the ladies and look hungry and hold out a little money, and I'm not quite sure yet which of the three it is that works, but anyhow, I always get some of this bread. Hot, right out of the oven. Ooooh, it's so good! But this is the same style of bread that they have baked there for millenniums, three thousand years ago when David was around. Same kind of... that is why I like to go in there, because man, you are stepping back into history. That hokey church has all kinds of gaudy bobbles of Christmas tree ornaments and everything else. And it just makes me sick, and I... the bread really makes me feel good. So I just like to go up the street and watch this baking process. I'm getting hungry. But all he had... now they would change this bread, and of course, the bread will last a long time. And they would change it once a week, and then the priest could eat the loaves of bread. But only he could eat them. No one else was to eat them. But David came in and he had his men and he was hungry. And he said, "Do you got anything to eat?" And he said, "All I've got is this showbread." David said, "Well, we're so hungry." So he gave him the showbread. Now, it was not really lawful that David eat that, but it was an interesting thing that God's laws are flexible, in that when a guy is hungry, then there can be a little overlooking of the rule nobody eats this but the priest. It is the law of life and hunger that superseded. And even Jesus in the New Testament acknowledged that it was all right. When they were trying to lay some trip on Him because He had violated their traditions of the Sabbath, He said, "Don't you remember what David did when he was hungry? How he went in with his men and ate the bread which was unlawful to eat for anybody but a priest." And Jesus was pointing out even in their great king David there was this thing where the need of an individual superseded the tradition of the law. The idea was, here was a guy on the Sabbath day and he was sick, and they didn't want Jesus to heal him because it was the Sabbath day. And Jesus pointed out this thing of David in order to show that human need supersedes the traditions or the laws of the Sabbath. Human need supersedes that. Jesus said, "Is it lawful on the Sabbath to save a life or to kill a life? To do good, or to do evil?" And so, the law of human need, Sabbath day or not, you can help them. Now when Doeg came to Saul he said, "David was up there and the priest helped him. Gave him bread and gave him Goliath's sword." And Saul, in his stupid, blind anger, went up and killed the priest and his sons. And David now is upset over this "dog", Doeg, who told Saul that he was up there. So this psalm is directed against this Doeg. Why do you boast yourself in your mischief, O mighty man? The goodness of God continues. Your tongue devised mischiefs; like a sharp razor, working deceitfully. You love evil more than good; and lying rather than to speak the right things. You love all devouring words, O thou deceitful tongue. And God shall likewise destroy thee forever, he shall take thee away, and pluck thee out of thy dwelling place, and root thee out of the land of the living. The righteous also shall see, and fear, and shall laugh at him: Lo, this is the man that made not God his strength; but trusted in the abundance of his riches, and strengthened himself in his wickedness. But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God: I trust in the mercy of God for ever. I will praise thee for ever, because thou hast done it: and I will wait on thy name; for it is good before thy saints (Psa 52:1-9).

So David's sort of prayer against and concerning this fellow who had caused the death of the priest who had helped David.

Psalm 53:1-6 (AMP)

1 THE [empty-headed] fool has said in his heart, There is no God. Corrupt and evil are they, and doing abominable iniquity; there is none who does good. 2 God looked down from heaven upon the children of men to see if there were any who understood, who sought (inquired after and desperately required) God. 3 Every one of them has gone back [backslidden and fallen away]; they have altogether become filthy and corrupt; there is none who does good, no, not one. 4 Have those who work evil no knowledge (no understanding)? They eat up My people as they eat bread; they do not call upon God. 5 There they are, in terror and dread, where there was [and had been] no terror and dread! For God has scattered the bones of him who encamps against you; you have put them to shame, because God has rejected them. 6 Oh, that the salvation and deliverance of Israel would come out of Zion! When God restores the fortunes of His people, then will Jacob rejoice and Israel be glad.

Psalm 53 is the same as Psalm 14. These are similar psalms. There are about three places where psalms repeat themselves, not in total, such as... this is pretty much in total with Psalm 14. In others, maybe three or four verses are repeated. But this the full psalm.

The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God (Psa 53:1).

Paul said, "When they knew God, they glorified Him not as God, neither were they thankful. Their foolish hearts were darkened. And professing themselves to be wise they became fools" (Romans 1:21-22). "The fool hath said in his heart there is no God." If you meet a person who says, "I am an atheist," according to God's Word he is a fool. Corrupt are they, they have done abominable iniquity: there is none that doeth good. And God looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and that did seek God. And every one of them has gone back: they are altogether become filthy; there is none that doeth good, no, not one (Psa 53:1-3). Paul quotes this in Romans, chapter 3. Have the workers of iniquity no knowledge? who eat up my people as they eat bread: they have not called upon God. There were they in great fear, where no fear was (Psa 53:4-5):

The wicked fear when there is no cause to fear. for God has scattered the bones of him that encamps against thee: thou hast put them to shame, because God hath despised him. Oh that the salvation of Israel would come out of Zion! (Psa 53:5-6) Now this is a prayer, actually, for the future when Jesus shall come and establish the kingdom. The salvation of Israel coming out of Zion is always a reference to the glorious millennial reign of Christ. When God brings back the captivity of his people, for Jacob shall rejoice and Israel shall be glad (Psa 53:6).

Psalm 54:1-7 (AMP)

1 SAVE ME, O God, by Your name; judge and vindicate me by Your mighty strength and power.

2 Hear my pleading and my prayer, O God; give ear to the words of my mouth.

3 For strangers and insolent men are rising up against me, and violent men and ruthless ones seek and demand my life; they do not set God before them. Selah [pause, and calmly think of that]!

4 Behold, God is my helper and ally; the Lord is my upholder and is with them who uphold my life.

5 He will pay back evil to my enemies; in Your faithfulness [Lord] put an end to them.

6 With a freewill offering I will sacrifice to You; I will give thanks and praise Your name, O Lord, for it is good.

7 For He has delivered me out of every trouble, and my eye has looked [in triumph] on my enemies.

Psalm 54 is to the chief musician on a stringed instrument. A prayer of David. When the Ziphims came and said to Saul, "David is hiding down in the wilderness of Ziph." And so, even as he didn't care about Doeg telling Saul where he was, neither did he care about the Ziphims. So he has a few choice words for them.

Save me, O God, by thy name, and judge me by thy strength. Hear my prayer, O God; and give ear to the words of my mouth. For strangers [the Ziphites] are risen up against me, and the oppressors seek after my soul: and they have not set God before them. Behold, God is my helper: the Lord is with them that uphold my soul. He shall reward evil unto my enemies: cut them off in thy truth. I will freely sacrifice unto thee: I will praise thy name, O LORD; for it is good. For he hath delivered me out of all trouble: and my eye hath seen the desire upon my enemies (Psa 54:1-7).

So David's prayer that God would honor him, and take care of his enemies. so I have learned not to seek to defend myself, but to leave my defense completely in the hands of God. Now, if you want God to defend you, then you have to just commit yourself to the hands of God and not seek to defend yourself. God is my defense.

Psalm 55:1-23 (AMP)

1 LISTEN TO my prayer, O God, and hide not Yourself from my supplication! 2 Attend to me and answer me; I am restless and distraught in my complaint and must moan 3 [And I am distracted] at the noise of the enemy, because of the oppression and threats of the wicked; for they would cast trouble upon me, and in wrath they persecute me. 4 My heart is grievously pained within me, and the terrors of death have fallen upon me. 5 Fear and trembling have come upon me; horror and fright have overwhelmed me. 6 And I say, Oh, that I had wings like a dove! I would fly away and be at rest. 7 Yes, I would wander far away, I would lodge in the wilderness. Selah [pause, and calmly think of that]! 8 I would hasten to escape and to find a shelter from the stormy wind and tempest. 9 Destroy [their schemes], O Lord, confuse their tongues, for I have seen violence and strife in the city. 10 Day and night they go about on its walls; iniquity and mischief are in its midst. 11 Violence and ruin are within it; fraud and guile do not depart from its streets and marketplaces. 12 For it is not an enemy who reproaches and taunts me—then I might bear it; nor is it one who has hated me who insolently vaunts himself against me—then I might hide from him. 13 But it was you, a man my equal, my companion and my familiar friend. 14 We had sweet fellowship together and used to walk to the house of God in company. 15 Let desolations and death come suddenly upon them; let them go down alive to Sheol (the place of the dead), for evils are in their habitations, in their hearts, and their inmost part. 16 As for me, I will call upon God, and the Lord will save me. 17 Evening and morning and at noon will I utter my complaint and moan and sigh, and He will hear my voice. 18 He has redeemed my life in peace from the battle that was against me [so that none came near me], for they were many who strove with me. 19 God will hear and humble them, even He Who abides of old—Selah [pause, and calmly think of that]!—because in them there has been no change [of heart], and they do not fear, revere, and worship God. 20 [My companion] has put forth his hands against those who were at peace with him; he has broken and profaned his agreement [of friendship and loyalty]. 21 The words of his mouth were smoother than cream or butter, but war was in his heart; his words were softer than oil, yet they were drawn swords. 22 Cast your burden on the Lord [releasing the weight of it] and He will sustain you; He will never allow the [consistently] righteous to be moved (made to slip, fall, or fail). 23 But You, O God, will bring down the wicked into the pit of destruction; men of blood and treachery shall not live out half their days. But I will trust in, lean on, and confidently rely on You.

Psalm 55: Give ear to my prayer, O God; and hide not thyself from my supplication. Attend unto me, and hear me: I mourn in my complaint, and make a noise; Because of the voice of the enemy, because of the oppression of the wicked: for they cast iniquity upon me, and in wrath they hate me (Psa 55:1-3).

I told you, David was capable of inspiring hate or love. You either loved the guy or hated the guy. And the feelings towards David were quite strong. And he was always praying about his enemies, and those that were after him, and those that were seeking to destroy him. "For they cast iniquity upon me, in wrath they hate me." My heart is sore pain within me: the terrors of death have fallen upon me. Fearfulness and trembling are come upon me, and horror hath overwhelmed me. And I said, Oh that I had the wings like a dove! for I would fly out of this place, and be at rest. Lo, then I would wonder far off, and remain in the wilderness. I would hasten my escape from the windy storm and the tempest. Destroy, O Lord, and divide their tongues: for I have seen violence and strife in the city. Day and night they go upon the walls thereof: and mischief also and the sorrows are in the midst of it. Wickedness is in the midst thereof: deceit and guile depart not from her streets (Psa 55:4-11). Now David evidently wrote this psalm when he was fleeing from Absalom. For David's close counselor and friend, Ahithophel, actually revolted against David when Absalom did. He went with Absalom. And Ahithophel began to counsel Absalom on how to destroy David. This is the thing that really hurt David, is that Absalom had turned against him. David said, For it was not an enemy that reproached me; then I could have borne it: neither was it he that hated me that did magnify himself against me; then I would have hid myself from him: But it was you, a man mine equal, my guide, my acquaintance. We took sweet counsel together, we walked into the house of God in company (Psa 55:12-14). So David is so hurt because it really wasn't an enemy to David that had done such a dirty thing to him, but it was a fellow that he had had beautiful fellowship with. They had talked together. They had counseled together. They had gone into the house of God and fellowshiped together, and yet he turned himself against David. And that is always, I think, some of the greatest hurts that we experience, are when men that we have trusted and put our confidence, utmost confidence in, and we have trusted them unquestionably. And they have worked together with us and labored together with us. And we have given them great responsibilities. And suddenly they turn, and they begin to tell vicious lies. They violate the trust that you have put in them. They turn against you. They take from you, and that hurts. Because you have put all kinds of confidence in them. You have trusted them completely, implicitly. And suddenly you realize, as did David in verse 21, the words of his mouth were smoother than butter. But war was in his heart. His words were softer than oil, yet they were like a drawn sword.

And that's what really hurts, is when someone that you have really placed complete confidence and trust in, and entrusted with a great part of the ministry. And then they turn and try to take it. That hurts beyond anything that I have ever had hurt, as far as the ministry goes. And David felt this very hurt himself. The hurt of a friend, a comrade, an associate, one that you had fellowshiped and trusted, when they turn against you. So David speaks about this, the turning of Ahithophel. And David isn't so kind with him after he turned. He said, Let death seize upon them, let them go down quick into hell: for wickedness is in their dwellings, and among them. As for me, I will call upon God; and the LORD shall save me (Psa 55:15-16). You know, it's not going to destroy me. The Lord is going to take care of me. But the tragedies that will befall those. Evening, and at morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice. He hath delivered my soul in peace from the battle that was against me: for there were many with me. God shall hear, and afflict them, even he that abideth of old. Because they have no changes, therefore they fear not God. He hath put forth his hands against such as be it peace with him: he hath broken his covenant (Psa 55:17-20). Broken promises and covenants.

The words of his mouth were smoother than butter, but war was in his heart: his words were softer than oil, yet they were like drawn swords. [David said,] Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved. But thou, O God, shall bring them down into the pit of destruction: bloody and deceitful men shall not live out half their days; but I will trust in thee (Psa 55:21-23). That is the only place to move, into the Lord. And there is comfort and blessing and joy.

Psalm 56:1-13 (AMP)

1 BE MERCIFUL and gracious to me, O God, for man would trample me or devour me; all the day long the adversary oppresses me. **2** They that lie in wait for me would swallow me up or trample me all day long, for they are many who fight against me, O Most High! **3** What time I am afraid, I will have confidence in and put my trust and reliance in You. **4** By [the help of] God I will praise His word; on God I lean, rely, and confidently put my trust; I will not fear. What can man, who is flesh, do to me? **5** All day long they twist my words and trouble my affairs; all their thoughts are against me for evil and my hurt. **6** They gather themselves together, they hide themselves, they watch my steps, even as they have [expectantly] waited for my life. **7** They think to escape with iniquity, and shall they? In Your indignation bring down the peoples, O God. **8** You number and record my wanderings; put my tears into Your bottle—are they not in Your book? **9** Then shall my enemies turn back in the day that I cry out; this I know, for God is for me. **10** In God, Whose word I praise, in the Lord, Whose word I praise, **11** In God have I put my trust and confident reliance; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me? **12** Your vows are upon me, O God; I will render praise to You and give You thank offerings. **13** For You have delivered my life from death, yes, and my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of life and of the living.

**Psalm 56.**

This is the prayer of David when he heard a mourning dove. That is, a mourning: m-o-u-r-n-i-n-g dove, out in the distant terebinth trees. He no doubt heard these doves cooing off in the distance. There is sort of something soulful and mournful about those doves when they are crying. He said,

Be merciful unto me, O God: for man would swallow me up; he fighting daily oppresses me. My enemies would daily swallow me up: for they be many that fight against me, O thou Most High. But what time I am afraid, I will trust in thee (Psa 56:1-3).

What a good thing to learn. Whatever time that you might be afraid, just put your trust in the Lord.

In God I will praise his word, in God I have put my trust; I will not fear; what flesh shall do unto me. Every day they wrest my words: all of their thoughts are against me for evil. They gather themselves together, they hide themselves, they mark my steps, when they wait for my soul. Shall they escape by iniquity? In thine anger cast down the people, O God. For you tell my wanderings: put my tears into thy bottle: are they not in thy book? (Psa 56:4-8)

Now the Bible does teach that there is a Book of Remembrances that God keeps. The Bible tells us that at the great Judgment Day, the books will be opened and people will be judged out of the things that are written in the books. Now, man is able to preserve many interesting records today. A lot of you have preserved a lot of interesting records of your past; you've got movies of them. And every once in awhile you get out the movie projector when the family is over, and you look at the pictures when they were just kids, and you have an interesting evening of remembrance, you know, as you are looking at these films. Now, I do believe that if man is able to develop such recording devices, that surely God, no doubt, is able to produce any scene that ever took place in your life at any time. So, if you want to try to deny before God some accusation that is brought against you, God probably has a giant screen up there, and suddenly, you can watch yourself doing the thing. Along with all of heaven. And as they shut it off, you say, "Okay, I confess. I am guilty. Turn it off!" In the Book of Remembrances, God's book. There is the Book of Life in heaven in which your name has been recorded, you who have received Jesus Christ.

When I cry unto thee, [David said,] then shall my enemies turn back: this I know; for God is with me (Psa 56:9).

Or, "God is for me," actually. I think that that is one of the most important concepts of God that we need to remember. God is for us. So many times we picture God as being against us. We see God as just waiting for us to do something wrong, in order that He might smite us with His swift hand of justice. We think of God so often as being against us, opposed to us. But in reality, God is for us. And if God be for us, who can be against us? So important that we have the right concepts of God.

In God [he said,] will I praise his word (Psa 56:10):

Because I know that God is for me, praise fills my heart.

in the LORD will I praise his word. In God have I put my trust: I will not be afraid what man can do unto me. Thy vows are upon me, O God: I will render praises unto thee. For thou hast delivered my soul from death: will not thou deliver my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of the living? (Psa 56:10-13)

Psalm 57:1-11 (AMP)

1 BE MERCIFUL and gracious to me, O God, be merciful and gracious to me, for my soul takes refuge and finds shelter and confidence in You; yes, in the shadow of Your wings will I take refuge and be confident until calamities and destructive storms are passed. **2** I will cry to God Most High, Who performs on my behalf and rewards me [Who brings to pass His purposes for me and surely completes them]! **3** He will send from heaven and save me from the slanders and reproaches of him who would trample me down or swallow me up, and He will put him to shame. Selah [pause, and calmly think of that]! God will send forth His mercy and loving-kindness and His truth and faithfulness. **4** My life is among lions; I must lie among those who are aflame—the sons of men whose teeth are spears and arrows, their tongues sharp swords. **5** Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let Your glory be over all the earth! **6** They set a net for my steps; my very life was bowed down. They dug a pit in my way; into the midst of it they themselves have fallen. Selah [pause, and calmly think of that]! **7** My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is steadfast and confident! I will sing and make melody. **8** Awake, my glory (my inner self); awake, harp and lyre! I will awake right early [I will awaken the dawn]! **9** I will praise and give thanks to You, O Lord, among the peoples; I will sing praises to You among the nations. **10** For Your mercy and loving-kindness are great, reaching to the heavens, and Your truth and faithfulness to the clouds. **11** Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; let Your glory be over all the earth.

Psalm 57.

To the chief musician, and that Altaschith is "destroying not." It is a prayer of David when he fled from Saul and was hiding in the cave. So Saul is looking for David; he is hiding in the cave. And David says, Be merciful unto me, O God, be merciful unto me: for my soul trusts in thee: yea, in the shadow of thy wings will I make my refuge, until these calamities are over. I will cry unto God most high; unto God that performs all things for me. He shall send from heaven, and save me from the reproach of him that would swallow me up. God shall send forth his mercy and his truth. My soul is among lions: and I lie even among them that are set on fire, even the sons of men, whose teeth are spears and arrows, and their tongue a sharp sword. Be thou exalted, O God, above the heavens; let thy glory be above all the earth. For they have prepared a net for my steps; my soul is bowed down: they have digged a pit before me, and in the midst whereof they are fallen themselves (Psa 57:1-6). Remember, Saul came in and went to sleep there in the cave. And David, when they were sound asleep, went down and he took his sword and cut off Saul's skirt. And then he got out of there and he got over a safe distance and cried, "Saul, look at what I've got." So he speaks about him falling in the net that they had prepared for me. "My soul is bowed down. They have digged a pit before me wherein the midst they have fallen."

My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is fixed: I will sing and give praise. Wake up, my glory; awake, psaltery and harp: I myself will awake early. For I will praise thee, O Lord among the people: I will sing unto thee among the nations. For thy mercy is great unto the heavens, and thy truth unto the clouds. Be thou exalted, O God, above the heavens: and let thy glory be above all the earth (Psa 57:7-11).

Psalm 58:1-11 (AMP)

1 DO YOU indeed in silence speak righteousness, O you mighty ones? [Or is the righteousness, rightness, and justice you should speak quite dumb?] Do you judge fairly and uprightly, O you sons of men? **2** No, in your heart you devise wickedness; you deal out in the land the violence of your hands. **3** The ungodly are perverse and estranged from the womb; they go astray as soon as they are born, speaking lies. **4** Their poison is like the venom of a serpent; they are like the deaf adder or asp that stops its ear, **5** Which listens not to the voice of charmers or of the enchanter never casting spells so cunningly. **6** Break their teeth, O God, in their mouths; break out the fangs of the young lions, O Lord. **7** Let them melt away as water which runs on apace; when he aims his arrows, let them be as if they were headless or split apart. **8** Let them be as a snail dissolving slime as it passes on or as a festering sore which wastes away, like [the child to which] a woman gives untimely birth that has not seen the sun. **9** Before your pots can feel the thorns [that are placed under them for fuel], He will take them away as with a whirlwind, the green and the burning ones alike. **10** The [unyieldingly] righteous shall rejoice when he sees the vengeance; he will bathe his feet in the blood of the wicked. **11** Men will say, Surely there is a reward for the [uncompromisingly] righteous; surely there is a God Who judges on the earth.

Psalm 58 is a prayer of David. I would not want to be one of David's enemies because of his prayers. Do you indeed speak righteousness, O congregation? do you judge uprightly, O you sons of men? Yes, in heart you work wickedness; you weigh the violence of your hands in the earth. The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they are born, speaking lies (Psa 58:1-3). Now David is talking about the nature, the sinful nature of man. Now, I don't think there were any of you that had to teach your children to tell a lie. You had to teach them to tell the truth. You don't say, "Well now, if you get in trouble just lie about it and get out of it." They seem to just do that naturally. So you have to teach them you've got to tell the truth at all times. David said, "They went forth from the womb, speaking lies. They were estranged from the womb. As soon as they are born, speaking lies." Their poison is like the poison of a serpent: they are like the deaf adder that stoppeth her ear; Which will not hearken to the voice of charmers, charming ever so wisely. Break their teeth, O God, in their mouth (Psa 58:4-6): David didn't mess around. break out the great teeth of the young lions, O LORD. Let them melt away as waters which run continually: when he bends his bow to shoot his arrows, let them be cut in pieces. As a snail which melteth, let every one of them pass away (Psa 58:6-8): Have you ever poured salt on a snail and watch it melt?

like the untimely birth of a woman, that may not see the sun. Before your pots can feel the thorns, he shall take them away as the whirlwind, both living, and in his wrath. The righteous shall rejoice when he sees the vengeance: he shall wash his feet in the blood of the wicked. So that a man shall say, Verily there is a reward for the righteous: verily he is a God that judges in the earth (Psa 58:8-11).

Now, coming as we do from our Christian ethic, from the New Testament, we have difficulty in David's prayers. Because Jesus told us that we are to love those who hate us; we are to do good to those who spitefully use us. Bless those that curse you. And the ethic that we have learned from Christ in the New Testament is much different. Now, I find David's ethic pretty satisfying with me. I like vengeance. I like to see the bad guys get beat and the good guys win. And I like to see the wicked really taken care of for good. I must confess that I rejoice in such things. But I must also confess that such rejoicing is wrong according to the New Testament ethic, the Christian ethic. And yet, there is just something about my own nature that is similar to David's, in that when someone has really done something that is truly evil, I like to see vengeance come upon them. Now, where I have to be careful is that I so often want to bring vengeance on them myself, and that is where I can really get in trouble. God said, "Vengeance is mine. I will repay, saith the Lord." Now notice, David isn't really seeking to bring vengeance himself; he is asking God to knock the teeth out of their mouths. Asking God to take vengeance on them. I don't know that it is much better, but we must be careful about trying to take personal vengeance upon people who we feel have wronged us, or who have wronged us. We must learn to commit ourselves and our ways unto the Lord, and let the Lord take care of them. It is not mine to become Captain Avenger and go out and right all of the evils of the world.

But David does pray in these psalms, but as I say, it is not in keeping with the New Testament ethic. And I have to pray, not as David prayed, but I have to pray, "Lord, keep my heart from devising vengeance, and keep me, Lord, from wanting to take vengeance. And oh God, help me to have a forgiving attitude and spirit towards those that I feel this, I would like to take vengeance on."



Psalm 59:1-17 (AMP)

1 DELIVER ME from my enemies, O my God; defend and protect me from those who rise up against me. 2 Deliver me from and lift me above those who work evil and save me from bloodthirsty men. 3 For, behold, they lie in wait for my life; fierce and mighty men are banding together against me, not for my transgression nor for any sin of mine, O Lord. 4 They run and prepare themselves, though there is no fault in me; rouse Yourself [O Lord] to meet and help me, and see! 5 You, O Lord God of hosts, the God of Israel, arise to visit all the nations; spare none and be not merciful to any who treacherously plot evil. Selah [pause, and calmly think of that!] 6 They return at evening, they howl and snarl like dogs, and go [prowling] about the city. 7 Behold, they belch out [insults] with their mouths; swords [of sarcasm, ridicule, slander, and lies] are in their lips, for who, they think, hears us? 8 But You, O Lord, will laugh at them [in scorn]; You will hold all the nations in derision. 9 O my Strength, I will watch and give heed to You and sing praises; for God is my Defense (my Protector and High Tower). 10 My God in His mercy and steadfast love will meet me; God will let me look [triumphantly] on my enemies (those who lie in wait for me). 11 Slay them not, lest my people forget; scatter them by Your power and make them wander to and fro, and bring them down, O Lord our Shield! 12 For the sin of their mouths and the words of their lips, let them even be trapped and taken in their pride, and for the cursing and lying which they utter. 13 Consume them in wrath, consume them so that they shall be no more; and let them know unto the ends of the earth that God rules over Jacob (Israel). Selah [pause, and calmly think of that!] 14 And at evening let them return; let them howl and snarl like dogs, and go prowling about the city. 15 Let them wander up and down for food and tarry all night if they are not satisfied (not getting their fill). 16 But I will sing of Your mighty strength and power; yes, I will sing aloud of Your mercy and loving-kindness in the morning; for You have been to me a defense (a fortress and a high tower) and a refuge in the day of my distress. 17 Unto You, O my Strength, I will sing praises; for God is my Defense, my Fortress, and High Tower, the God Who shows me mercy and steadfast love.

Psalm 59 is another one of those "destroy not" prayers of David, when Saul sent and they watched the house to kill him. His wife, Michael, let him out of the window in a basket and David escaped. But the men were watching the house of David to kill him. And David wrote this psalm on that occasion. Deliver me from my enemy, O God: defend me from them that rise up against me. Deliver me from the workers of iniquity, and save me from the bloody men. For, lo, they lie in wait for my soul: the mighty are gathered against me; not for my transgressions, nor for my sin, O LORD (Psa 59:1-3). It was just because of Saul's jealousy; it wasn't that David had done anything wrong. They run and prepare themselves without my fault: awake to help me, and behold. Thou therefore, [O God,] O LORD God of hosts, the God of Israel, awake to visit all of the heathen: be not merciful to the wicked transgressors (Psa 59:4-5). Just be merciful to me, Lord, in my wickedness. Isn't that the way that it goes? They return at evening: they make a noise like a dog, and they go around about the city (Psa 59:6). Here are these guys out there and they are barking like dogs, and David knew who they were. They belch out with their mouth: and swords are in their lips: and who, say they, that does hear? But thou, O LORD, shall laugh at them; and thou shalt have all of the heathen in derision. Because of his strength will I wait upon thee: for God is my defense. The God of my mercy shall prevent me: God shall let me see my desires upon my enemies. Slay them not, lest my people forget: scatter them by thy power; and bring them down, O Lord our shield. For the sin of their mouth and the words of their lips let them even be taken in their pride: and for cursing and lying of which they speak. Consume them in wrath, consume them, that they may not be: let them know that God ruleth in Jacob unto the ends of the earth. And at evening let them return; and let them make a noise like a dog, and go round about the city. Let them wander up and down for meat, and grudge if they be not satisfied. But I will sing of thy power; yea, I will sing aloud of thy mercy in the morning: for thou hast been my defense and refuge in the day of my troubles. Unto thee, O my strength, will I sing: for God is my defense, and the God of my mercy (Psa 59:7-17).

So three times over in the psalm, God is spoken of as David's defense. And it's surely neat to have God as our defense. Now, I have discovered that God will be my defense as long as I let Him be my defense. But if I seek to take up my own defense, then God will let me defend myself. And I have found that I really can't defend myself adequately. And so I have learned not to seek to defend myself, but to leave my defense completely in the hands of God. Now, if you want God to defend you, then you have to just commit yourself to the hands of God and not seek to defend yourself. God is my defense.

Comfort for the desponding

"Oh that I were as in months past." Job 29:2

Suggested Further Reading: Galatians 4:11-20

There is such a thing, my dear friends, as your getting into a terribly bad condition through the ministry that you attend. Can it be expected that men should grow in grace when they are never watered with the streams that make glad the city of our God? Can they be supposed to grow strong in the Lord Jesus, when they do not feed on spiritual food? We know some who grumble, Sabbath after Sabbath, and say they can't hear such and such a minister. Why don't you buy an ear-trumpet then? Ah! But I mean, that I can't hear him to my soul's profit. Then do not go to hear him, if you have tried for a long while and don't get any profit. I always think that a man who grumbles as he goes out of chapel ought not to be pitied, but whipped, for he can stay away if he likes, and go where he will be pleased. There are plenty of places where the sheep may feed in their own manner; and everyone is bound to go where he gets the pasture most suited to his soul. But you are not bound to run away directly your minister dies, as many of you did before you came here. You should not run away from the ship directly the storm comes, and the captain is gone, and you find her not exactly seaworthy; stand by her, begin caulking her, God will send you a captain, there will be fine weather by and by, and all will be right. But very frequently a bad minister starves God's people into walking skeletons, so that you can tell all their bones; and who wonders that they starve out their minister, when they get no nourishment from his ministrations.

For meditation: God provides leaders to build up his people so that they can go on to build up one another (Ephesians 4:11-12). The absence of the leader will show whether the flock can stand on their own feet in the Lord (Philippians 1:27; Colossians 2:5).

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Charles Spurgeon....

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