

*Psalms 150:1-2, 6 [5] Praise the LORD! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens! Praise him for his mighty deeds; **praise him according to his excellent greatness!** ... Let everything that has breath praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!*

How do I define greatness when applied to the LORD, God the Almighty? The adjective is usually applied to someone or something that surpasses all others in a select aspect, e.g. a great leader or great work of art, but You, the LORD, God the Almighty surpass everything in all aspects. You are the definition of perfection; You are love; You are justice; You are peace; You are mercy; You are righteousness; You are light; You are from everlasting to everlasting.

Tuesday, 20 October 2015 Psalms 150:1-2, 6 [6]

*Praise the LORD! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens! Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his excellent greatness! ... **Let everything that has breath praise the LORD!** Praise the LORD!*

LORD, forgive me for allowing my thinking to be so human-centered. Everything that has breath: the birds and the bees, the cattle on ten thousand hills, frogs and toads, fish in the sea, all created entities, including mankind, must raise their voices in praise to You.

LORD, create in me an innate sense of union with Your creation that will immediately sense a burst of praise when I hear a bird sing. Tonight, when I hear the coyotes howl up on Crow Hill, remind me that they too sing a paean of praise.

Let every word of my mouth, every thought of my mind be couched in Your praises.

Wednesday, 21 October 2015 Psalms 150:1-2, 6 [7]

*Praise the LORD! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens! Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his excellent greatness! ... Let everything that has breath praise the LORD! **Praise the LORD!***

Let me join with David in making his oath my own, "I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth." Psalm 34:1

LORD, that I would come to this blessed state, to be seen by You as one whose mouth was always filled with Your praises.

Thursday, 22 October 2015

Psalm 23:1-6 (NKJV)¹

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green

pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Thanksgiving--to thank the LORD, God the Almighty for his boundless generosity towards His people. This short, less than 120 words, Psalm is recognized and loved worldwide as an expression of thanksgiving to our creator, our LORD, and our Savior. It covers all aspects of our being and relationship with Him and makes an excellent guide to a prayer of thanksgiving. I like to read and reread a passage until something jumps out at me and then I begin to use that as a basis for meditation and prayer.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me.

Lord, it often appears that the stench of death surrounds me; sometimes not actual death, but the stench of sin that leads to death. Working in the prisons, amid a culture that is imbued with sin, where even the organization is sin-stained, it is easy to become depressed and discouraged. But I know that You are with me; I have nothing to fear. I need to be focused on You and on Your Word, seeking Your guidance constantly.

Friday, 23 October 2015 1 Samuel 12:23

Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD by ceasing to pray for you, and I will instruct you in the good and the right way. Psalms 20:1-9

To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David. May the LORD answer you in the day of trouble! May the name of the God of Jacob protect you! May he send you help from the sanctuary and give you support from Zion! May he remember all your offerings and regard with favor your burnt sacrifices! Selah. May he grant you your heart's desire and fulfill all your plans! May we shout for joy over your salvation, and in the name of our God set up our banners! May the LORD fulfill all your petitions! Now I know that the LORD saves his anointed; he will answer him from his holy heaven with the saving might of his right hand. Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God. They collapse and fall, but we rise and stand upright. O LORD, save the king! May he answer us when we call.

One of our most important tasks is to intercede for the saints, our families and friends, our workmates, those who are in authority over us and even those we despise. Psalm 20 is an example of David praying for someone, I think a friend or family member. It certainly

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serves as a guide for us in similar cases.

Lord, I lift up my friend, a dear one of your sons who is going through trials seeking justice from the courts. Watch over my young friend, guide him as he pleads his case and presents his arguments before the courts. Fill his attorney with an understanding and a sense of pursuing justice for my friend.

Lord, I am not depending up the courts but upon Your using them to rectify an injustice so that Your name will be glorified.

Saturday, 24 October 2015 Psalms 51:2-4, 10-12

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment...Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

Another characteristic that is often missing from our prayers. How can I expect the LORD, God the Almighty to hear my intercessions and entreaties when I am blatantly ignoring the sin in my life? Why should I expect Him to look favorably upon my pleas when I am treating Him as some kind of benevolent and senile old man who does not understand that I am ripping Him off?

David knew that he was an adulterer and a murderer. He acknowledged (v. 5) that he was conceived in sin and born in iniquity. I must be as forthright about my sin if I expect my Lord to be interested in my prayers.

Lord's Day, 25 October 2015 Psalm 119:97

Oh, how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day.

Not yet but getting there. Your Spirit is quickening my conscience, reminding me that my life must be structured within the framework of Your word and law; and that the key elements are unceasing meditation and prayer. This is the Year of Drawing Closer to You. The Year of the Presence of the LORD.

VOICES TOGETHER

Daily Meditations from the Psalms



October 19-25, 2015

Voices Together is extracted from my daily meditations and is shared in the hope that others will be encouraged to turn to the Psalms as a rich source of guidance for prayer and meditation.

It is published daily on the website of the Fellowship of Ailbe, www.ailbe.org; along with material by other writers to encourage and assist in our walks as disciples of Jesus Christ.

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