

Scripture: Psalm 17

I. David begs God to consider his need.(1-2) Hear the right, LORD, attend unto my cry, give ear unto my prayer, *that goeth not out of feigned lips.* ² Let my sentence come forth from thy presence; let thine eyes behold the things that are equal. Feigned lips are lips without deceit, so what David is saying is I am being totally honest with you Lord, I need you and to the best of my knowledge there is no sin between us. That is what he is talking about in (3) *Thou hast proved mine heart; thou hast visited me in the night; thou hast tried me, and shalt find nothing; I am purposed that my mouth shall not transgress.* This Psalm may have been written about 1,000 years before the cross so David is under the Law. In a way David is asking for justice. For us this prayer is a little different. It goes like this Lord I am asking for your grace, not based on anything I have done but on the basis of what Jesus has done for me on Calvary. What is important here is that David is completely honest with God about what is happening in his life. God knows everything about us. David is telling God I know you know everything about me and it is my intent and desire to be sinless in your eyes.

II. The Bible is David's directions keeping him from following the path of Satan. (4-5) Concerning the works of men, by the word of thy lips I have kept me from the paths of the destroyer. Hold up my goings in thy paths, that my footsteps slip not. The works of men lead to the path of the destroyer who is Satan. **Psalm 119:9-11** *Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word. With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments. Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.* We see once again the importance of allowing God to reveal truth to us through His word. In Psalm 119 David is thanking God for his word. This is extremely important in the lives of believers. Remember what Jesus said in **Matthew 7:13-14** *Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: ¹⁴ Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.* The Bible is the map to find the narrow way; God's GPS. After his claim of innocence David ask God to empower him to remain strong and on the right path.

III. David appeals to the love of God in his prayer. (6-8) I have called upon thee, for thou wilt hear me, O God: incline thine ear unto me, and hear my speech. Shew thy marvellous lovingkindness, O thou that savest by thy right hand them which put their trust in thee from those that rise up against them. Keep me as the apple of the eye, hide me under the shadow of thy wings, The first verse is a declaration of the Psalmist confidence that God is true to His word. Then he asks for some specific blessings;

1. David asks God to show His Marvelous lovingkindness. Is he asking for more lovingkindness from God or that God would help him feel what is already given to him. We all know that God loves us unconditionally, because of the cross and the many times He has revealed Himself to us, but it is OK if we say to God I need to feel your love afresh. This really is important when you are grieving, some family member has a fatal illness, or you are facing life changing crisis. What we are really saying to God is make it real.

2. He asks God to keep him as the apple of his eye. Dr. Stanley writes: God delights in all those who place their trust in Him. He considers each one the apple of His eye, the object of His special devotion. Believers are special to God, so David's prayer is always look at me as someone who is special. I get the picture of the Father when he first looks at his child or when the groom looks into the eyes of his bride on their wedding day.

3. David asks' God to hide him under the shadow of His wings. This speaks of protection. The picture is of a mother bird who is protecting her young. The Lord will watch over us if we will let Him. **Psalm 32:7** *Thou art my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance.* Lord I come to you when I need to feel safe. It is a place where you feel no evil can harm you. No wonder David asked God to hide him. This is a picture of security and protection by someone who loves you.

4. We should rest in the security of Gods' love. Romans 8:38-39 *For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, ³⁹ Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.* That is a promise we need to remember. There are times when God seems to have abandoned us. That will never happen. He is only a prayer away.

IV. David realizes he needs God's protection from his enemies. (9-13) *From the wicked that oppress me, from my deadly enemies, who compass me about. ¹⁰ They are inclosed in their own fat: with their mouth they speak proudly. ¹¹ They have now compassed us in our steps: they have set their eyes bowing down to the earth; ¹² Like as a lion that is greedy of his prey, and as it were a young lion lurking in secret places. ¹³ Arise, O LORD, disappoint him, cast him down: deliver my soul from the wicked, which is thy sword:* David's chief enemy is Saul the king who wants to kill him because he is jealous of David's popularity. Our enemies are just as powerful and even more wicked. **Ephesians 6:11-12** *Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.* Just like David we are the apple of God's eye, he is our hiding place.

V. We have the blessed hope that one day we will be like Jesus. (15) *As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.* David could have been thinking one day I will see God face to face and what a glorious day that will be. But there is something even more special for us. **1 John 3:2** *Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.* One day after the rapture we will be like Jesus. Now that is something to praise God for.

1. God gives us glimpses of who we will be when He is finished transforming us. 2 Corinthians 3:17-18 *Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.* This is talking about a conscious relationship with God and living your life in the power of the Holy Spirit. What do I mean by that? **1 Corinthians 2:9-10** *But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. ¹⁰ But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.* That means when God works a miracle in your life you recognize it as miracle from God. When you have a peace that passes understanding you understand it is an answer to a prayer. Your eyes see and your ears hear the things of God. Paul said in **Romans 8:28-29** *And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren* Conforming to the image of Jesus is a process. There are times along the journey when we know we are hiding in the shadow of his wings and can look at Him realizing we truly are the apple of His eye.