

PSALMS OF PRAYER AND PRAISE

Psalm 12:1-8 (NASB)

¹ Help, LORD, for the godly man ceases to be, For the faithful disappear from among the sons of men.

² They speak falsehood to one another; With flattering lips and with a double heart they speak.

³ May the LORD cut off all flattering lips, The tongue that speaks great things;

⁴ Who have said, “With our tongue we will prevail; Our lips are our own; who is lord over us?”

⁵ “Because of the devastation of the afflicted, because of the groaning of the needy, Now I will arise,” says the LORD; “I will set him in the safety for which he longs.”

⁶ The words of the LORD are pure words; As silver tried in a furnace on the earth, refined seven times.

⁷ You, O LORD, will keep them; You will preserve him from this generation forever.

⁸ The wicked strut about on every side When vileness is exalted among the sons of men.

Psalm 12: Prayer of David and the Answer

David cried out to God for help. He was overwhelmed by the deceitfulness and manipulative words of the wicked; by the hypocrisy of the nation. Words can be manipulative tools in the mouths of wicked people. Words can be used to deceive and mislead. Lest we be too hard on others without self-examination ask: Do I ever say one thing when in someone’s presence and another behind their back? Then you know what it is to speak with a “*double heart*.” Ask God to reveal foolish talk, flattery and pride in the words you speak so you can replace them with pure words.

David felt alone in his despair. David’s desperation was like that of Elijah’s when he was in the desert and cried out to God that there was not a godly man left. David cried to God that the true-hearted were cut off, that falsehood was everywhere and that men’s lips were flattering ([verse 3](#)). While they uttered slander, hypocrisy, and lies, they boasted of their power and justified what they were saying and doing. They said, “*Our lips are our own; who is lord over us?*” David’s grief was great.

The few who remained faithful were persecuted. God promised deliverance, “*Now I will arise, says the Lord; I will set him in the safety.*” “*The words of the Lord are pure words.*” What a contrast—not like the words of men whose words are false and flattering. God’s words are pure, like a metal whose impurities have been removed through refining fire. In the consolation of God’s word, David could rest. Although “*The wicked strut about on every side,*” God will save them that love Him.

We simply cannot see with the eyes of God. He has a view we do not have. Eternal purposes are sometimes hidden to us who live on earth but we can trust the One who holds eternity to keep His word.

The Bible has passed through the furnace of persecution, literary criticism, philosophic doubt and scientific discovery. It has passed triumphantly! What a privilege to study it and to order one's life according to its precepts. [Psalm 12](#) can be a consolation to us today when the very life of our nation is being destroyed through greed, dishonesty, and unfaithfulness. May our prayer be as David's, "**Help, Lord.**"