

# PSALMS OF PRAYER AND PRAISE

## Psalm 5: Morning Prayer for Guidance

### Psalm 5:1-12 (NASB)

- <sup>1</sup>“Give ear to my words, O LORD, Consider my groaning.  
<sup>2</sup>Hed the sound of my cry for help, my King and my God, For to You I pray.  
<sup>3</sup>In the morning, O LORD, You will hear my voice; In the morning I will order *my prayer* to You and *eagerly* watch.  
<sup>4</sup>For You are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness; No evil dwells with You.  
<sup>5</sup>The boastful shall not stand before Your eyes; You hate all who do iniquity.  
<sup>6</sup>You destroy those who speak falsehood; The LORD abhors the man of bloodshed and deceit.  
<sup>7</sup>But as for me, by Your abundant lovingkindness I will enter Your house, At Your holy temple I will bow in reverence for You.  
<sup>8</sup>O LORD, lead me in Your righteousness because of my foes; Make Your way straight before me.  
<sup>9</sup>There is nothing reliable in what they say; Their inward part is destruction *itself*. Their throat is an open grave; They flatter with their tongue.  
<sup>10</sup>Hold them guilty, O God; By their own devices let them fall! In the multitude of their transgressions thrust them out, For they are rebellious against You.  
<sup>11</sup>But let all who take refuge in You be glad, Let them ever sing for joy; And may You shelter them, That those who love Your name may exult in You.  
<sup>12</sup>For it is You who blesses the righteous man, O LORD, You surround him with favor as with a shield.”

This psalm is a morning prayer and David’s circumstances are different. He is no longer in exile and has the privilege of entering the house of the Lord and bowing in worship ([verse 7](#)).

### Psalm 5:7 (NASB)

- <sup>7</sup>“But as for me, by Your abundant lovingkindness I will enter Your house, At Your holy temple I will bow in reverence for You.”

He is not fleeing from enemies but is in danger of those who are secretly lying in wait for him ([verses 9–10](#)).

### Psalm 5:9-10 (NASB)

- <sup>9</sup>“There is nothing reliable in what they say; Their inward part is destruction *itself*. Their throat is an open grave; They flatter with

their tongue.

**<sup>10</sup> Hold them guilty, O God; By their own devices let them fall! In the multitude of their transgressions thrust them out, For they are rebellious against You.”**

Several traits of God are manifested in this psalm. [Verses 1–3](#) depict a God who hears if we request.

**Psalm 5:1-3 (NASB)**

**<sup>1</sup> “Give ear to my words, O LORD, Consider my groaning.**

**<sup>2</sup> Heed the sound of my cry for help, my King and my God, For to You I pray.**

**<sup>3</sup> In the morning, O LORD, You will hear my voice; In the morning I will order my prayer to You and eagerly watch.”**

How certain it is that all need to meditate on God’s Word and pray. We need to have that blessed communion with God and the joy of His fellowship in prayer. This little pronoun in “*my King, my God*” illustrates the root reason for our plea because He *is our* King and *our* God. He is ours by covenant and by promise. How beautiful to begin the day with God.

If the devil wins those morning minutes, he knows he has won that day. The enemy well knows how important that morning devotion is and he spares nothing to frustrate and confuse it. It takes perseverance. A few moments spent in communion with God at each opening day—a visit to the throne of grace—will help us through the snarls of daily routine.

[Verses 4–6](#) reveal a God who hates sin.

**Psalm 5:4-6 (NASB)**

**<sup>4</sup> “For You are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness; No evil dwells with You.**

**<sup>5</sup> The boastful shall not stand before Your eyes; You hate all who do iniquity.**

**<sup>6</sup> You destroy those who speak falsehood; The LORD abhors the man of bloodshed and deceit.”**

The holy God is unable to tolerate sin. He simply cannot be in the presence of sin as it contradicts His divine nature. In Him there is no darkness at all. We need to hate what God hates, to abhor sin in any form. How important it is for us to love what God loves and hate what He hates. To hear His name taken in vain and see a disregard for His Word should pierce our hearts like a sword. Pray that God will never allow us to get accustomed to sin. God hates sin and so must we. But always love and pray for the sinner.

Sin separates people from God. We need to identify and remove all sin from our lives through the power of the Holy Spirit within us. There is no such thing as a “little sin” before God. Anything at all that contradicts the divine nature is sin. We need to confess,

repent, and refuse to participate in anything God calls sin. No one will be able to stand faultless under God's wrath ([verse 5](#)).

**Psalm 5:5 (NASB)**

**<sup>5</sup>“The boastful shall not stand before Your eyes; You hate all who do iniquity.”**

[Verse 7](#) points out the mercy of God.

**Psalm 5:7 (NASB)**

**<sup>7</sup>“But as for me, by Your abundant lovingkindness I will enter Your house, At Your holy temple I will bow in reverence for You.”**

Throughout the Psalms there is a strong feeling that God, by His very character as a righteous God, is pledged to defend and bless the righteous. David confesses that it is only in the loving kindness of God that he can enter His holy temple. We do not deserve to come into God's presence, yet in mercy He invites us in. We deserve condemnation for our sin, yet in mercy Jesus frees us from the punishment we deserve. When we grasp this concept, we will have a reverence and holy fear of God. Coming to God's temple is not done flippantly but with a sense of awe.

[Verses 8–10](#) describe God's judgment. God can look into a person's heart and see what no one else sees.

**Psalm 5:8-10 (NASB)**

**<sup>8</sup>“O LORD, lead me in Your righteousness because of my foes; Make Your way straight before me.**

**<sup>9</sup>There is nothing reliable in what they say; Their inward part is destruction *itself*. Their throat is an open grave; They flatter with their tongue.**

**<sup>10</sup>Hold them guilty, O God; By their own devices let them fall! In the multitude of their transgressions thrust them out, For they are rebellious against You.”**

[Verse 9](#) says God knows when one is unfaithful (not sincere) and when one flatters with one's tongue (speaking one way and acting another).

**Psalm 5:9 (NASB)**

**<sup>9</sup>“There is nothing reliable in what they say; Their inward part is destruction *itself*. Their throat is an open grave; They flatter with their tongue.”**

David's prayer in [verse 10](#), “*Pronounce them guilty, O God!*” is not malicious.

**Psalm 5:10 (NASB)**

**<sup>10</sup>“Hold them guilty, O God; By their own devices let them fall! In the multitude of their transgressions thrust them out, For they are rebellious against You.”**

David is not cursing his enemies, but he is jealous for the honor of his Master. David is asking God to let the wicked get caught in their own trap—“*Fall by their own counsels.*” This is the natural consequence of their choice of rebellion against God. He considers the wickedness of traitors as a rebellion against God more than treason against his own earthly throne. His prayer is for the honor of God’s name and the vindication of His justice.

**Verses 11–12** emphasize God’s blessing on the obedient, enabling them to rejoice.

**Psalm 5:11-12 (NASB)**

<sup>11</sup> **“But let all who take refuge in You be glad, Let them ever sing for joy; And may You shelter them, That those who love Your name may exult in You.**

<sup>12</sup> **For it is You who blesses the righteous man, O LORD, You surround him with favor as with a shield.”**

**Verse 12** states that God’s favor surrounds like a shield, despite appearances to the contrary. A mistaken notion can be corrected from these verses. Many say that God must not love you if you encounter bad circumstances. Yet just the opposite is true: when all else seems against you, you can be certain God is FOR you.

**Psalm 5:12 (NASB)**

<sup>12</sup> **“For it is You who blesses the righteous man, O LORD, You surround him with favor as with a shield.”**