



Day 57

Psalm 140,141,142

In Psalm 140, David is praying to God for deliverance and protection from evil. He writes, "I know that the Lord will maintain the cause of the afflicted, and will execute justice for the needy." David is declaring that God will do what He says He will do. (Philippians 1:6) Then he declares, "...the upright will dwell in your presence." What a promise this is! Pray and ask God to continue to help you persevere through seasons of suffering. Give thanks and praise to Him for the assurance in verse 13 - that is, dwelling in His presence forever. Psalm 141 starts by David asking God to hear his prayer. (Vs 1) In verse 3 he asks God to "set a guard on his mouth." In the book of James, James tells us in 3:9 that with the same mouth we bless the Lord and curse those "who are made in the likeness of God." The end of this verse says, "these things ought not to be so." Our words matter and they have the ability to build up or destroy the Body of Christ. (Ephesians 4:29) Take a moment and pray for God to give you the words to say today. Pray for an opportunity to encourage and share the Gospel with someone. Finally, in Psalm 142 we see a picture of David, hiding away in a cave from King Saul, crying out for God to answer his prayer. He is begging for God to hear him and is in desperate need of rescue. God honors the cries of a desperate heart in need. As we wrap up reading together today, praise God for the undeserved privilege of being in His presence, beg Him for an opportunity to use your words for His glory today, and surrender your every need before Him because He cares for you (1 Peter 5:7)

Day 58

Psalm 143,144,145

In Psalm 144, verses 3 & 4 state "Lord, what are human beings that you care for them, mere mortals that you think of them? They are like a breath; their days are like a fleeting shadow." How often do you consider your mortality? How deeply do you consider the reality that your life is a blip on the eternal radar? If you say you consider these things often and deeply, then how strange is it that we consider ourselves so important? Even more so, how strange is it that a God who has characteristics opposite of us (eternal, immortal, forever), would care so intimately for each of us individually and each of us together? While we stand in awe of these realities, we tend to let them go once we stop thinking about them and enter back into a carefully constructed "reality" that we focus on to suit our needs. However, the challenge in Scripture is that we don't just put these thoughts away, but that we hold to them dearly. When we continuously consider the magnitude of God and His detailed care for us, we are then empowered to remember the mission God has given us to spread His glory across the Earth. We are also empowered to pursue obedience as our lives become more about Christ and less about our own short existence on this Earth.



Day 59

Psalm 146,147,148

“Do not put your trust in princes, in human beings, who cannot save” (Psalm 146:3). “Trust in yourself, and you are doomed to disappointment; trust in your friends, and they will die and leave you; trust in money, and you may have it taken from you; trust in reputation, and some slanderous tongue may blast it; but trust in God, and you are never to be confounded in time or eternity.” Heavenly Father, forgive us for seeking the praise that only You deserve and for placing our trust and confidence in our own deeds and accomplishments. Help us to see the futility of seeking the approval of men. When we ask “who am I?” remind us that our identity is found in you and not in the lies we believe about ourselves. Give us a heart of repentance when we begin to get puffed up with pride and think we can make a name for ourselves apart from You. Help us to desire Your approval above man’s. Help us to replace our fear of man with a fear and reverence of You. Give us the courage to act on Your word, which is trustworthy, and not on our perceptions and feelings that so often prove to be untrustworthy. As we read Your word, reveal to us Your holiness and faithfulness. Help us to see You as You are so that we may see ourselves as we are. Lord, we are often tempted to minimize Your awesomeness because we can’t completely comprehend it and because that truth penetrates the darkest places of our souls and reveals to us the utter sinfulness of our nature. Don’t allow us to run from You because of that or to deny what we see in ourselves as we see You as You are. Your holiness reveals our sinfulness. Your faithfulness reveals our faithlessness, but Your love and acceptance is evident all throughout Scripture and in the death and resurrection of Jesus. It doesn’t require that we live up to an unrealistic expectation or standard or that we be worthy of acceptance. Belief and repentance is all You require. This is the proof that You and You alone can be trusted. Thank You, Lord, that even then You do not leave us to rely on ourselves or others, but that You give us Your spirit which transforms us into Your image and that confirms our identity as a child of God who is chosen and set apart. Give us a greater awareness of Your spirit at work in us and the courage to surrender our fear when He corrects or convicts for relying on ourselves and others. Thank You that Your spirit is a deposit and a promise of hope and ultimate acceptance and joy at the return of Christ.

**Day 60**

Proverbs 28,29,30

“A man’s pride brings him low, but a man of lowly spirit gains honor.” Where humility is absent, wisdom cannot be found. Where pride is bred, respect retreats. When ego exudes, our reputation evaporates. He who loves himself first will love others last. When we place man above Jesus, either ourselves or those whose admiration we seek, we immediately lose sight of our purpose. Our flesh says we deserve to be puffed up, but our conscience says we are not our own. The life, death, and resurrection of Jesus is all the proof we need that humility is the tortoise and pride is the hare. For eternity we will praise Christ, but only for the blink of an eye that is a few years here on Earth we will have to deal with the devil’s schemes. Pride scratches the itch, humility heals the wound. Pride is a bottomless pit, humility is an oasis of redemption. Pride suffocates, humility breathes life. To be prideful is to be caught in Satan’s oldest trap, to be humble is to be rescued from it through the humility of Christ. “Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trust in the Lord is kept safe.”

Day 61

Psalm 149,150, 31

“Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord.” What a way to end the Psalms! What a way to live our lives! We exist to glorify God. To love Him, honor Him, cherish Him and devote ourselves to Him. Praise here doesn’t mean to admire or to throw a compliment God’s way every now and then. This praise is a Philippians 2 praise: “At the Name of Jesus every knee should bow, in Heaven and on Earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” Praise here means to worship! And true worship can only exist where an all-consuming love has taken hold of the worshipper. That all-consuming love is the same love that drove Jesus to the Cross. “For the Lord takes delight in His people, He crowns the humble with salvation.” Praise the Lord by allowing the Cross to take hold of your soul today. Praise the Lord for how holy, perfect and mighty He is. Praise the Lord for saving us though He didn’t have to. Praise the Lord for desiring relationship with us. Praise the Lord for never abandoning us. Praise the Lord for allowing us to praise Him. Praise the Lord that we know His Name. With every breath, praise Jesus!