

BIBLE

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Biweekly Devotional: Top 10 Most Loved Psalms

No matter what your situation or how you are feeling, you can probably find something in the Psalms that you relate to. That is just one of the reasons it is so hard to pick a favorite from the 150 Psalms. Yea, though we walk through the valley of the shadow of controversy, we're not going to let that stop us from at least trying to identify the Top 10 Most Loved Psalms.

Day One (#10) Psalm 84

Psalm 84 is one of the many Psalms that speaks to the feeling of being separated from God. Read Psalm 84:1-12 to learn how the author longs to feel connected to God.

- Verse 1 refers to God's dwelling place. Is it the place that is lovely or is it the Lord's presence that makes it lovely?
- How does the author describe his longing for the Lord?
- According to verse 4, those who dwell in God's house are blessed. What do they do?
- What does the word "pilgrimage" refer to in verse 5? A long journey or those who journey with God?
- According to the author, one day in God's courts is better than what?
- How is the Lord God described in verse 11?
- The Lord is described in very generous terms in verse 11, bestowing favor and honor and withholding no good thing from which people?
- How does one become blameless in God's eyes?
- Who is blessed according to verse 12?

Pray and thank God for the sacrifice of his son so that we may never be separated from him or his love. Thank him also for his presence through the Holy Spirit and that he withholds no good thing from us.

Day Two (#9) Psalm 121

Psalm 121 is a beautiful poem of protection of the Lord. Read Psalm 121:1-8 to see where our help and protection come from.

- Where does the author say his help comes from?
- Why do you suppose he refers to God as “the Maker of heaven and earth”?
- When you are in need, does it help you to remember the mighty power of God?
- What assurances does the author give in verse 3?
- How does it make you feel to know God is protecting you even while you sleep?
- Verses 5 and 6 say the Lord is watching over you both day and night. What does he provide you? Does shade refer to just protection from the sun, or covering from other harmful things?
- What two things are we promised in verse 7?
- Is there a time when God’s protection will end?

Pray and thank God that he is our protection in all things, at all times forevermore.

Day Three (#8) Psalm 1

Psalm 1 is a great comparison between those who serve the Lord and those who don’t. Read Psalm 1:1-6 to see how the psalmist describes these two types of people.

- What are the three things blessed people do not do, according to verse 1?
- What two things separate those who are blessed according to verse 2?
- What are those people compared to in verse 3?
- In what ways do they prosper?
- How are the wicked described in verse 4?
- If the wicked do not stand in the judgment, what will they be doing?
- What does the Lord do for the righteous in verse 6?
- What is the ultimate outcome of the wicked?

Pray and thank God for this great picture of how the righteous are blessed. Thank him that what you do prospers and that he watches over you.

Day Four (#7) Psalm 46

Psalm 46 is a beautiful word picture of the comfort and security we can have knowing that regardless of what is going on in the world around us, God is our protector. Read Psalm 46:1-11 to learn how the psalmist feels about God’s protection.

- What are the three ways God is described in verse 1?
- That means we will not do what according to verse 2?
- What four natural disasters are mentioned in verses 2-3 that still will not cause us to fear?

- The Holy Spirit is often described as a river or water in the Bible. Could that be what the psalmist is referring to in verse 4?
- According to verse 7, how is God described?
- Is God described as causing wars or ending wars in this passage?
- Verse 10 advises us to be still and know that God is God. How does that help during difficult times?
- Where will God be exalted? What does that mean?
- According to verse 11, the Lord Almighty is not only with us, he is what for us?

Pray and thank God that no matter what is happening on this earth, we can rely on him to be our fortress and protector and our ever-present help in times of trouble.

Day Five (#6) Psalm 19

Psalm 19 is a beautiful work of King David where he describes the beauty of God's creation. Read Psalm 19:1-14 to learn how God's creation speaks to us.

- According to this Psalm, what do the heavens declare?
- What proclaims the work of his hands?
- In verse 2, how does David say they reveal God?
- Though they have no speech, how does David say their words are expressed in verse 4?
- In what two ways is the sun described in verse 5?
- What is the most beautiful natural sight you have seen? Did it make you think of God when you saw it?
- In verse 7, David switches to talk about God's laws. What benefit can even the "simple" gain from the Lord's statutes (verse 7)?
- In verse 10 are God's laws discussed in negative, oppressive terms or in terms of beauty and value? How do you view Jesus' teachings?
- What is the benefit of keeping God's laws according to verse 11?
- What danger of hidden sin does he raise in verse 13?

Pray and thank God for the beauty of nature and the majesty of his creation.

Weekend Reading: Most Loved Psalms

These ancient songs/poems range from the highest forms of praise to deepest depths of despair. We can relate. We are so thankful to have these great words of praise, but so sorry we only have room for ten on our list. Here are some of those that just missed making our list of Top 10 Most Loved Psalms.

- Psalm 8
- Psalm 25
- Psalm 100

Day Six (#5) Psalm 51

Though David is described as a “man after God’s own heart,” he committed both adultery and murder. Psalm 51 was written by David after Nathan the prophet confronted him over these sins. Read Psalm 51:1-19 to learn how David felt upon being confronted and his plea to God.

- How does David begin his confession? Is he focused on his own actions or God’s great characteristics of unfailing love and compassion?
- At any point, does David make excuses for what he did or try to explain it?
- In verse 4, how does he acknowledge God’s judgement in the situation?
- In verse 10, David asks God to do what two things?
- What things does he ask God not to do in verse 11?
- To what does David ask to be restored in the following verse?
- What does David say he will do in verse 13 to help others?
- In verse 16, David says he would sacrifice to God but that is not what God wants. What does David say is his sacrifice?

Pray and thank God for making a way for your sins to be forgiven. Ask him to convict you of your sins so that you will confess them and not keep them hidden.

Day Seven (#4) Psalm 91

Psalm 91 is a great chapter for anyone who is fearful. It is full of great promises and encouragement for all kinds of dangers. Read Psalm 91:1-16 to learn all the different ways the Lord will protect those who put their trust in him.

- Verse 1 sets the stage for the rest of the chapter. It identifies who it is that the later promises apply to. Who is covered by the promises?
- According to verse 2, is it everyone or just those who put their trust in God?
- What are the two things listed in verse 3 that he will protect you from? How would we define them today?
- What picture is given in verse 4 of how he protects us?
- There are four deadly items listed in verses 5-6 that we need not fear. What are they?
- What promise is made in verse 7?
- According to verses 9-10, what happens to those who say the Lord is their refuge?
- Who will guard us (verse 11)?
- What does the Lord say about us in verse 14?
- What are the 6 promises made in verses 15-16?

Pray and thank God that he protects those who put their trust in him. Thank him that he protects you and rescues you and sends his angel to guard you.

Day Eight (#3) Psalm 139

Psalm 139 paints a beautiful picture of our loving God and how he created us and knows each of us intimately. Read Psalm 139:1-24 to learn how David describes this close relationship and his request of God to guide him.

- In verse 1, David says that the Lord has “searched him” and knows him. Does the word know here mean an acquaintance or a deep personal knowledge?
- Verse 2 describes a God who knows what we do and what we think. Is that how you see God?
- What does it mean if someone knows your ways (verse 3)?
- When does verse 4 say God knows our words?
- How does David describe God going with him in verse 5?
- Do you also find it almost beyond understanding that God knows you that well and cares about you that much?
- Verse 7-12 lists all the places David says he could go and still not get away from the spirit of God. Is there anywhere you can get away from the spirit of God?
- In verse 13-18, David reflects on the fact that God makes wonderful things and created him too. How does David say he was made in verse 14?
- In verses 23-24, David asks God to do 6 things for him. What are they?

Pray and thank God that he has created you and that he knows you so well, he knows your thoughts and actions. Thank him that his hand guides you and holds you fast. Ask him to search your heart and thoughts and to guide you.

Day Nine (#2) Psalm 23

The 23rd Psalm is undoubtedly the most widely known Psalm of all. Read Psalm 23:1-6 to see how David describes the complete love and care he receives from his “shepherd” the Lord, even though at times his life has been very difficult.

- How does David describe the Lord in verse 1?
- With the Lord as David’s shepherd, what else does he need?
- What three relaxing things does the Lord do for David in verses 2-3?
- Why does the Lord lead David along the right paths?
- How is verse 4 different than the previous verses? Is his shepherd guiding him to the darkest valley or has he taken that path himself?
- Why is David not afraid in these dangerous places?
- Even though his enemies are around, what does the Lord do for David in verse 5?
- As David looks ahead to the rest of his life, what does he expect (verse 6)?
- Where does David anticipate spending eternity?

Pray and thank God for this beautiful word picture of his love and care. Thank him that he cares for you in that same way and that his goodness and mercy will follow you throughout your life until you are with him for eternity.

Day Ten (#1) Psalm 103

Psalm 103 is a beautiful psalm of praise from David. Read Psalm 103:1-22 to learn all the reasons David says we should praise him as well as to learn the benefits of being a child of God.

- David begins this psalm by calling out for everything within him to praise the Lord. What does he also say we should remember?
- In verses 3-5, David lists five amazing benefits of being the children of God. What are they?
- Why does David say the Lord provides these benefits?
- In verse 8, how does David describe God?
- What great news is there for sinners in verse 10?
- How is his love for those who love him described in verse 11?
- God is described as a compassionate father in verse 13. Why is he compassionate toward us according to verses 14-16?
- What does David say about the Lord's love in verse 17?
- What timeless immutable fact does verse 19 give us to remember?
- What important theme does David return to in verse 22?

Praise God that he has established his throne in heaven and that he rules over all with compassion and grace and that he has bestowed on you great benefits such as forgiving all your sins, healing all of your diseases, redeeming your life from the pit and that he satisfies your desires with good things.

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