

Psalm 25 - The Heart That Hears From God

September 19, 2019

Psalm 25:1-14 ESV

1 Of David. To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

2 O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies exult over me.

3 Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame; they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

4 Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths.

5 Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long.

6 **Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.**

7 **Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O LORD!**

8 Good and upright is the LORD; therefore **he instructs sinners in the way.** [Repentant]

9 **He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.** [Humility]

10 All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

11 **For your name's sake, O LORD, pardon my guilt, for it is great.** [Repentant]

12 **Who is the man who fears the LORD? Him will he instruct in the way that he should choose.** [Fear of the Lord]

13 **His soul shall abide in well-being, and his offspring shall inherit the land.**

14 **The friendship of the LORD is for those who fear him, and he makes known to them his covenant.** [Fear of the Lord]

3 Must-Have Qualities to Hear God's Voice

- *These 3 qualities are baseline necessities for hearing God's voice.*
- *The more these 3 qualities abide and mature in your heart, the more clearly and accurately you will hear God's voice.*

1. **Repentance** - *the awareness of the sinfulness of our flesh produces a distrust of carnal ambition and deceitful desires, enabling within us a carefulness to hear His voice free from lust, self-will and idols*
2. **Humility** - *distrust of personal, fleshly and worldly wisdom and ability, enabling us to trust His voice more than we trust ourselves, or the arm of the flesh, or this world*
3. **Fear of God** - *the reality of the coming judgment when we answer to our Judge before His throne, producing a great carefulness in waiting and acting on God's voice*

REPENTANCE - *the awareness of the sinfulness of our flesh produces a distrust of carnal ambition and deceitful desires, enabling within us a carefulness to hear His voice free from lust, self-will and idols*

- *There is a strange but vital balance between remorse over our sins and an agonizing acceptance of our sinfulness.*

Romans 7:24-25 ESV

24 Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?

25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.

- *We mourn over our sinfulness, yet we also understand that God, in His mercy, speaks to and instructs the sinner. If we never learn God's love for the sinner than we will doubt that He will speak to us.*

Psalm 25:8 *"...therefore he instructs sinners in the way.*

- *The saint mourning over his/her sins produces a very healthy check and carefulness in hearing God's voice, because you know how deceitful and persistent your fleshly lusts can be.*

"I believe the holier a man becomes, the more he mourns over the unholiness which remains in him."

—Charles Spurgeon

"Beware of no man more than yourself; we carry our worst enemies within us." —Charles Spurgeon

"Alas, our heart is our greatest enemy."

—Charles Spurgeon

Jeremiah 17:9-10 ESV

9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?

10 "I the LORD search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds."

Matthew 5:4 ESV

4 Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Matthew 16:24 ESV

24 Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."

Ezekiel 14:1-8 ESV

1 Then certain of the elders of Israel came to me and sat before me.

2 And the word of the LORD came to me:

3 "Son of man, these men have taken their idols into their hearts, and set the stumbling block of their iniquity before their faces. Should I indeed let myself be consulted by them?

4 Therefore speak to them and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: Any one of the house of Israel who takes his idols into his heart and sets the stumbling block of his iniquity before his face, and yet comes to the prophet, I the LORD will answer him as he comes with the multitude of his idols,

5 that I may lay hold of the hearts of the house of Israel, who are all estranged from me through their idols.

6 "Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord GOD: Repent and turn away from your idols, and turn away your faces from all your abominations.

7 For any one of the house of Israel, or of the strangers who sojourn in Israel, who separates himself from me, taking his idols into his heart and putting the stumbling block of his iniquity before his face, and yet comes to a prophet to consult me through him, I the LORD will answer him myself.

8 And I will set my face against that man; I will make him a sign and a byword and cut him off from the midst of my people, and you shall know that I am the LORD.

SEE 2 Chronicles 18:1-24 ESV [1 Kings 22:1-25 ESV]

HUMILITY - *distrust of personal, fleshly and worldly wisdom and ability, enabling us to trust His voice more than we trust ourselves, the arm of the flesh and this world*

Jeremiah 10:23 ESV

23 I know, O LORD, that the way of man is not in himself, that it is not in man who walks to direct his steps.

- direct (kuwn) *to be firm, stable, secure, fixed, established, determined*

Proverbs 20:24 ESV

24 A man's steps are from the LORD; how then can man understand his way?

Proverbs 3:5-7 ESV

5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.

6 In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

- straight (*yashar* - *to be right, upright, straight, level, smooth*)

7 Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil.

James 4:13-17 ESV

13 Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit"--

14 yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes.

15 Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that."

16 As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.

17 So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

Jeremiah 9:23-24 ESV

23 Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches,

24 but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD."

FEAR OF GOD - *the reality of the coming judgment when we answer to our Judge before His throne, producing a great carefulness in waiting and acting on God's voice*

Proverbs 16:6 ESV

6 ...by the fear of the LORD one turns away from evil.

Acts 24:16 ESV

16 So I always take pains to have a clear conscience toward both God and man.

2 Corinthians 5:9-11 ESV

9 So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.

10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

11 Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others.