

**Day 29**

**Psalm 71**  
**Psalm 72**  
**Psalm 73**

Biblical scholars believe that Psalm 72 provides insight into the the author's desire for both a righteous earthly king (verses 1-7) as well as a future Messianic King (verses 8-17). This Messianic King would rule the world, save lives, and be served by all nations. As you read this, it becomes a bit more clear how those looking for a powerful, almighty and eternal King were confused when Jesus claimed this position but acted so differently than they expected. Even while He performed miracles, Jesus was humble, served others, and then was murdered on a cross. What does this tell you? One thing it could reveal is that God's plan tends to be far more developed than our interpretations. While we want a king to bring justice to the earth and grant us our existing desires, God provides a King that redeems the earth and grants new hearts to reshape our desires to reflect His. While Jesus will one day rule and reign in visible splendor and destroy all that is sinful, Jesus now rules and reigns by renewing His people, because He already took on the penalty of sin into Himself for all who believe.

**Day 30**

**Psalm 74**  
**Psalm 75**  
**Psalm 76**

As you read through these Psalms, you will notice particular ways in which the Psalmist identifies how the Lord overcame challenges, barriers, and enemies. While we know God is always moving and already has victory, take a moment to reflect on the particular God has moved in your own life. Spend some time and write down ways in which you have seen God's glory expressed in His actions. These ways can be as simple as His allowing you to draw another breath, to as complex as seeing Him weave together things in order for you to experience victory (remember, experiencing victory is not defined by you having comfort or wealth, but experiencing victory is defined by what draws you closer to Him to where you tangibly feel His presence).

**Day 31**

**Psalm 77**  
**Psalm 78**  
**Psalm 79**

Have your thoughts of God's past faithfulness ever so contrasted His absence in the present that you begin to doubt? This is what we see in Psalm 77. Asaph knew what it was like to be victorious over the attacks of the enemy and had seen God's faithfulness in enabling him to rise above despair. His past experiences are what taught him to turn to God alone when these times did come. But this time, God seemed silent and the despair Asaph felt led him to question whether God was really who He said He was (verses 7-9). So, what do we do when we've tried prayer, when we have looked for comfort in the words of Scripture, when we have taken the time to self examine and nothing seems to help? It's worth noting that it was only after the brutally honest questions about God and His character that Asaph's despair transitioned as he made a conscious effort of the mind. He makes these declarative statements: "I shall remember . . . Surely I will remember" (verse 11); "I will meditate . . . and [I will] consider" (verse 12). These are conscious acts. This is what it looks like to take our thoughts captive (2 Cor. 10:5). This is the fight of faith. This is what we want to happen when we are in darkness and discouragement and doubt. Desperate circumstances don't always change even when we pray to God to change it. Perhaps it is not our circumstances that the Lord cares to change. Perhaps He is allowing the circumstances in order to change us. As we determine to think on God and not our feelings of despair, worship swallows up our doubt. As His faithfulness, goodness, and majesty are beautifully contrasted to our ever-changing circumstances and the unpredictability of our emotions in those times, boldness in God swallows up our fear and is replaced with hope.

**Day 32**

**Proverbs 13**  
**Proverbs 14**  
**Proverbs 15**  
**Proverbs 16**

A constant phrase in these verses is “fear of the Lord.” It tells us the fear of the Lord brings strong confidence. It is a fountain of life. They tell us that it is better to possess little and have great fear of the Lord than to possess many materials but fathom no fear of Who gave you those blessings. The fear of the Lord is instruction in wisdom and it turns away evil. These verses are not telling us to fear the Lord like a disobedient child under the shadow of a vengeful father ready to smite us if we stray. These verses are speaking of the awe and wonder that comes from knowing God reverently and intimately. These verses are speaking about a depth of respect for our Creator that overpowers our sinful impulses and imparts obedience. We fear the Lord the same way we fear the air we breathe. If we lose air we lose our ability to exist; if we lose our reliance on God we lose our purpose, our hope, our joy and our strength. Fear of the Lord is an infinite anchor grounded at the root of the Cross. Fear of the Lord is an awakening to the understanding of our dependence upon the grace of God for our very next breath, let alone our next dream come true. And once we embrace that reality, we learn through Christ that “humility comes before honor.” We fear God with joyful obedience and a longing heart to make His Name being glorified our top priority, our guiding light, our purpose for existing.

**Day 33**

**Psalm 80**  
**Psalm 81**  
**Psalm 82**

Restoration and deliverance can only come through God. Three times in Psalm 80 the psalmist cries out: “Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.” The most important strength we will ever and could ever need is the ability to see God clearly. The face of God has been made plain through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Hebrews 1:2-3: “In these last days He has spoken to us by His Son, whom He appointed the heir of all things, through whom also He created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of His nature, and He upholds the universe by the word of His power.” Through that knowledge of who God is and what He has done, we find the conviction and desire to listen and obey. That’s all the Lord asks of us! “Oh, that my people would listen to me, that Israel would walk in my ways!” We can only do so by knowing intimately and sincerely that God is our deepest strength and truest joy. We come to experience His strength through the Holy Spirit’s grace-filled perseverance sustaining our lives. We taste His joy through the trials and triumphs of faith and obedience. And what does this obedience look like? Giving justice to the weak, maintaining the dignity of the afflicted, rescuing the needy, delivering them from the hand of the wicked. Because when Christ obeyed the Father and climbed the Cross, that’s exactly what He did for us.



## Day 34

Psalm 83  
Psalm 84  
Psalm 85

By this point, we have encountered numerous psalms that express the author's desire for God to destroy enemies. Generally speaking, it can be easy to gloss through these statements as ones of violence and war that were unique to the psalmist's experience. However, Psalm 83 gives us the context to know that while the author does pray that God stop the enemies seeking to destroy those who have faith in God, he further prays that God ultimately put these enemies in a position where they must acknowledge and worship the Lord (verses 16-18). This desire can be quite difficult to grasp because we operate with a very limited sense of justice. In our human minds, it's far easier to just wish destruction on enemies without hoping for and desiring their redemption. However, we must acknowledge the reality in Romans 5:10 that "while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son." Therefore, God's heart for reconciliation stretches beyond our capacity to be His enemy and He offers the gift for us to be His sons and daughters.

## Day 35

Psalm 86  
Psalm 87  
Psalm 88

Today's reading of Psalm 88 ends in what feels like a very bleak and depressed manner. Unlike many psalms, this one does not seem to pivot into praise by the end, instead it ends in what seems like sorrow. Yes, while the author immediately acknowledges God as the giver of salvation in verse 1, the rest of the psalm is a lament that expresses pain and grief brought on by much suffering. What does this mean? This simply means that suffering brings on pain and grief, and we must acknowledge that. In fact, it is when we acknowledge that pain and grief that we open our hearts up to recognize and take comfort in the Holy Spirit's provision of peace and counseling. Furthermore, it is vital that **we do not misinterpret** Scripture to think that verses like 1 Corinthians 10:13 suggest that God will not allow our sufferings to get too difficult (*read this article for more insight on this idea: <https://www.gotquestions.org/more-handle.html>*). We tend to lack the ability to see that it is through worship of God and devotion to Him in our impossible and "too much" circumstances that God is given immense glory that builds our faith and ministers to others.