

# River Community Church

## Daily Devotionals Sept 12 - Sept 16 2016

Knowing and Loving God and Making God's  
Love Known to Others

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## **Day 1 Psalm 25 Devotional**

### **Pray:**

Ask God to orient or reorient you to himself. Confess any known sin. Thank him for his forgiveness. Be still and reflect on Jesus and his sacrifice for you. Ask the Holy Spirit to open your heart and mind to God's word. Pray for others in your life that they too would know and love God today.

### **Read:**

Psa. 25:1 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; 2 in you I trust, O my God. Do not let me be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me. 3 No one whose hope is in you will ever be put to shame, but they will be put to shame who are treacherous without excuse.

### **Understand:**

The exact historical circumstances of most of David's Psalms are unknown. This is likely because they were written to have wider application to all of our lives. We do know enough about David's life to know his struggles were both self-inflicted as well as inflicted on him by the poor choices of others. He was called a "man after God's own heart" but this endearing term was the result of years of trouble that taught him to depend on God not on himself.

The soul of person is the "real you," its not just the "spiritual" part of you that "floats" to heaven when you die. David "lifted his soul to God" which means he brought all of himself and offered it up to God. He has come to end of himself, a very good and very hard place to be.

### **Apply:**

Think of a time when you experienced shame because you trusted in yourself. Trusting in yourself means you tried to live life on your own terms rather than on God's. Maybe this experience included others who were watching your life who rejoiced, or gloated in your misfortune. The shame was not just private but public shame.

Jesus' shame was very public. He was subjected to scorn and abuse. His shame was earned by us not by him. If thinking of your shame, distant past or recent experience causes you to "shudder" remember that Jesus bore that specific shame, that sin on the cross. Remember that he has risen, he no longer experiences the shame of the cross, and you are to no longer experience the shame of past sin either. Move into the "new normal." You cannot go back to your life before your shameful experience but you can move into your life after Christ has taken your shame on himself. This is your "new normal" in Christ.

\*From what you have just read and considered what is a personal implication/application for your life today?

### **Live:**

(Personalize this prayer for today, make it specific to the circumstances that face you.)

Ask God to lead you through his Spirit as you go through your day. Ask him to bring to mind the truth of the gospel and its implications for what you will encounter today. Tell him "Yes" to his will today and ask him for his power and protection to live this "yes." Ask him to create and reveal opportunities to proclaim the good news today. **KEEP PRAYING THROUGHOUT YOUR DAY TODAY.**

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## Day 2 Psalm 25 Devotional

### Pray:

Ask God to orient or reorient you to himself. Confess any known sin. Thank him for his forgiveness. Be still and reflect on Jesus and his sacrifice for you. Ask the Holy Spirit to open your heart and mind to God's word. Pray for others in your life that they too would know and love God today.

### Read:

**Psa. 25:1 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; 2 in you I trust, O my God. Do not let me be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me. 3 No one whose hope is in you will ever be put to shame, but they will be put to shame who are treacherous without excuse. 4 Show me your ways, O Lord, teach me your paths; 5 guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.**

### Understand:

David's expectation and experience was that the living God communicated with his people. God spoke through history, through experience, through nature, through the prophets, and through his Spirit. The prophets of the past and those during David's lifetime spoke the word of God to him. But David was not just a king, he was also a prophet, God spoke to others through him.

### Apply:

**Heb. 1:1 In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe.**

We want and need God to speak to us so we will know how we are to live our lives. We want to know and walk in his paths. God can give you specific direction regarding small or large decision points but whether he does or does not "speak" regarding some all the details of your life he has already "spoken" regarding the overall purpose and direction of your life.

In truth, the gospel informs all of the many details that make up our lives. In these "last days" (all the days since Jesus came until he returns), God has spoken to us by his Son. The life, words, and sacrifice of Jesus "speak" to us about who God is and what he wants for and from us.

How has God spoken to you about the purpose and direction of your life in the gospel? What specifically does this mean in regards to the details of your life?

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### Live:

(Personalize this prayer for today, make it specific to the circumstances that face you.) Ask God to lead you through his Spirit as you go through your day. Ask him to bring to mind the truth of the gospel and its implications for what you will encounter today. Tell him "Yes" to his will today and ask him for his power and protection to live this "yes." Ask him to create and reveal opportunities to proclaim the good news today. **KEEP PRAYING THROUGHOUT YOUR DAY TODAY.**

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## Day 3 Psalm 25 Devotional

### Pray:

Ask God to orient or reorient you to himself. Confess any known sin. Thank him for his forgiveness. Be still and reflect on Jesus and his sacrifice for you. Ask the Holy Spirit to open your heart and mind to God's word. Pray for others in your life that they too would know and love God today.

### Read:

**Psa. 25:1 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; 2 in you I trust, O my God. Do not let me be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me. 3 No one whose hope is in you will ever be put to shame, but they will be put to shame who are treacherous without excuse. 4 Show me your ways, O Lord, teach me your paths; 5 guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long. 6 Remember, O Lord, your great mercy and love, for they are from of old. 7 Remember not the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways; according to your love remember me, for you are good, O Lord. 8 Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in his ways. 9 He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way. 10 All the ways of the Lord are loving and faithful for those who keep the demands of his covenant. 11 For the sake of your name, O Lord, forgive my iniquity, though it is great.**

### Understand:

Anthropomorphism is a word that describes attributing human traits to God. This is not to make God into a man but rather to understand God by way of analogy. A key way we can grow in our understanding is through analogy..."this is like that." David is asking God to "remember not" the sins of his youth. He is feeling the oppression of remembering his sin. He is not asking God to literally forget. God cannot learn, or forget, or remember like we do. All knowledge is perfect and immediate to him. He knows all, all the time. David is asking God to "act towards him as if he had forgotten" his sins. To treat him, to see him, as still untainted by his sins.

### Apply:

What sins do you wish you could forget? Do you wish others could forget them as well? Do you wish God could forget them? In fact God has, in practical terms, "forgotten your sins." He sees you and treats you as if they had not happened. Why do you feel you are being "punished" for them? It could be that you need to "accept" what God has said about your sins. It could be you are listening to the wrong voices in regards to your sin...your own mind full of guilt, or Satan, the accuser. It could be you are persisting in your sins and what you call punishment is really God's attempt to get your attention and to turn you away from all that turns you away from him.

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### Live:

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(Personalize this prayer for today, make it specific to the circumstances that face you.) Ask God to lead you through his Spirit as you go through your day. Ask him to bring to mind the truth of the gospel and its implications for what you will encounter today. Tell him "Yes" to his will today and ask him for his power and protection to live this "yes." Ask him to create and reveal opportunities to proclaim the good news today. **KEEP PRAYING THROUGHOUT YOUR DAY TODAY.**

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## Day 4 Psalm 25 Devotional

### Pray:

Ask God to orient or reorient you to himself. Confess any known sin. Thank him for his forgiveness. Be still and reflect on Jesus and his sacrifice for you. Ask the Holy Spirit to open your heart and mind to God's word. Pray for others in your life that they too would know and love God today.

### Read:

**Psa. 25:1 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; 2 in you I trust, O my God. Do not let me be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me. 3 No one whose hope is in you will ever be put to shame, but they will be put to shame who are treacherous without excuse. 4 Show me your ways, O Lord, teach me your paths; 5 guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long. 6 Remember, O Lord, your great mercy and love, for they are from of old. 7 Remember not the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways; according to your love remember me, for you are good, O Lord. 8 Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in his ways. 9 He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way. 10 All the ways of the Lord are loving and faithful for those who keep the demands of his covenant. 11 For the sake of your name, O Lord, forgive my iniquity, though it is great. 12 Who, then, is the man that fears the Lord? He will instruct him in the way chosen for him. 13 He will spend his days in prosperity, and his descendants will inherit the land. 14 The Lord confides in those who fear him; he makes his covenant known to them.**

### Understand:

When David wrote this Psalm prosperity was closely tied to land and to a lasting inheritance. David wrote that the man who fears the Lord will experience prosperity that will extend to his children. Fear of the Lord was revealed in obedience to the Lord. In the covenant with Moses, law obedience resulted in possession of the Land and safety and security in the land.

Of course no one kept the law perfectly so all their days in the land were the result of grace and eventually they lost their land inheritance through their rebellion against God.

David lived during a time of parallel covenants both law and grace. Lasting possession of the land was based on law obedience, but lasting relationship with God was based on God's grace. The covenant God made with David was a covenant of grace not law. It did not depend on human faithfulness but rather on divine faithfulness. God would keep this promise all by himself.

### Apply:

Why do the wicked prosper and the righteous suffer? The wicked do not prosper, not in the long term. And the righteous do suffer, but not in the long term.

How do you view prosperity? How do you measure it? Are you jealous of those with more? Do you wish

God had given you more? Are you envious of those whose lives appear to be easier than yours? Do you wish you had fewer troubles in your life? Do you feel God has forsaken you or is mistreating you?

Reflect on this passage...

**Phil. 4:19 And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.**

How can you be more prosperous than to have "all of your needs meet"? What does this mean exactly? What are "his glorious riches in Christ Jesus?"

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**Live:**

(Personalize this prayer for today, make it specific to the circumstances that face you.) Ask God to lead you through his Spirit as you go through your day. Ask him to bring to mind the truth of the gospel and its implications for what you will encounter today. Tell him "Yes" to his will today and ask him for his power and protection to live this "yes." Ask him to create and reveal opportunities to proclaim the good news today. **KEEP PRAYING THROUGHOUT YOUR DAY TODAY.**

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## Day 5 Psalm 25 Devotional

### Pray:

Ask God to orient or reorient you to himself. Confess any known sin. Thank him for his forgiveness. Be still and reflect on Jesus and his sacrifice for you. Ask the Holy Spirit to open your heart and mind to God's word. Pray for others in your life that they too would know and love God today.

### Read:

Psa. 25:1 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; 2 in you I trust, O my God. Do not let me be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me. 3 No one whose hope is in you will ever be put to shame, but they will be put to shame who are treacherous without excuse. 4 Show me your ways, O Lord, teach me your paths; 5 guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long. 6 Remember, O Lord, your great mercy and love, for they are from of old. 7 Remember not the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways; according to your love remember me, for you are good, O Lord. 8 Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in his ways. 9 He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way. 10 All the ways of the Lord are loving and faithful for those who keep the demands of his covenant. 11 For the sake of your name, O Lord, forgive my iniquity, though it is great. 12 Who, then, is the man that fears the Lord? He will instruct him in the way chosen for him. 13 He will spend his days in prosperity, and his descendants will inherit the land. 14 The Lord confides in those who fear him; he makes his covenant known to them. 15 My eyes are ever on the Lord, for only he will release my feet from the snare. 16 Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted. 17 The troubles of my heart have multiplied; free me from my anguish. 18 Look upon my affliction and my distress and take away all my sins. 19 See how my enemies have increased and how fiercely they hate me! 20 Guard my life and rescue me; let me not be put to shame, for I take refuge in you. 21 May integrity and uprightness protect me, because my hope is in you. 22 Redeem Israel, O God, from all their troubles!

### Understand:

The Psalms are like private diaries used in public worship. They are very personal but were compiled to be used in community and people walked together with God. You will not always "see yourself" in every Psalm at all times, but you will find that throughout time humans have had common struggles and they have a common solution.

### Apply:

"May integrity and uprightness protect me, because my hope is in you."

A ship with integrity in its hull has no "cracks." It is in the water but the water is not in it. This is a good definition of integrity. To be "in the world but not of the world." To live as if God is real and therefore we do not have to use deceit, or revenge, or self-seeking actions in order to live life.

Perhaps you do not feel like you have "integrity" that you are not putting your hope fully in God. Maybe

you feel like your hull has cracks and the water is pouring in. The good news is your integrity is not the point, his integrity is. You do not put your hope in your ability to "float" but rather in his ability to keep you afloat...cracks and all.

So how does "integrity" protect us? His integrity does. We continually "mess up and fess up" he continually keeps us from sinking.

Spend what time you have left confessing hope and confidence in the Lord.

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**Live:**

(Personalize this prayer for today, make it specific to the circumstances that face you.)

Ask God to lead you through his Spirit as you go through your day. Ask him to bring to mind the truth of the gospel and its implications for what you will encounter today. Tell him "Yes" to his will today and ask him for his power and protection to live this "yes." Ask him to create and reveal opportunities to proclaim the good news today. **KEEP PRAYING THROUGHOUT YOUR DAY TODAY.**

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