



“You Rescue Me” ~ Psalm 25:5

- **Key Verse:** Lead me by your truth and teach me, for **you are the God who saves (rescues) me**. All day long I put my hope in you... ¹⁶ Turn to me and have mercy, for I am alone and in deep distress. ¹⁷ My problems go from bad to worse. Oh, save me from them all! ¹⁸ Feel my pain and see my trouble. Forgive all my sins. ¹⁹ See how many enemies I have and how viciously they hate me! ²⁰ Protect me! **Rescue my life** from them! Do not let me be disgraced, for in you I take refuge. ²¹ May integrity and honesty protect me, for I put my hope in you. (Psa. 25: 5,16–21 NLT-SE)

- **Rescue** (Yasa):

- This word is found 326 times in the Bible, 102 in Psalms.
- **rescue**, S 3467, **yasa** (205x) To be rescued, be delivered, be saved; to save, rescue, deliver; divine salvation has its focus on rescue from earthly enemies, occasionally referring to salvation from guilt, sin, and punishment. To deliver; rescue; save.
 - Show me your unfailing love in wonderful ways. By your mighty power **you rescue those who seek refuge** from their enemies. (Psa. 17:7 NLT-SE)
 - I cry out to you; **rescue me**, that I may obey your laws. (Psa. 119:146 NLT-SE)
 - **You rescue the humble**, but your eyes watch the proud and humiliate them. (2 Sam. 22:28 NLT-SE)

- **Revelation** (Monday, November 19, 2018):

“YOU WILL BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND THE HEART OF DAVID WHEN YOU SING THE SONG OF DAVID.”

- This complete song is so important to the Holy Spirit that it is recorded by David in two places in the Bible: **2 Samuel 22** and **Psalm 18** and is generally classified from a literary standpoint as a “**royal hymn of thanksgiving**.”
- **What happens when we sing?**
 - **God’s heart for setting words to melody** is evident from even a casual reading of the Psalms.
 - ¹ Sing a new song to the LORD! Let the whole earth sing to the LORD! ² Sing to the LORD; praise his name. Each day proclaim the good news that he saves. (Psa. 96:1–2 NLT-SE)
 - Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises! (Psa. 47:6 NLT-SE)

- In just four verses we see the command to sing SEVEN TIMES!
- We're not called simply to listen to others sing or to sing by ourselves. We are called to **sing with others**, especially in the context of our local church.
- The question isn't, Do you have a voice? The question is, **Do you have a song?** If you've repented, turned from your sins and trusted Jesus work at the cross, if you've been filled with the Holy Spirit's power and know God's grace, **then you have a song.**
- **Cassandra Sheppard** talks about the neuroscience of singing says that, "When we sing our neurotransmitters connect in new and different ways. Singing fires up the right temporal lobe of our brain, releasing endorphins that make us smarter, healthier, happier and more creative. When we sing with other people this effect is amplified."



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- **David's Song:** Since the focus of our journey is to discover **David's understanding of God's heart through the Psalms**, the version of the song recorded in **Psalm 18** will serve as the text for this morning's study.
 - ⁰ **For the choir director: A psalm of David, the servant of the LORD. He sang this song to the LORD on the day the LORD rescued him from all his enemies and from Saul. He sang:**
 - It is likely that David wrote this song as a younger man, after the death of Saul when he first took the throne (2 Sam 8:14), and **sang it throughout his life** as a personal proclamation of God's faithfulness to deliver him over the course of his long life of service.
 - This psalm is a great summary of David's whole character and attitude through life. "Such convictions – of the absolute sovereignty of Jehovah, of His omnipotent power to deliver, of the necessity for obedience to His law, and of assurance that in the case of such obedience He ever acts for His people – constituted the underlying strength of David's character." (Morgan)
 - ¹ **I love you, LORD; you are my strength. ² The LORD is my rock, my fortress, and my savior; my God is my rock, in whom I find protection. He is my shield, the power that saves me, and my place of safety. ³ I called on the LORD, who is worthy of praise, and he saved me from my enemies.**
 - David's description of the Lord as his rock referred to the **stability** and **security** he provided for David. About 20 times in Psalms the Lord is referred to as a **rock**.
 - This whole first section is filled with metaphor after metaphor...**Rock...Fortress...Deliverer...Shield...Horn of... Salvation...Stronghold...Refuge...and Savior.** All God's exploits in the past and promises for the future are predicated on who He is. These descriptions of the LORD are especially appropriate in light of the setting of the song, that of flight, conflict, and victory.
 - This was all a **very personal thing** to David. He referred to God as MY "rock" and MY "fortress." He knew that, had God not provided a place for him to run to, hide in and receive protection, he would have never survived!
 - ⁴ **The ropes of death entangled me; floods of destruction swept over me. ⁵ The grave wrapped its ropes around me; death laid a trap in my path. ⁶ But in my distress I cried out to the LORD; yes, I prayed to my God for help. He heard me from his sanctuary; my cry to him reached his ears.**

- When we feel **trapped by our circumstances**, is our initial response to cry out to the Lord? Had David not felt what it's like to be trapped, he may not have called out to the Lord for help. David was confident that the Lord heard his cry. He knew that God was not playing with his emotions, but was primed to respond to David's cry for help. Again, he was also full aware that if God didn't come through, life would be over for David and his nation.
- **Brian Simmons** says of verse 6, "This scene is not only a poetic portrayal of how God answered David's prayer, but also a picture of the sufferings of a greater Son of David, Jesus, who hung on the cross with cries of agony. God heard him and shook the planet as thick clouds covered the sun."
- **⁷ Then the earth quaked and trembled. The foundations of the mountains shook; they quaked because of his anger. ⁸ Smoke poured from his nostrils; fierce flames leaped from his mouth. Glowing coals blazed forth from him. ⁹ He opened the heavens and came down; dark storm clouds were beneath his feet. ¹⁰ Mounted on a mighty angelic being, he flew, soaring on the wings of the wind. ¹¹ He shrouded himself in darkness, veiling his approach with dark rain clouds. ¹² Thick clouds shielded the brightness around him and rained down hail and burning coals. ¹³ The LORD thundered from heaven; the voice of the Most High resounded amid the hail and burning coals. ¹⁴ He shot his arrows and scattered his enemies; great bolts of lightning flashed, and they were confused. ¹⁵ Then at your command, O LORD, at the blast of your breath, the bottom of the sea could be seen, and the foundations of the earth were laid bare.**
 - **What was the Lord's response to David's cry for help?** Did he simply "flip a switch," setting David free from what had him bound? No! God took David's restraint personally. God's response was an emotional one, a true representation of his power and might!
 - What David describes next is not speculation from a theologian about God's character, but the personal revelations that have been given to someone who has truly been rescued from a life-threatening experience. Notice that the picture David paints is NOT a God who rules the world from behind a curtain like the "Wizard of OZ." **David's God rips open the heavens and comes down to earth to do business, mounting a direct attack on David's enemies and as a result the whole earth shakes!**
- **¹⁶ He reached down from heaven and rescued me; he drew me out of deep waters. ¹⁷ He rescued me from my powerful enemies, from those who hated me and were too strong for me. ¹⁸ They attacked me at a moment when I was in distress, but the LORD supported me. ¹⁹ He led me to a place of safety; he rescued me because he delights in me. ²⁰ The LORD rewarded me for doing right; he restored me because of my innocence. ²¹ For I have kept the ways of the LORD; I have not turned from my God to follow evil. ²² I have followed all his regulations; I have never abandoned his decrees. ²³ I am blameless before God; I have kept myself from sin. ²⁴ The LORD rewarded me for doing right. He has seen my innocence.**
 - In recounting the depth of his tremendous need for God's hand to rescue him from his enemies, **David builds his own confidence.** It was as if David were drowning in the midst of his strong enemies, and the Lord drew him out...because He delighted in him.
 - It seem that David now moves onto some pretty shaky ground. He goes from **extolling the Lord's power** and might in the previous section to **expressing confidence in the purity of his own heart!** And a new question pops up...**Does the Lord actually reward us for making good choices?**
- **²⁵ To the faithful you show yourself faithful; to those with integrity you show integrity. ²⁶ To the pure you show yourself pure, but to the crooked you show yourself shrewd. ²⁷ You rescue the humble, but you humiliate the proud. ²⁸ You light a lamp for me. The LORD, my God, lights up my darkness. ²⁹ In your strength I can crush an army; with my God I can scale any wall.**

- God doesn't just fix problems, He **establishes His presence** in our lives and in our world and because of that, things change. By faith, David also understood the nature of the LORD and how He revealed Himself to mankind.
- **God rewards people** according to their inner character. He gives faithfulness to the faithful, blamelessness to the blameless, purity to the pure, but shrewdness to the crooked. His dealings with sinful men are always just.
- **³⁰ God's way is perfect. All the LORD's promises prove true. He is a shield for all who look to him for protection. ³¹ For who is God except the LORD? Who but our God is a solid rock? ³² God arms me with strength, and he makes my way perfect. ³³ He makes me as surefooted as a deer, enabling me to stand on mountain heights. ³⁴ He trains my hands for battle; he strengthens my arm to draw a bronze bow. ³⁵ You have given me your shield of victory. Your right hand supports me; Your help has made me great. ³⁶ You have made a wide path for my feet to keep them from slipping.**
 - The one from whom we receive our help is like no other. **God has proven himself by his actions** and His commitment to us is unwavering. David knows this mostly by faith. All his battles had not been won by might-over-might. When it comes to God's dealing with our enemies, it's not just about winning, but strategy, cunning and principle as well.
 - God not only rescued David from those who came to devour him, but he **influenced and armed David** with the divine ability to fight for himself as well. David became a better warrior because he was trained and equipped by God Himself!
- **³⁷ I chased my enemies and caught them; I did not stop until they were conquered. ³⁸ I struck them down so they could not get up; they fell beneath my feet. ³⁹ You have armed me with strength for the battle; you have subdued my enemies under my feet. ⁴⁰ You placed my foot on their necks. I have destroyed all who hated me. ⁴¹ They called for help, but no one came to their rescue. They even cried to the LORD, but he refused to answer. ⁴² I ground them as fine as dust in the wind. I swept them into the gutter like dirt. ⁴³ You gave me victory over my accusers. You appointed me ruler over nations; people I don't even know now serve me. ⁴⁴ As soon as they hear of me, they submit; foreign nations cringe before me. ⁴⁵ They all lose their courage and come trembling from their strongholds.**
 - Again, the **Lord's mighty hand upon us** changes the way we do battle. We are stronger, smarter, and endure longer. Our confidence is not in our own ability, but God's ability working through us. It is the same today. We are the Christ Followers we are because of who God is through us.
 - **David describes the fate of his foes** in great detail here. He is not relishing in the defeat of his adversaries, in a gloating kind of way, but more magnifying the price of the Lord as a God of truth and justice.
- **⁴⁶ The LORD lives! Praise to my Rock! May the God of my salvation be exalted! ⁴⁷ He is the God who pays back those who harm me; he subdues the nations under me ⁴⁸ and rescues me from my enemies. You hold me safe beyond the reach of my enemies; you save me from violent opponents. ⁴⁹ For this, O LORD, I will praise you among the nations; I will sing praises to your name. ⁵⁰ You give great victories to your king; you show unfailing love to your anointed, to David and all his descendants forever. (Psa. 18:0-50 NLT-SE)**
 - **David wraps up his "song of thanksgiving"** giving praise to whom praise is due. It's like he can't wait to lift up the the one who is worthy of all praise. He has seen the strength of his enemies and has also seen the power of God's hand against them.
 - The end of David's song is his **reminder to all generations** of God's promised faithfulness. His heart is again exposed for all to see. God has been faithful to him his whole life. His love is unfailing.