

MOUNT SINAI MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

MONDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

Psalm 5

A God-Saturated Life

Quote

“Give me 100 men; I care not whether they be clergy or laity, who fear nothing but **sin** and desire nothing but God, and I will shake this world for Christ.”

John Wesley

I. Introduction

Who is the person whom God uses? It is the one who lives a supremely God-saturated life, one who is fully devoted to God. This is the person whom the Lord uses—one who has a high view of God, one who is focused upon the holiness and **sovereignty** of God. He is a person who loves what God loves and hates what he hates, whose heart is one with God.

David, the author of Psalm 5, is a man who models for us a God-saturated life. In this psalm we catch a glimpse of what it means for a person to be dominated by a lofty, transcendent view of God and who, in turn, knew the fullness of his favor upon his life. Not a perfect man, David nevertheless was a passionate man who sought God’s heart. In this psalm, an individual lament psalm, the distinguishing marks of the person whom God uses are revealed. A psalm of David, written when he was surrounded by many foes (vv. 5, 6, 8), the superscription of this psalm reads, “For the director of music. For flutes,” meaning this particular psalm was to be sung in congregational **worship** with flute accompaniment. Here David proves to be a worthy model for believers today of a life totally abandoned to God.

II. Commentary

MAIN IDEA

The person whom God uses lives with a high view of God.

A David’s Contrition (5:1–3)

5:1–2. With a passionate appeal David began this psalm by pleading, Listen to my cry for help, my King and my God. Intense emotion and energy poured out of David's heart in his relationship toward God as he pleaded with the Lord for a hearing. Consider my sighing reveals his strong devotion to and hunger for God. As the anointed king of Israel, David understood that God is king over all.

5:3. David's heart was eager and persistent as he rose early in the morning to pray. Before David could begin the day, he had to converse with God. He declared, In the morning I lay my requests before you. Seeking God in the early part of the day reveals an energetic heart that was aggressively pursuing the Lord. As he prayed, he waited in expectation, believing that God would answer him (Jas. 1:6) according to his perfect timing and will.

B David's Conviction (5:4–6)

5:4. Every person whom God uses is gripped with a high view of God in his holiness. Consider the examples of Moses (Exod. 3), Isaiah (Isa. 6), Peter (Luke 5), and John (Rev. 1). So it was with David. He wrote, You are not a God who takes pleasure in **evil**. David understood God to be infinitely **holy**, and he could not approve of, tolerate, or fellowship with **sin**. The prophet Habakkuk affirmed, "Your eyes are too pure to look on **evil**" (Hab. 1:13; 1 John 1:5).

5:5. Since he is perfectly **holy**, God must reject all **sin** and sinners. David declared, The arrogant cannot stand in your presence. Literally, the proud could not stand "before your eyes," meaning no **sin** would go undetected by God's searching eyes. Therefore, David said, God hates all who do wrong. Simply put, God rejects all who reject him. This is a Hebraism that contrasts love and hate which communicates acceptance and rejection (cp. Luke 14:26; Rom. 9:13).

5:6. This **holy** God must also judge sinners as an expression of his holiness. Confidently, David stated, You destroy those who tell lies. The reference is to David's enemies who were lying about him and slandering his character. They would be confronted by God in the final **judgment** because the Lord detests people who are bloodthirsty and deceitful.

C David's Consecration (5:7–8)

5:7. Sinners may find acceptance with God if they will come to him as David did. He wrote, I, by your great **mercy**, will come into your house. This great **mercy** is God's unconditional **covenant** love by which he receives sinners who repent and believe. Knowing how unworthy he was, David wrote, **In reverence will I bow**

down toward your holy temple. Not claiming any self- **righteousness**, he trembled because he recognized that he approached God solely on the basis of God's **grace**.

5:8. Then David petitioned God, submitting to his will, by saying, **Lead me, O Lord, in your righteousness.** This was a prayer in which he sought divine guidance into God's will. The Lord will never lead people into **sin** but only down paths of **righteousness**. David asked that the way of God's guidance would be level and smooth, free from temptations and obstacles of **sin**: Make straight your way before me.

D David's Condemnation (5:9–10)

5:9. David realized that not a word from the mouth of his enemies could be trusted. They spoke destructive, slanderous lies about him, rallying others against him by twisting the **truth**. Their mouths were wicked because their hearts were **filled with destruction**. Jesus said that a destructive tongue speaks from a destructive heart (Matt. 12:35–37; 15:18–19). Even worse, **their throat is an open grave; with their tongue they speak deceit**. Persecution for the sake of **righteousness** is often suffered by the godly from the vicious attacks of the ungodly (Matt. 5:10–12; John 15:18–20; Col. 1:24).

5:10. With a burst of **holy** indignation, David called out, **Declare them guilty, O God! Let their intrigues be their downfall.** Far from a merely selfish request, this prayer was spoken with **holy** zeal. He wanted God to make right the wrongs he had suffered. Thus, David appealed, **Banish them for their many sins, for they have rebelled against you.** The driving issue in David's heart was not his enemies' opposition against him, but their rebellion against God.

E David's Celebration (5:11–12)

5:11. David's high view of God led him to high praise for the Lord. He concluded this psalm by calling on all the righteous to be glad in the Lord. He overflowed with excitement in God: **But let all who take refuge in you be glad; let them ever sing for joy.** The heart that loves God's holiness will hate man's **sin** and, thus, **be glad** and full of **joy**.

On behalf of those who supported him, David asked the Lord, **Spread your protection over them.** Like a mother eagle would spread her wings of protection over her young, David called for God's protecting love to be shown toward all who had stood with him during this turbulent time. To love God's **name** is to love the

fullness of all he is. Those who truly know him love him and **rejoice** in him with hearts that overflow with wonder and praise.

5:12. David concluded by affirming the supreme goodness of the Lord toward all his **saints: O Lord, you bless the righteous.** He had every reason to rejoice in the Lord, no matter how fiery his **trials** had been. Addressing God, he declared, **You surround them with your favor as with a shield.** God's protective care not only overshadows his people, but he also surrounds them with his favor so they are safe from the enemy. This divine blessing is like a shield, forming an impenetrable wall around his godly ones.

III. Conclusion

Anyone who is to be used by God will be consumed with a **holy** passion for God. It is in being overshadowed by the greatness of God that a person feels his own helplessness and inadequacies. This drives him to seek God with desperate urgency and total abandonment. As long as a person thinks he can succeed by his own efforts, he will never pursue God with deep desperation. Only in our weakness will God's strength be made full in us.

Everything in life must be viewed from the perspective of the high and lofty character of God. Even when circumstances are threatening, the "uplook" of **faith** always remains triumphant. Such is the experience of a God-saturated life.

IV. Teaching Outline

A. David's Contrition (1–3)

1. Consider my sighing (1)
2. Listen to my crying (2)
3. Hear my speaking (3)

B. David's Conviction (4–6)

1. God rejects the wicked (4)
2. God refuses the arrogant (5)
3. God resists the deceitful (6)

C. David's Consecration (7–8)

1. I will fear God (7)

- 2. I will follow God (8)
- D. David's Condemnation (9–10)
 - 1. My enemies are godless (9)
 - 2. My enemies are guilty (10)
- E. David's Celebration (11–12)
 - 1. Let the godly resound (11a)
 - 2. Let the godly rejoice (11b–12)¹

¹ Steven Lawson, [*Psalms 1–75*](#), ed. Max Anders, vol. 11, Holman Old Testament Commentary (Nashville, TN: Holman Reference, 2004), 36–40.