

Give God the Praise!

Psalm 128 to 150



September 2018

Day 1

Who is someone you fear? Why do you fear them? How do you show that fear?

Near the beginning of the movie *Forrest Gump* you see Forrest's best friend Jenny as someone who is afraid to go home. She stays away as much as she can. One day Forrest goes to Jenny's house and she grabs his hand and has her run with him out the door and into the cornfield. You hear Jenny's father yelling her name. She tells Forrest to get on his knees and pray. "Pray Forrest". And they start praying. Jenny was afraid of her father because he was abusive. As Christians we are to fear God. Not because he is abusive but because he is so great and powerful and he could destroy us if he wanted. Today's Psalm talks a little bit about this fear of God and how it is a good thing and not a bad one like in *Forrest Gump*. Ask God to teach and grow you in your faith today.

Read Psalm 128

Look at verse 1, what does fearing the Lord look like according to the last part of the verse?

What are 3 things you can do to show you walk in God's ways and so fear the Lord?

1.

2.

3.

What does God say you will be if you fear God and walk in his ways?
What does that mean?

In verses 2 to 4 what are some ways we will be blessed if we fear God and walk in his ways?

What did the Psalmist hope to see in his people the Jews if they would genuinely fear the Lord according to verses 5 and 6?

Think about verses 2 to 6 and what they say we will have if we fear the Lord. There are so many Christians and Christian families who are not blessed in these ways. What does that say about them? What does that say about us? What is missing?

PRAYER – Pray these verses. Ask God to help you fear Him and walk in ALL of his ways.

Day 2

Who is a person or people group that has been greatly afflicted? How have they been afflicted?

I have been reading a lot lately about the way black people had and have been treated in our country. It has been so eye opening to see how much pain people in our country, even in the church, have caused black people. The church was just as bad as everyone else. They would not allow black people to take communion, have their children baptized. It was church people who helped to form the Ku Klux Klan. And we know the atrocities they committed in the name of God. So much affliction against our black brothers. As Christians, we go through many afflictions because of our faith. They are painful and cannot be avoided. God promised it. Today we look at the Psalmist talking about affliction as a follower of Jesus. Ask God to encourage you as you read and study.

Read Psalm 129

What does the Psalmist say about affliction in verses 1 to 3?

What positive thing did he say about his affliction in verse 2?

What are ways you have been afflicted and yet those people and afflictions did not prevail against you?

Why did the Psalmist really have hope according to verse 4?

What does the Psalmist pray when it comes to his enemies?

What does this teach you about prayer?

Think about your own afflictions. Have you faced them with hope in God or with much anxiety and stress? Explain your answer.

PRAYER – For strength and faith in God in the midst of afflictions.

Day 3

Who is someone you know loves you? How do you know they love you? List all the things you can think of.

When it comes to love one of the pictures that comes to mind is a couple where the man is going off to war. He is giving his life for his country. And the woman waits for him to come home. She does not go off and find another man, but she waits. Why? She loves him. She knows Him. She has shared her life with him. She waits because she believes in all of her heart that he will come back to her. He is worth the wait. That is a simple picture of our relationship with God. No matter what we go through, good and bad, we wait for the Lord because we know He loves us and wants a relationship with us. Today we look at the Psalmist who waited on the Lord. Ask God to convince you of his truths from His word today.

Read Psalm 130

What are all the ways we see God's love in this Psalm? List them.

Pick one that encourages you as you think about your faith. How does that encourage you?

How do we see that God's love for us is greater than our love for Him?

Read Psalm 131

What does David say about being calm and quiet before the Lord?

Why is this hard for so many people to do?

David wanted his people to have hope in the Lord, not themselves or possessions or other gods. How does your life show that you are resting in and having hope in the Lord?

PRAYER – Thank God for his love; pray for hope and peace.

Day 4

What are you willing to sacrifice in order to serve and worship God?

What are you not so willing to give up? Why?

We like to be comfortable, especially when it comes to relationships. We sometimes will overlook offenses of Christian friends, or just suck it up when people offend us. We do this because we often value the relationship so much, that we don't want to risk losing it. It is good to value relationships, but what are we willing to compromise when it comes to our faith because we value that relationship so much. Today we get a little glimpse into the life of David to see what he gave up to serve God. Ask for a heart that understands God's Word today.

Read Psalm 132:1-10

Look at verse 1. What kinds of hardships did David face? List all that you can remember. (See 1 Samuel 19, 22, 23, 27, 30, 2 Samuel 12, 15, 18)

What vow did David make to God in verses 2 to 5?

How was remembering these two things used to help David and the people worship God?

What are the people praying for in verses 6 to 10? What desires of theirs are shown through their prayer?

Worshipping God in his place is so important. We see that in the life of David and his people. Think about your attitudes and actions. Does it show you to be someone who really desires to worship God? Explain.

PRAYER – Pray for your worship service this week.

Day 5

What is good about having a family that rules a country from generation to generation for all time?

What is bad about that?

If you have a good and kind family that is ruling a country, that loves the people, is just and provides for those looking to them, then I would guess most people would be favorable to that family ruling for all time. But if you have a family that is selfish, oppressive and looking to only line their own pockets with money and riches then I would guess, safely, that a lot of the people would love to see that king removed from power. In the second half of Psalm 132 we look at the idea of David's house ruling on the throne forever. Ask God for wisdom in applying his word to your life today.

Read Psalm 132:11-18

What promise did God make to David in verses 11 to 12? What were the conditions?

What ways did David's family mess up this promise?

In what person is this promise ultimately fulfilled in? How?

What does God promise to do for his people if they keep his covenant in verses 13 to 18?

Yet the people did not follow the Lord. They went their own way. They lost everything. Think about your own life. How are you doing in keeping God's covenant and commands? Explain.

PRAYER – Thank God for his promises; ask for help to follow God's commands and listen to all he commands us.

Day 6

Describe a time when you felt most unified to a group you have worked with. What did you do that unified you? How did that impact your life?

Unity is something that is so hard to attain. You get a group of people with their weaknesses and issues together and you have a recipe for dysfunction and turmoil. It takes people making a point to put aside their differences and focus on their commonalities. I am part of a youth leadership conference every summer. We put students into rooms with youth they don't know and groups they don't know and it is amazing to see the unity that is achieved in these groups in just a few days. They do projects together. They share and pray together. These groups of 12 to 15 students are unified after just one week and they are all so different. It is amazing to see. Today as you read the scriptures, pray God will grow and mature you in your faith.

Read Psalm 133

What does David call unity in verse 1? Why do you think that is?

When unity happens what does he compare it to in verses 2 and 3?

Try and think about that culture. Why would these be pretty good illustrations of how good unity is?

Do you feel unified with people from your church and youth group? Explain your answer.

Read Psalm 134

What does the Psalmist call us to do in verse 1 and 2?

What does he call God to do in verse 3?

How does this challenge you and your attitude as you approach worship whether Sunday mornings or at youth group?

PRAYER – Pray for unity in your church and youth group and for a good attitude as you approach worship with the body of Christ.

Day 7

List 10 things you can give praise to God for today.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

Too many times our prayer lives are dominated with asking for things. Give me good grades. Help my team to win the game. Help that boy or girl to like me and want to go out with me. Give me a car. Give me, give me, get me, help me, etc. Does that sound like your prayer life? The nice thing about reading through the Psalms is that it challenges us to think about our prayer lives. Ask God to challenge you in how you pray as you read His word.

Read Psalm 135:1-12

What is the command and who is the command directed at in verses 1 and 2?

How is this a command to you today?

Look at verses 3 to 12. Why are the reasons why we should praise God and give thanks to him? Write them all down.

Pick one of the reasons the Psalmist lists that means most to you. Why does it mean a lot to you?

Pick the verse that challenges you to praise God in a way you never really thought of before. Why did you never really think of that before?

What do we see about God we are to pray to & worship in these verses?

PRAYER – Praise God for 10 things you listed. Thank Him for who He is.

Day 8

What kinds of things does God give us that endure forever?

List 3 idols that we worship. Next to each one write how that does not endure forever.

1.

2.

3.

All men are wired to worship. The question is what do we worship. Money. Fame. Sports. Power. Relationships. The church. We worship so many things that disappoint. It is so important for us to identify the idols we worship so we can stop worshipping them and turn our attention to the real, true and living God who is eternal and will never fade away. Today the Psalmist challenges us in the object of our worship. Ask God to help you identify your own idols as you read the Bible today.

Read Psalm 135:13-21

What important things do we see about the character of God in verses 13 and 14?

What does the Psalmist tell us about idols in verses 15 to 18?

Look closely at verse 18, what do we need to see about people who worship idols? Why do we need to see this truth?

What command are we given in verses 19 to 21? Why?

List 3 idols in your own personal life or things that could become idols. Next to each one, write what you will do to make sure it gets removed as an idol or doesn't become an idol.

1.

2.

3.

PRAYER – Give the idols to God. Ask him to help you worship him alone.

Day 9

What are 5 things that show you God really loves you?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

God loves his children so very much. He shows that love in so many ways. Here are some of the ways we see the love of God: all the things he created in this world including us, family, school, friends, saving us through faith in Jesus, giving us spiritual gifts and talents, enabling us to serve him in his church, food, chocolate and the list goes on. I hope you can see God really loves us even though we go through difficult times in our lives. Ask God to help you see his love for you as you read through the first part of Psalm 136 today.

Read Psalm 136:1-12

What command does God give us because of his steadfast love in verses 1 to 3?

Do you give thanks to God on a regular basis? Why or why not?

We give thanks to God for his steadfast love is forever. Look at verses 4 to 12. What things did God do that should make us give thanks to him? List them all.

Now take two of the things listed in these verses. Write them below and then write how you have seen those specifically in your own life.

1.

2.

If God loves you this much, how should it change how you live, your attitudes, your life? Think hard about this.

PRAYER – Use these verse and let them guide you in prayer today.

Day 10

Write down 10 things to thank God for in your life.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

I don't know about you but I hear people complain more about their life and about God then I hear them giving thanks. It is so easy to focus on the things we don't have and the things that are going wrong instead of remembering all the ways God has blessed us and how he has provided for us. Many of those things we always have and so we take them for granted: home, school, family, friends, health, food, breathing, walking, running, and the list can go on and on. We need to be a thankful for people. God has done so much for us. Ask God to challenge you in your thankfulness as you consider what the Bible says today.

Read Psalm 136:13-26

What command does the Psalmist end with in verse 26? Why?

Why should we give thanks for the steadfast love of the Lord according to verses 13 to 25? List them all.

Now some of those were very specific to Israel but we can give thanks for them too, knowing God worked in that way in his people. Pick two of the verses from the section and write down how you can specifically give thanks to God in that way in your own life.

1.

2.

What are two hindrances to you regularly giving thanks to God in your prayer time? Next to each one write what you can do to tear down that hindrance.

1.

2.

PRAYER – About your 10 items from the beginning and the hindrances you wrote above.

Day 11

What are some hard things you have had to deal with in your life that left you not feeling too thankful or not wanting to sing praises to God? List 2 or 3. Next to each one describe the situation.

When I had to leave college because of finances. I did not want to read my Bible, go to church or sing any kinds of praises to God. I felt alone, betrayed, exiled and God's songs were not on my lips. There have been some ministry situations through my years in ministry, not many, where I was not really feeling like praising God. Today we see the Psalmist share some of his own struggles with worshipping God in the midst of hard situations in life. Ask God to help you understand His truths as you read the Bible today.

Read Psalm 137

What situation is the Psalmist dealing with that has him not wanting to sing praises in verses 1 to 4.

Why would being exiled be painful enough to not want to praise God?

What does the Psalmist ask God to do if he forgot to praise God even in the midst of difficulties in life?

This tells us we still need to praise God, even when life is hard. Why do you think that is so hard for people to do?

What attitude about God is revealed in us when we won't praise him because we face hard times? What are we saying God should do for us?

What does the Psalmist pray about the people who exiled him and his people in verses 7 to 9?

What do harsh verses like these show us about prayer?

PRAYER – About a hard situation in your life, that you would still worship God in the midst of it.

Day 12

What are times when people feel like God does not care about them and is about a million miles away?

How would you answer a person who said this to you about God?

I like the story of the *Prince and the Pauper*. In this story redone in many different ways, the prince becomes poor and hangs out among the regular people, seeing what they do, their poverty and how out of touch the rich people are to their struggles. The Pauper gets to experience the struggles of being a prince, that it is not all that easy of a lifestyle, privileged yes, but a different kind of struggle. They get a unique perspective on life. God is similar and yet very different. He became man and dwelt among us in the person of Christ. God knew our struggles even before sending Christ to come and be with us. We forget this so often. Today the Psalmist reminds us of this truth. Ask God to grow you in your faith through his word today.

Read Psalm 138

How would you summarize the character of God in one word or phrase from this Psalm? Explain why.

How do we see from this Psalm that God is very much above us?

How do we see in this same Psalm that God, though above us, also knows us well and is with us?

How do we see in this Psalm that it is God who takes initiative in saving us and providing for us?

I want you to think of 3 things you can say about God and what He is doing in your life based on the things David says in this Psalm.

1.

2.

3.

PRAYER – Pray the Psalm, giving thanks to him and for the things above.

Day 13

Who is someone that seems to know you better than you know yourself sometimes? How do you see that? What do they do to show that?

There was a movie called *What Women Want*. It was about a man who had a freak accident and could hear what women were thinking, including his one daughter. It enabled him to know likes and dislikes. It helped him to know when they were hurt or disappointed. He in a way knew them better than they knew themselves. Of course he uses the gift in a sinful and wrong way to get things he wants in life, to get ahead in his career and manipulate his daughter. All things many of us would do if we had that gift. God has this ability all the time and he uses it for good all the time. Ask God to encourage you through your study of the Bible today.

Read Psalm 139:1-12

What does God know according to verses 1 to 6?

How is that scary? How is that comforting?

What are we told about God in verses 7 to 10?

What does this say about the things we do in secret and think we have gotten away with?

How are these truths about God encouraging?

What do we see about the character of God in verses 11 and 12?

How can these verses encourage us in the difficulties of life?

PRAYER – Pray these verses, giving thanks to God for who He is.

Day 14

What do you like best about who you are? Why? What do you like least? Why?

1. Best –

2. Least –

I like that I am mostly a people person, that I don't have a hard time talking to people, interacting in public, getting up and speaking to people. That I like least is that I have to have things in order. It stressed me out when the house is not picked up or people are not on time, or that things are not done in a logical manner. It sometimes means I get a little angry with my family in this area. I don't like that. We all need to come to grips with the truth that God has wired us the way we are with great intention – physically, emotionally, socially. God did that. Pray God will help you see how special you are as you read the Bible today.

Read Psalm 139:13-24

Look at verses 13 to 16. What words and phrases in these verses show us that God made us exactly who we are?

Which ones are hard truths? Which are easy to hear?

How do these verses answer us when we say, “God, do you know what is happening in my life?”

How do we see in verses 17 and 18 that God so much higher and mightier and greater than us?

Summarize in verses 13 to 18 who God is to you.

What does David say about his enemies in verses 19 to 22?

Even after praying this about his enemies what does David ask God to do for him in verses 23 and 24? Why is this important for us all to do?

PRAYER – Give thanks for who you are, who God is and ask God to search your heart and show you your sin and wrong attitudes.

Day 15

In your opinion who is the evilest person or character of all time? What makes them evil?

When you see people who are evil, what thoughts or feelings are stirred up in you regarding those people?

My thoughts go to Emperor Nero of the Roman Empire. Here is a man who had many people killed even in his own family because he was afraid they were trying to get him. He had Christians intensely persecuted. He would have them tied up and slowly burned in his gardens for light. He had them thrown into the arena. He hated Christians. He burned Rome and blamed it on Christians so people would persecute them. He was a wicked and evil man. I bet there were plenty of Christians and non-Christians who wanted to kill him, who prayed God would wipe him out. It would be normal to think and feel these things. Today we see a pretty bold prayer of David's regarding his enemies. Ask God to teach you through His word today.

Read Psalm 140

What kinds of words or phrases does David use to describe his enemies?

How do we see here that King David is powerless to defeat these enemies and that he relied fully on the Lord? Why is this important for him and us?

When you think of David's prayer what did he believe about God?

How did David pray against his enemies? What does this teach you about prayer?

Lists 3 "enemies" of yours. Write next to their name how you can pray for them thinking about this Psalm.

1.

2.

3.

PRAYER – Pray for or “against” your enemies according to God's will.

Day 16

What is your biggest sin struggle? Why do you think you struggle with sin so much?

Until we are in heaven with the Lord, we are going to struggle with sin. We will experience victories over temptation, but we will also give into it at other times. I know because I see my sin. I experience great victories and seeing God use me in incredible ways. Then I find myself doing something I know is wrong. I hate it. It is a reminder to me that I don't have this. I need to continually ask God to help me in my struggle with sin. I don't always ask because I get comfortable in times of victory. Today's Psalm is a reminder of our need to call out to God to help us each and every day with our struggle with sin. Ask God to show you that truth in your life as you read his word today.

Read Psalm 141

Summarize David's plea in verses 1 and 2 in your own words.

What is David asking God to do for him in verses 3 and 4?

What do these two verses show us all about our struggle with sin?

According to verse 5, how does David express the importance of having a godly person call us out when we sin?

Who does that for you? Are you thankful for them? Why or why not?

What does David ask for in verses 8 to 10? List them. Circle the one you need to pray for more in your life. Why?

PRAYER – Pray verses 8 to 10 of Psalm 141.

Day 17

Describe a time when you felt like nobody noticed you, nobody seemed to care about you, that you felt all alone in the world. Did you get past that hard time? Why or why not?

In a commercial for Progressive Insurance, Jamie is talking to a guy who he trained who cannot remember his name. Yet all these other Progressive people come through and the trainee remembers everybody's name and even something about them. But he does not remember Jamie. He even remembers the slogan that Jamie trained him to know and memorize. But he does not remember Jamie. You can tell in a humorous way that Jamie is hurt. But how often do we feel like the people we thought were closest to us do not even really know us, that we are forgotten. David had a similar feeling as he hid in a cave with some of his men as Saul was seeking to kill him. That is the context in which David writes this Psalm. Ask God to encourage you with his word today.

Read Psalm 142

What kinds of things is David sharing with the Lord in verses 1 to 4?

How do we see mighty King David is a hurting and broken man?

Which of verses 1 to 4 express how you feel or have felt recently? How? Have you shared that with God? Why or why not?

Even in one of his darkest hours how do we see in verses 5 to 7 that David trusted God to work in his situation?

Is God your refuge? How do you show that in your life?

PRAYER – Ask God to be your refuge; confess your powerlessness to do anything on your own. Pray about your own difficult situations.

Day 18

When are times when you find yourself most thirsty? What do you do to quench that thirst? Why?

All people thirst for God. What ultimately quenches that thirst?

I have done plenty of sports in my life. I have found that there are certain drinks that do not quench the thirst I have after a good workout. Ice tea, lemonade, cool aid, they just make me more thirsty. But a good glass of water or a Gatorade type drink. Now they quench my thirst. We are all wired to worship, to thirst after God. The problem is many people are drinking a sugary drink like sports, money, relationships, entertainment and they are left still thirsty. As Christians we know what quenches our thirst, a relationship with Jesus Christ and seeking him daily. Sadly, many Christians run to things that leave us thirsty even when we know better. Ask God to teach you this truth as you read Psalm 143 today.

Read Psalm 143

In verses 1 and 2 what does David admit about him/us and God?

How do verses 3 to 6 show us that we all “thirst” for God and that only he can quench our thirst?

Do you thirst for God or other things? Explain.

What does David ask God for in the following verses? What does that look like in our everyday life?

Verse 7 –

Verse 8 –

Verse 9 –

Verse 10 –

Verse 11 –

Verse 12 –

PRAYER – Pray verses 7 to 12 and how they apply to your personal life.

Day 19

What are 3 words you would use to describe God. Why?

1.

2.

3.

We often forget that God is the Creator and we are the creatures. People who are Christians and those who are not often treat God as if we are in control and he is our genie in the bottle. He has to grant us our wishes and if he does not he is not a very good God. WE have such a warped view of God. Sadly, this happens within the church and not just outside of the church. Ask God to help you think about who this God is we get to serve as you read the scriptures today.

Read Psalm 144:1-8

List the characteristics David gives us of God in verses 1 and 2. Next to each attribute write down what that characteristic of God means.

Think about those characteristics and about your own life experience. Which characteristic encourages you most? Why?

What does David tell us about who we are as humans in verses 3 and 4?

Why should these verses humble us?

How does David show he is dependent on God in verses 5 to 8? Do you depend on God like this? Explain.

PRAYER – Give thanks to God for his character; pray you would learn or continue to depend on Him.

Day 20

How has God blessed you in your life? Take 2 or 3 minutes and list all that comes to mind.

Do you thank God regularly for these blessings? Why or why not?

We take for granted the ways in which God has blessed us: family, food, shelter, school, our physical bodies, the ability to learn, our physical abilities, friends, our church, the Bible and the list goes on and on. The truth of the matter is that often we take credit for some of these things, instead of giving the credit to God. We do not show a dependence on God but on our own selves. Ask God to help you see the blessing in your life you need to thank Him for as you read his word today.

Read Psalm 144:9-15

What did God do for David according to verses 9 and 10? What did this cause him to do?

What are ways in which God has delivered you and provided for you in your time of need?

What does David ask God for in verses 11 to 14?

This prayer shows a total dependence on God and not man. Why do we often not pray like this?

Verse 15 is a good wrap up of this Psalm. How is God your Lord? How would you answer that question?

PRAYER – Think about how God has blessed you. Give thanks to Him and ask Him to continue to bless you how he sees fit.

Day 21

If someone were to ask you, “why is your God so great?” What are 3 things you would tell them and why?

1.

2.

3.

We talk about things that we think are great. It might be that epic sports game that we got to watch and experience personally. For some it might be experiencing love from someone. For others it could be a book or movie that they go to read or watch. Yet for others it could be an experience out in creation like an eclipse or seeing the ocean for the first time. We will talk about things that we think are great. Do we talk about God like some of these things? Do we see God as a great God? Ask God to help you wrestle with this question as you read Psalm 145 today and tomorrow.

Read Psalm 145:1-13

What does David say is the measurement of his praise of God when he considers all that God did for him in verses 1 to 3? What does this show you about David's faith in God?

What do the following verses say about the greatness of God?

Verses 4 to 5 –

Verse 6 –

Verse 7 –

Verse 8 –

Verse 9 –

Verses 10-12 –

Verse 13 –

Look at verses 8 and 9. How have you see God's grace, mercy, patience, love and goodness in your life? List at least 3 things.

PRAYER – Pray verses 4 to 13, focusing on verses 8 and 9.

Day 22

What is something you own, that is precious, that you want to preserve so that it lasts a long time? What would you do to preserve it?

In the movie *Frequency*, John a cop from the present is able to talk to his Father Frank 30 years in the past through a hand radio. Together they are trying in past and future trying to catch a serial killer. Frank in the past gets jumped by the killer who left his fingerprints on his wallet. John in the future says to his dad to wrap up the wallet good and put it under a loose board in the window seat so it won't be touch for 30 years. John goes and finds the wallet so he can run the fingerprint and figure out the identity of the killer. They do and then get their man. That was something precious to find a really bad guy and they want to great lengths to preserve the wallet. God preserves His people because we are precious to him. Ask God to help you see that truth as you study the Psalms today.

Read Psalm 145:14-21

What does each verse tell us about how much God loves and provides for His people? Write down what that might look like in your everyday life.

Verse 14 –

Verse 15 –

Verse 16 –

Verse 17 –

Verse 18 –

Verse 19 –

Verse 20 –

Which of these verses encourages you most when you think about the struggles of living out life here?

As David thinks about all these things, the whole chapter, what is his reaction in verse 21? Is that your reaction? Why or why not?

PRAYER – All these verses and what they mean for your walk with Christ.

Day 23

What are 5 ways in which every person you know could potentially disappoint you at some point in your life?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Part of being human is that we are sinful. We will disappoint people because of that sin. We will break a trust. We will do something that is not expected of us in a negative way. We will put ourselves ahead of the other people in our lives. It is good to trust people, we need to try, but we need to know that every person in our life, due to their sin, has the potential to hurt us in some way. That is why we need to trust the Lord with all of our hearts as Proverbs 3 says. Ask God to teach you and guide you as you read His word today.

Read Psalm 146

We are commanded to praise the Lord. What do we see about the praise in verse 2?

What can you praise the Lord for today? List 3 things.

Who are we not to trust in verses 3 and 4? Why not according to those same verses?

Look at your life, who do you trust more than God? List all that come to mind. Next to each one write why you trust them more than God.

Verse 5 says we are blessed if we trust in the Lord. According to verses 6 to 10, what reasons are we given as to why we should trust the Lord?

Pick one of those reasons that means the most to you. Write it down. Why does it mean so much to you?

PRAYER – Take time to praise God for who he is like in this Psalm.

Day 24

Describe a time when you were brokenhearted. How did you move on from that hurt and pain?

I can remember really liking a girl when I first got into ministry. We seemed to click in so many ways. But there was one issue of morality that came up that she could not give up and she broke up with me. I was hurt. At that time, I thought she was the one. I did not eat or sleep for days. I had a broken heart. I got past it by looking to the Lord. I realized I had made an idol of a relationship and I was holding on too tightly. I was not trusting Him with my relationships. I was trying to make them happen. I saw my sin but I also saw that only he could heal my broken heart. And that he did. Ask God to encourage your heart as you read and study the Bible today.

Read Psalm 147:1-11

List all the things these verses say about the character and work of God.

Now pick 2 traits. How have you seen God work in your life the way the Psalmist writes in these verses?

1.

2.

What does God not delight in according to verse 10?

Look at verse 11. What does he delight in?

Do you have hope in God's steadfast love? Do you fear the Lord?
Explain your answer.

PRAYER – Ask God to grow you in hope of his love, and teach you how to fear Him.

Day 25

Describe someone who is pretty powerful. What do they do, or not do, to show that power?

In the latest installment of *The Avengers*, Thanos the bad guy, collects all these infinity stones to set in his gauntlet which gives him unlimited power over all things in the universe. He can go back in time. He is able to kill half of all living things in the universe and he does. He is pretty powerful and makes all the avengers look pretty small. He seems all powerful. But is he? It is only a movie. As Christians we have the opportunity to serve God, the one who is all powerful. There is none who can hold back his hand or question what he does. He gives life. He takes life. He creates all things out of nothing. That is power. Ask God to show you his power and might as you read His word today.

Read Psalm 147:12-20

Look at verses 12 to 18. List everything the Psalmist tells us about God's power.

Think of 5 things you would add to this list, that show how all powerful God is.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

What does verse 19 say about God's Word?

How do we see that the Jews were special according to verse 20?

That means the Bible is pretty special. It shows us who God is as we read. But it also shows how special we are as Christians to be able to read and study it. Do you love God's word? Why or why not?

PRAYER – Ask God to help you read and pray more often.

Day 26

Other than God, who is someone you have praised, not in a worshipful way? What did you say about them? Why? Think of 2 people.

1.

2.

I know I have praised my Campus Life Director from high school. God used Kevin to encourage me in my faith and to pray for and reach out to people in my school. God used him to solidify my calling to go into youth ministry. I have given praise for John who volunteered with my high school youth group. He came alongside me and encouraged me during freshman year of college when I was questioning whether I should be in ministry. He had me do ministry with him and he helped me wrestle through tough questions in my life. There is always someone we can praise because of how God used them in our lives. Ultimately though, we praise God. Today we look at this command to give praise to Him. Ask God to teach you and grow you in your faith today.

Read Psalm 148

Who is to praise God in verses 1 to 6? Why according to verse 6?

Who is to praise God according to verses 7 to 12? List them all.

Look at verses 13 and 14, why should they praise the Lord?

Why do you think God **COMMANDS** us to praise Him? What does he get out of it? What do we get out of it?

So take a minute and write down all you can think of that you can praise God for today.

PRAYER – Take all you wrote down above and give praise to God.

Day 27

What is something you find pleasurable? Why?

I will give you a list of three things I find pleasurable. My first one is a good movie, outside and a star lit night with a great sound system. Second, going on a date with my wife almost anywhere and reconnecting on things that aren't related to work and the children. Lastly, watching my New York Yankees play baseball and of course winning. We all find something pleasurable in our lives. Do you know that God takes pleasure in His people, Christians? He does. That is pretty awesome to think about. Ask God to convict you of his truths as you read them today.

Read Psalm 149

What 3 commands does God give his people in verses 1 to 3?

What are 2 things you can say to really rejoice in your King, Jesus?

God takes pleasure in us. That is awesome. How should we react according to verses 4 and 5? Why?

We are to praise God and also wield a two edged sword, which is super sharp. What do verses 6 to 9 say we are to do with that sword?

God entrusts us to pass judgment. We have authority. What does that show us about the relationship we have with God?

Praise the Lord! List 3 things to praise him for today.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

PRAYER – Prayers of praise from what you listed above.

Day 28

There has been a lot about giving praise to God in our study this month. I want you to list 10 things you want to praise God for when it comes to your faith and his word.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

We have so much to praise God for. We should be able to fill the pages of this devotional book with all the things to we could praise God for. I hope that is true for you. So it is appropriate to end the study of this portion of Psalms with a Psalm of praise to God our Father, Creator, Savior and Friend. Ask God to put his praises on your lips as you study the Bible.

Read Psalm 150

Summarize this Psalm in one sentence.

What does he say about praising him in verses 1 to 5?

What are two of his mighty deeds you can praise him for today?

1.

2.

What are two great things about God you can praise him for today?

1.

2.

Why should “everything” that has breath praise the Lord?

Do you? Explain.

PRAYER – Pray prayers of praise as you look at all your answers above.