

Summer in the Psalms (2026)
Psalm 16
Experiencing God

This is my message written prior to being preached. Please excuse the bullet point format and any grammatical mistakes. This is meant to be spoken.

Introduction

A MIKTAM OF DAVID.

¹ Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

*² I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord;
I have no good apart from you."*

*³ As for the saints in the land, they are the excellent ones,
in whom is all my delight.*

*⁴ The sorrows of those who run after another god shall multiply;
their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out
or take their names on my lips.*

*⁵ The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup;
you hold my lot.*

*⁶ The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;
indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.*

*⁷ I bless the LORD who gives me counsel;
in the night also my heart instructs me.*

*⁸ I have set the LORD always before me;
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.*

*⁹ Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices;
my flesh also dwells secure.*

*¹⁰ For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol,
or let your holy one see corruption.*

*¹¹ You make known to me the path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy;
at your right hand are pleasures forevermore. (Psalms 16)*

- Now if you were with us last week, you'll notice some similarities between **Psalm 63 and 16**.
- And this shouldn't be surprising since both Psalms were written **by David**.
- **And** both focus on his relationship with God.

- However, the emphasis in Psalm 63 was how David (a man after God's own heart)...
- responded to God.
- Remember, he sought after, beheld, received the love of, worshipped, was satisfied by,
- meditated on, clung to and trusted God.

- And while in **Psalm 16**, we'll also see some of David's responses to God,
- The emphasis here is **David's experience of God?**
- And that's what I want us to focus on today.
- As we walk through **this Psalm**, I want us to see how David experienced God,
- Allowing his experience to instruct and motivate us in our experience of God.

- We'll see how who God was in David's life,
- And we will ask the question, is this how we are experiencing God in our lives.
- Now normally when you read or study anything including scripture it's better to start at the beginning.
- But sometimes it's helpful to look at the end first, to know where you are going first.
- And that's the case in **Psalm 16** because David is leading his readers to his ultimate experience of God found in **verse 11**.
- **There he writes to God...**

11 ...in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore. (Psalms 16:11)

- The entire Psalm is building to this **wonderful conclusion**.
- Here David speaks both of **his current and eternal experience of God**.
- Currently, in this world, as he spends time in God's presence,
- **He experiences great joy and pleasure.**
- Therefore, he longs to experience more of God,
- We see this also in **Psalm 27** where he writes...

4 One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple. (Psalms 27:4)

- To gaze on the beauty of the LORD, to inquire in his temple, to be in God's presence was the One thing David desired above all else.
- Why, because there he experienced fullness of joy and great pleasures.
- And David knew that this current joy and pleasure was only a beginning,
- **a taste**, of what was to come.
- For, throughout all eternity, he would experience fullness of joy and **pleasures**

forevermore.

- So, again Psalm 16 11 tells us **David's ultimate experience of God both now and throughout eternity**.
- And for us the question is this...is **verse 11 our experience**?
- Are we experiencing joy and pleasure in our relationship with the Lord now,
- and do we look forward to a multiplied experience of God in eternity?
- If your answer is yes, then allow **Psalm 16** to deepen that experience of God.
- To give you direction and encouragement in your pursuit of joy in God's presence.
- **But if your answer is no**, then allow **Psalm 16** to be **a beginning point**.
- Allow it to **jump start your desires** and move you to begin **pursuing joy and pleasure in God's presence**.

- And how do we do that?
- Well, I believe one of the greatest barriers to experiencing joy in the LORD is not personally embracing and experiencing WHO God truly is in our lives?
- We tend think of God in very large and sometimes distant terms
- He is the one who is **out there, He is omnipresent, omnipotent, omniscient.**
- He is the creator of **the universe and the savior of Humanity.**
- And all those things are true, and we need to think about and believe those truths.
- But they don't speak to **our personal relationship** with the LORD.
- They don't speak of **who he is in our lives**, our experience of HIM.
- **And that's a problem...**
- Because we can (and many do) believe all the right truths about God and never experience Him in a personal way.
- They never experience **the fullness of Joy that can only be found in Him.**
- But in Psalm 16 David is writing about his **personal experience with the LORD.**
- He's praising God for Who God is and what he has done in His LIFE.
- So, let's walk through these verses, looking at David's Experiences of God.
- All of which lead to **fullness of Joy and pleasures in His Presence.**
- And then we will ask, is this **how I am experiencing God?**
- And the first experience David addresses is...

1. Experience God as Your Protector

- David begins with a prayer. He cries out to the LORD... **Verse 1**

¹ Preserve (guard or protect) ***me, O God... (Psalm 16:1)***

- David, by praying **for protection**, shows that **he believes God cares for him.**
- You don't ask for help from people **who you don't believe will help you.**
- David **trusts that God is looking out for him.**
- And why does he trust God to protect him?
- The answer is found at the end of **verse 1.**

¹ Preserve me, O God, for (because) in you I take refuge. (Psalm 16:1)

- David is saying that God is his place of refuge.
- God is where he goes to find protection.
- Therefore, he can cry out to God for protection.
- It is really quite simple and logical.
- **God is the protector of those who go to Him for protection.**
- Those who trust in Him to care for them.

- **So, the question is are you experiencing God as your protector?**
- Is God your refuge, is God where you go in times of trouble.
- Do you cry out to Him for help, **for deliverance?**
- Do you trust him to get **you through the trials of this life?**
- Do you trust that he can and will **turn those trials to joy?**
- Or do you go someplace else **for protection.**
- Do you rely on yourself, do you rely on the world?
- Is God only an afterthought when all other protectors fail.
- AND David says that it's when you turn to God, when you trust God as your protector,
- When you rest in the security, he provides that **you will have fullness of joy and pleasures forevermore.**
- **So, first Experience God as Your Protector**
- **then Second...**

2. Experience God as Your Ruler

- **Verse 2...**

² I say to the LORD... (Psalms 16:2)

- LORD in all caps is the Hebrew word **Yahweh**, it's God's name.
- It comes from the time when Moses (in Exodus 3), at the burning bush asked God what his name was.
- And God basically said my name is **I AM**, Hebrew **Yahweh**.
- **Basically, what God was saying is that he is the Self-Existent One.**
- **He is he was and he always will be, I AM!**
- And David says, I say to the LORD (**Yahweh**)

"You are my Lord..."

- Notice the second **Lord** is not all Caps; it is the Hebrew **Adonai**.
- It's another name for God in the OT and it means **Master or Ruler**.
- David is saying that he experiences **Yahweh (the great I AM) as his Ruler.**
- And what that means is David will **obey Yahweh above all others.**
- He trusts **Yahweh with every aspect of his life.**
- He believes **Yahweh cares for him and wants what's best for him.**
- So, the question is... Are you experiencing **Yahweh** as your ruler?
- **Because (follow the logic)**
- There's no possible way you can experience **fullness of joy and pleasures forevermore** in His presence unless you allow him **and invite him** to be the **ruler (leader) of your life.**
- That's the only way he can **lead you into fullness of joy and pleasures forevermore.**

- So, I would make this bold statement,
- “If you’re not experiencing the Joy of the LORD in your life”
- If there is no pleasure in your relationship with God.
- then you have not allowed the LORD to be the ruler of your life.
- But that does not have to continue.
- Today you can come to him and submit to his authority over you.
- You can give yourself completely to him, completely to serving him and doing his will.
- And then you can begin to experience the joy and pleasure he offers.
- **So second, David says Experience God as Your Ruler”**
- **Then third...**

3. Experience God as Your Good

- **Verse 2** continues...

² ...I have no good apart from you.” (Psalms 16:2)

- That’s a bold statement...
- Apart from, **outside of**, the LORD I experience **no good thing**.
- Nothing in David’s life, **in the world**, was good apart from God.
- Now that doesn’t mean **that nothing else was good...**
- In fact, in **verse 3** he writes...

³ As for the saints in the land, they are the excellent ones, in whom is all my delight. (Psalm 16:3)

- The saints in the land are excellent...They are good
- They bring David delight.
- And the reason they are good is because they reflect the LORD.
- They are saints (holy ones)
- They follow the ways of the LORD
- And when David **sees the LORD in them** that brings Him delight.
- David experiences **the goodness of God through God’s people**.
- So, when he says he has no good apart from the LORD.
- He means that all other goods (like the saints) are only good because they reflect God’s goodness.
- **This is true for all the good we experience in this life.**
- When you eat a good meal, it’s only good because God created the ingredients
- And God gave you **either the money to afford it or the skill to make it**
- And he also **gave you the taste buds to appreciate it**.

- This applies to all truly good things.
- They are good because they show (they reflect) the goodness of God.
- They point **to God as our greatest good**.
- Then in verse **4**, David emphasizes the goodness found in God by contrasting it with the sorrows found in other gods.

4 The sorrows of those who run after another god shall multiply; their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names on my lips. (Psalm 16:4)

- In other words:
- Everything good comes from and is found in God,
- Therefore, everything not from God, **outside of God, will only bring sorrow**.
- David says that it would be crazy to turn away from the **ultimate source of good** and go after gods that only bring sorrow.
- He declares that he would never do that, He won't even take their names on his lips.
- **There is no good in these false Gods.**
- So the question is...
- **Are you experiencing God as your source of good?**
- Or do you seek good apart from Him?
- Do you seek good in other gods, other people who don't reflect the Lord...
- Or even in sinful things that are opposed to God.
- Because until you recognize and live in the truth that there is **no good apart from God**
- That all **good comes from and is found in Him**.
- Then you will not experience fullness of Joy and pleasures forevermore that he offers.
- **So third, David says Experience God as your Good**
- **Then fourth...**

4. Experience God as Your Satisfaction

- **Verse 5 begins...**

5 The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup... (Psalm 16:5a)

- We saw this last week in verse 5 of Psalm 63...

5 My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food... (Psalms 63:5)

- As in **Psalm 63**, here in **Psalm 16**, David compares his experience with the Lord and his experience with food and drink.
- A portion of food and a cup to drink.
- These are our most basic needs; they are the things that satisfy our cravings.
- **And David says as for me I choose to be satisfied by the LORD.**

- If there are a hundred portions of excellent food and drink spread out on the table,
- I would choose the Lord over each one.
- **He is my choice** because **nothing satisfies** the way he does.
- He is my protector, my ruler my Good...
- Therefore, I choose and trust the LORD to bring me **satisfaction**.
- So, the question is... are you experiencing God as your satisfaction.
- How do you choose to satisfy your cravings, your desires, your needs and wants?
- Do you seek satisfaction in other things, the things of this world?
- Things that can never satisfy.
- Because they're not meant to, they can't.
- We were made for relationship with God.
- Therefore, only God can bring true satisfaction into your life.
- Even the good things of this world are only meant to point to Him,
- He is the ultimate source of satisfaction.
- Therefore, he is the source of our fullness of joy and pleasures forevermore.

**So, fourth David says, Experience God as your Satisfaction.
Then fifth...**

5. Experience God as Your Sovereign Lord

- **Verse 5 continues...**

...you hold my lot

- The word **lot** refers to the practice of **casting lots** as a way to **determine an outcome**.
- Remember the **disciples cast lots** to see who would replace **Judas** as one of the disciples.
- So, what David is saying is this...
- When the lot is cast whatever the outcome.... **it comes from the hand of God**.
- **God decides**.
- God is **sovereign in my life**,
- He is in control of my life, **and I accept what happens as from HIM**.
- The same LORD who is David's protector and ruler and good and satisfaction.
- Is Sovereign over his life...
- **So that in verse 6 he** continues...

⁶ The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places... (Psalms 16:6)

- The "lines" here can refer to **borders between lands**.
- The **Rio Grande** is a line between **US and Mexico**.
- But these lines are **probably more figurative**.

- David seems to be saying that the boundaries of his life are placed there by the Sovereign LORD...
- God has sovereignly placed boundaries in David's life that keep him in pleasant (**pleasure filled same word as verse 11**) places.
- And I would submit that God puts those boundaries in place with his word.
- **Psalm 119:11 says...**

11 I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. (Psalms 119:11)

- The word provides boundaries that we might not sin, that we might stay in pleasant places.
- The word keeps us at **God's right hand where there are pleasures forevermore.**
- David then adds at the end of **verse 6...**

indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance

- This is David affirming God's **Goodness and His Sovereignty.**
- God holds the LOT; he makes the **lines fall where they may.**
- And the result will be for my Good, **I will receive a beautiful inheritance.**
- And what is that inheritance? **It's God HIMSELF.**
- That what **Psalm 16:11 Declares...**
- Our beautiful inheritance is **fullness of joy and pleasures forevermore in the presence of our Sovereign LORD.**
- So, the question is... are you experiencing God as your **sovereign Lord?**
- Do you accept what he **allows or puts** in your life as from Him?
- Do you trust in his Word to guide direct and put boundaries in your life?
- Because if we don't accept what he brings into our lives,
- if we don't trust that he is our protector, our ruler, our good and satisfaction...
- Then when difficulties come, we will rebel against him, we will no longer trust him.
- We will stray from the boundaries he has put in place for our Good.
- And we will lose out on the fullness of joy and pleasures forevermore found only in his presence.
- We will lose out on the **beautiful inheritance that he provides.**

So, fifth David says, if you want fullness of joy and pleasures forevermore then Experience God as Your Sovereign Lord.

Then Sixth...

6. Experience God as Your Counselor

- **Verse 7**

7 I bless the LORD who gives me counsel... (Psalm 16:7)

- David says he blesses the LORD,
- And as we **saw last week** that word bless literally means to kneel before.
- Nothing blesses the Lord more than when his people submit to Him.
- And David submits, he kneels before, worships and praises the LORD.
- Why?
- Because the LORD gives Him counsel.
- When David is unsure of what to do, or how **to handle a situation**.
- Where does he turn? He turns to the LORD.
- And again, **Scripture is Key here**.
- Psalm **119:24** says.

24 Your testimonies are my delight they are my counselors. (Psalm 119:24)

- The LORD gives counsel **through his testimonies, through his word**.
- Then at the end of **verse 7** David adds...

in the night also my heart instructs me.

- The Lord gives David counsel, **so how does his heart instruct him**.
- His heart instructs him because he has hidden God's word in his heart.
- A few weeks ago, **Dr. Watson** spoke on **Psalm 1**, where the Psalmist (Maybe David) wrote in **verses 1 and 2...**

1 Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; 2 but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. (Psalms 1:1-2)

- Whether David wrote this or not, he was a man who delighted in the law of the LORD, the word of God, he meditates on it day and night.
- Therefore, his heart is full of God's word.
- His heart instructs him in the ways of the LORD.
- And it's that counsel, those instructions, that lead David into the LORD presence where he finds **fullness of joy and pleasures forevermore**.
- So, the question is... Are you Experiencing God as Your Counselor?
- Do you turn to his word for instruction and counsel?
- Do you meditate on his word day and night?
- Or do you take counsel from yourself (your own mind) or someone else...
- Do you follow those in the world who claim to be wise?
- Who claim to know better than God?
- The choice is yours, but know this:
- Only by following **God's counsel and instruction will you find fullness of joy and pleasures forevermore**.

So, sixth David says, Experience God as Your Counselor.
Then Seventh...

7. Experience God as Your Confidence

- In **verse 1** David asks for protection that God would preserve Him.
- Now, in **verse 8** he doesn't ask, He confidently *affirms*,

⁸ I have set the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken. (Psalm 16:8)

- It seems that by reminding himself of who God is in his life.
- **By setting the Lord always before me...**
- By remembering that God is his protector, his ruler, his good, his satisfaction and his sovereign.
- By setting these truths about the LORD before him,
- **his prayer to be preserved has turned to a confident assertion that He will not be shaken.**
- He has moved from asking to confidently affirming.
- And from confidently affirming he moves to rejoicing
- **Verse 9...**

⁹ Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices... (Psalm 16:9)

- Because of his confidence in the LORD his heart is glad...
- His whole being rejoices.
- He finds fullness of joy and pleasures forever more.
- So the question is... are you **Experiencing God as your confidence?**
- Or is your confidence in yourself, your talents, your education, your job?
- Is it in your financial security?
- Is it in other people?
- Because all other things we put our confidence in **will eventually fail.**
- Only the **LORD will come through every time.**
- Only the **LORD can put us on solid ground where we will not be shaken.**
- Where there is fullness of joy and pleasures forever more.

So, 7th David says Experience God as your confidence.
And 8th...

8. Experience God as Your Salvation

- This is our final point.
- This is at the heart of our fullness of Joy and pleasures forevermore.
- This is the heart of who God must be in our lives.
- It starts in the last part of **verse 9** and goes through the first part of **verse 11**:

⁹ ...my flesh also dwells secure. ¹⁰ For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption. ¹¹ You make known to me the path of life... (Psalms 16:9-11)

- I think **this points back to what David** was praying for in verse one.
- When he said, **“Preserve me, O God,”**
- Ultimately, he meant: Don’t abandon my soul to Sheol (the grave, eternal death).
- Preserve me, **make me secure in you.**
- Make known to me the path of life (not death) so that I can be with you where there is fullness of joy and pleasures forevermore.
- David is confident in **the LORD that Death** is not the end of his relationship with God.
- The soul will not **remain in the grave.**
- There is **life after death**, there is salvation.
- So, he declares with great confidence, **the LORD will save me from death....**
- Therefore...

In your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore. (Psalm 16:11)

- David looks forward to an eternity in God’s presence.
- He looks forward to experiencing fullness of joy and pleasures forevermore.
- Why?
- Because of his experience with God in his life.
- God is his protector, his ruler, his good and satisfaction.
- God is his sovereign Lord, his counselor and his confidence.
- Therefore, David knows death will not keep him from “the *fullness* of joy in God’s presence; the beautiful inheritance of *eternal* pleasures at his right hand.”
- **David knew that God alone was the source of his Salvation.**
- And if we dig a little deeper, we’ll see that **he knew more than we might think about how that salvation would be provided.**
- Look back at **verse 10...**

¹⁰ For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption. (Psalms 16:10)

- Who is **this holy one** who won’t see corruption?
- At **first glance** we might think David is talking about himself.
- But if we dig a **little deeper**, we’ll see something else.
- David (the KING) had been given a promise.

- The prophet Nathan came to him and in **2 Samuel 7:12-13** said this:

¹² When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³ He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. (2 Samuel 7:12-13)

- So, David knew that he would die and lie in the grave like his fathers,
- He knew he would see corruption.
- *but* he also knew that God would give one of his descendants his throne.
- And this descendant's kingdom would have no end.
- In other words, David knew that one of his offspring (a human) **would become king**.
- But that offspring **would live forever**. He would defeat death.
- That's who David is **writing about in verse 10**...
- That's the **holy one** that would not see corruption.
- And who is that **Holy One, that would not see corruption? Jesus**.
- And you don't have to **take my word for it**.
- In **Acts Chapter 2** the **Apostle Peter** in his **first sermon** quotes **Psalm 16:10-11**

²⁷ For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption. ²⁸ You have made known to me the paths of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence. (Acts 2:27-28)

- And then he says...

²⁹ "Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰ Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, ³¹ he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. ³² This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. (Acts 2:29-32)

- Peter says, David died, David's body is still in the grave, he saw corruption.
- **But David was a prophet.**
- He knew that God would set one of his descendants on the throne.
- And so, he spoke about **the resurrection of Christ**.
- That Christ would **not be abandoned to Hades**, nor would his flesh see corruption.
- David knew that one of his offspring would be the **Holy One** who would not see corruption
- But instead, would defeat sin and death and would provide his salvation.
- **David would be preserved eternally by Christ.**
- Jesus is this descendant of David who died for our sins, who was buried but on the third day,
- And who rose from the Dead.
- Jesus is the Holy one who did not see corruption but instead defeated sin and death that through him we might be saved.

- Jesus threw the door wide open to... fullness of joy and pleasures forever more in the presence of God.
- **Jesus is the source of salvation.**
- **So, our final question is... Have you experienced Jesus as your source of salvation?**
- Have you trusted in Jesus to be your **Lord and Savior**?
- Or are you trusting in something or someone else.
- Are you trusting in your own efforts to save you?
- Are you confident in your ability to earn your way to God?
- Or are you trusting in the Holy One who did not see corruption.
- Are you trusting in Jesus Christ alone?
- Do you have a personal relationship with HIM.
- **Who is Jesus in your LIFE!**
- Can you say he is your protector, your ruler, your good, your satisfaction, your sovereign Lord,
- your counselor, your confidence and therefore YOUR Salvation?
- If your answer is yes...**then Psalm 16:11** is for you...
- You like David, can today and will for all eternity experience Jesus...
- And you can praise him **as David did saying...**

...in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

- **But if your answer is no**
- Then **verse 11** does not yet apply to you.
- And unless something changes, you cannot now and will never experience fullness of joy or pleasures forevermore in his presence.
- In fact, the opposite will be true.
- You will experience fullness of sorrow and destruction forevermore away from his presence.
- So let today be the day that something changes.
- And that something is – **How you experience God, How you experience Jesus Christ.**
- Today you can take **Psalm 16** (a Psalm of David) and make it a prayer for yourself.
- You can pray and believe and begin to act on the truth that JESUS CHRIST is
- Your protector, your ruler, your good, your satisfaction, your sovereign Lord, your counselor,
- Your confidence and most importantly your salvation.
- Because it is only when you truly Experience Jesus **Christ** as these things in your life that you will begin to experience fullness of joy and pleasures forevermore, He provides!!!

Would you pray with me