**Day 22 - January 29th, 2023**

[**Read: Psalm 24**](https://www.bible.com/bible/116/PSA.24.NLT) (click here)

*Written by: Jim Carlson*

David writes in Psalms 24:1-2, “The earth and everything in it, the world and its inhabitants, belong to the Lord; for He laid its foundation on the seas and established it on the rivers.” Many books in the Bible testify that God is the owner of all things.

David describes God as King, Mighty, King of Glory, and The Lord of Hosts. What a great and powerful God we serve! Those who run to him are those who have clean hands and a pure heart. They will be declared righteous by God of his salvation. Jesus has made this possible for us through faith, resulting in righteousness.

“The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact expression of his nature, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.” Hebrews 1:3

As I reflect on the last four years, the world has been flipped upside down through various worldwide hardships. David reminds us of who is in control. We can run to our God and King for comfort, security, safety, healing, strength, and hope.

***Prayer: Thank you, Jesus, for your sacrifice for my sins. Thank you for being my King and Savior from the beginning with God. I declare that you are my Mighty King of Glory. I am thankful that I may run to you with any trouble and hardship, and you will give me peace.***

**Day 23 - January 30th, 2023**

[**Read: Psalm 50**](https://www.bible.com/bible/116/PSA.50.NLT) (click here)

*Written by: Amy Haley*

Have you ever tried to give a gift to someone who has everything they need and can buy anything they want? It’s challenging.

Psalm 50 describes a God who appears as though He’d be impossible to please. He is the perfection of beauty. He holds all power and authority. He knows everything… about everything. He owns every beast of the forest and the cattle on a thousand hills. Indeed, the entire world belongs to Him! So, what gift could we offer that He would admire and enjoy?

Psalm 50:23 says, “Those who sacrifice thank offerings honor me, and to the blameless, I will show my salvation.” God really desires for His creation to continually thank Him, publicly and privately, for who He is and what He has done for us. He also wants us to love His words and faithfully do what He says. These two gifts are far more precious to Him than anything flashy that money can buy.

This is good news because it means that what God wants most from His children is something anyone who loves Him can give. How will you honor and appreciate God today in word and deed? He is worthy!

***Father, I recognize that I don’t have to impress you to be loved, but I want to honor you with my words and deeds today out of a heart of gratefulness. You are worthy.***

**Day 24 - January 31st, 2023**

[**Read: Psalm 51**](https://www.bible.com/bible/116/PSA.51.NLT) (click here)

*Written by: Connie Borth*

While Psalm 50 teaches us God desires our sacrifice of thanksgiving, Psalm 51 teaches us God desires our sacrifice of a broken and repentant heart. To repent is to know our sin. “We often remain so personally unaware that we do not even recognize sin when it happens.” (Wilson 2002) David was getting along in his sin of adultery until Nathan revealed it to David. Nathan knew, and God knew. It was time to come clean and be made clean.

David responds with this Real Life Prayer of confession by saying, “Surely you desire truth in the inner parts; you teach me wisdom in the inmost place”. (Psalm 51:6, NIV) Psychologist Dr. Henry Cloud says we have several responses when the truth comes to us. How we respond to truth reveals our character. When the truth comes to us…

1. A wise person adjusts their life to the truth. (repentance)
2. A foolish person goes on ignoring the truth. (ignorance)
3. An evil person tries to manipulate the truth to their lives. (arrogance)

Truth can hurt. When it comes our way, we can choose how to respond. When we choose confession, we choose to be taught the way of wisdom. The temptation is to keep covering up our sin, not being willing to bring it to light or willing to face the hard road of consequences that come with being honest. God honors the sacrifice of a broken and repentant heart.

We must remember that the victory on the other side will be worth opening the door of confession. God stands ready to create pure hearts, renew steadfast spirits, and restore the joy of salvation to anyone willing to confess. Spend some time in prayer today asking, “How am I responding when the truth comes my way? Am I allowing others to be honest with me about me? Is my heart moldable and teachable?”

***Prayer - Father, show me the truth about myself. Today I open the door to your wisdom as I confess, \_\_\_\_\_\_. From the inside out, please give me a spirit that longs to learn from your truth. Restore the joy of my salvation.***

**Day 25 - February 1st, 2023**

[**Read: Psalm 130**](https://www.bible.com/bible/116/PSA.13.NLT) (click here)

*Written by: Connie Borth*

Welcome to day 25! We have been so encouraged by those of you following this daily prayer guide. I pray this has been helpful to you as we have started 2023 together. God changes us as we PRAY FIRST…seeking God before we act!

Today we close our 25 Days of Prayer by reading Psalm 130. It is wonderful news that God meets our cries of confession with forgiveness. He doesn’t keep a record of our sins. With God, there is forgiveness. Our actions of service are a response of gratitude towards our merciful God.

February is a month of action for us as a church as we kick off our series called “A Heart For…” We will be talking about acting in love with a heart for our COMMUNITY, a heart for our NEIGHBOR, and a heart for our WORLD. We hope you find a way to get connected through serving in February.

Reread Psalm 130 as you consider the opportunities we have before us. Reflect upon what a joy it is to get to extend the mercy of God to others.

***Prayer - God, our souls wait upon you. Thank you for teaching us to live wisely, praise, grieve, and confess. We want to see you move powerfully in our community and world. Bring about full redemption to our world. Please help us to keep seeking you first as we wait upon you!***