

Sermon Title: Psalms: From the Heart, Part XXI 7.19.2026

Themes: The power of God and the posture of His people. Live-streaming and sermon notes are at trinitycg.org.

Focus Question: How's your spiritual posture?

Introduction: Psalm 18 is one of the great victory songs in Scripture. David is looking back after God delivered him from the enemies. Psalm 18 feels like a battlefield testimony wrapped in worship. It is a powerful hymn of praise and thanksgiving in which David declares God to be his deliverer, protector, and source of strength in times of trouble. It shows his profound gratitude for God's intervention during moments of extreme danger and distress.

Sermon Points:

1. Righteousness matters. Psalm 18:20-24. David desired clean hands. Perfection is not the point; sincerity is.

A life aligned with God has spiritual authority. Spiritual compromise weakens our confidence before God. These verses don't teach sinless perfection or salvation by works. They describe a life marked by obedience, integrity, and wholehearted devotion that God graciously acknowledges and rewards. 1. Righteousness positions us to receive God's instructions and blessings. David says the Lord rewarded him according to his righteousness (vs. 20, 24). Salvation is by *grace* through faith, but God delights to bless his *faithful* followers. 2. Righteousness demonstrates faithful devotion to God. David describes righteousness as keeping God's ways, obeying His Word, and refusing to turn away from Him (vs. 21–22). 3. Righteousness cultivates a clear conscience before God. David speaks of being blameless before the Lord and guarding himself from sin (v. 23). Walking in righteousness preserves fellowship with God and allows us to live with integrity in His sight.

2. Posture or imposture? God responds to the posture *you* choose. **Psalm 18:25-27.** Hardened hearts experience God differently than humble hearts. Pride distorts spiritual vision. God responds accordingly. We see this in how the Lord responded to King Saul versus King David and how Jesus responded to repentant sinners versus arrogant Pharisees. 1. God responds according to our spiritual posture. He shows Himself merciful to the merciful (vv. 25–26). Our posture shapes how we experience Him. 2. God opposes pride but gives grace to humility. (v. 27). Humility invites God's favor, while pride invites His discipline. 3. God's responses reveal His holiness. God deals with every person according to His holiness and their heart (vs. 25–27). God lifts the humble. God is not impressed with self-exaltation. Pride may get noticed more quickly, but humility receives the better reward because it has an enduring relationship with the Lord. **Luke 18:9–14.**

3. Bright lights, big God. Psalm 18:28-29. God does not merely overcome the darkness. He illuminates the path for His people from the light of His love and truth. God's goal is not just changing our physical circumstances. He transforms our spiritual condition. A God-lit soul can walk through dark seasons without losing hope. The world promises brighter days, but every light it offers eventually burns out. Success fades. Money gets spent. Health declines. People disappoint. When God lights your lamp, no darkness can extinguish it. As David said in **verse 28, "the Lord my God lightens my darkness."** God may not prevent the night from happening, but He does change the one walking through it. A God-lit heart sees hope where others see despair, purpose where others see pain, and opportunities where others see obstacles. That's why David said in **verse 29, "For by you I can run against a troop, and by my God I can leap over a wall."** When God fills you and surrounds you with His light, the impossible becomes possible because your confidence is in Him and not in yourself. Don't spend your life chasing brighter circumstances. Seek the Savior. Let Him flood your mind with His truth, your heart with His love, and your soul with His presence. If your God is big, your darkness becomes small. The darker the night, the more brilliant His light. Walk with the God who lights your lamp, and you'll become a light to a world that needs to see Him.

Reflection: Lord, help me be a bright light of what is right in the world around me.