

Sermon Title: Psalms: From the Heart, Part XXVI 8.30.2026

Theme: God's people are instruments in His loving arms. Live-streaming and sermon notes are at trinitycg.org.

Focus Question: Who's victory?

Introduction: Psalms 20 and 21 are battle-focused, with 20 being a prayer anticipating the encounter and 21 being the praise after the battle has been fought and won. These are Messianic in their deepest sense and point to Jesus, who is ultimately victorious. What was expectation in Psalm 20 is exultation in Psalm 21. While all our battles are not won, some lost battles do not mean defeat. Sometimes we have to lose a battle to win the war (such as when you realize you could have shared the Gospel with a stranger and you never again miss a similar opportunity). Wicked people win many battles in this life yet ultimately lose the war for their soul.

Sermon Points:

1. God gives us what we cannot give ourselves. Psalm 21:1–6. We can learn a lot from these verses: A. True joy is found in God's strength, not our own. The Psalm opens with the king rejoicing, not in his military victories or personal abilities, but "in your strength" and "in your salvation." Every success is ultimately a testimony to God's power. The strongest people in the world are those who know their strength comes from the Lord. B. God delights in blessing those who trust Him. God gave David his heart's desire, crowned him with honor, granted him life, and filled him with blessings that flowed from God's grace, not David's merit. God's blessings are gifts of His grace to those who walk with Him. C. The presence of God is life's greatest blessing. Material blessings fade away, but the joy of fellowship with God endures forever. Psalm 21 recognizes God's strength, salvation, blessing, life, glory, splendor, majesty, and joy. Everything good in your life traces back to the generous hand of God.

2. God sustains those who trust Him. Psalm 21:7. Verse seven is the pivot point and theological heart of Psalm 21. We move from trust to steadfast love to stability. This is true in *our* relationship with God. We trust Him as our Lord and Savior, we fall more deeply in love with Him as we walk with Him, and our life becomes more stable. It's also true in marriage: our vows are an act of trust, our love develops through the years, and life becomes more stable despite the many challenges that we face. David's confidence is in the Lord. Notice the phrase, "he shall not be moved." The circumstances may move, but the person who trusts in God is anchored in God and doesn't move. Our stability doesn't come from having a trouble-free life. It comes from having an immovable God.

3. God will defeat what opposes Him. Psalm 21:8–13. Psalm 21 shifts dramatically from blessing to judgment. David recognizes that the enemies opposing God's king are ultimately opposing God Himself. Evil can make plans, but evil will *always* come face-to-face with God's purpose. God's past victories are a pledge for future ones. What a great comfort to those who belong to God! God's enemies have an evil plan, but God has the final say.

Here is the three-point progression of Psalm 21:

1. God blesses us: vs. 1–6
2. God stabilizes us: v. 7
3. God defends us: vs. 8–13

Psalm 21 ends exactly where it ought to: the recognition that victory isn't about David. It's about God. It's a reminder that those who oppose God may scheme, but they will never prevail. Human rebellion cannot overturn God's purposes. God's justice is certain and His kingdom will ultimately triumph over His enemies. Psalm 21 teaches us to: 1. Celebrate God's strength rather than our own. 2. Recognize every blessing as a gift from God. 3. Treasure God's presence above earthly rewards. 4. Trust God's steadfast love for unshakable security. 5. Rest in the certainty that God's justice and kingdom will prevail.

Psalm 21 begins with rejoicing in God's strength and ends with worship of God's power, reminding us that every victory should lead to greater praise of the One who gives it. God gave the victory. God gets the glory. Psalm 20 says, "Lord, help us!" Psalm 21 says, "Lord, look what You did!"

Reflection: Dear Lord, help me to rejoice in Your plan and in Your victory.