

PSALMS 41 - 45

PSALM 41

God, I want to help the needy.

Psa 41:1 (NIV) For the director of music. A psalm of David. Blessed is he who has regard for the weak; the LORD delivers him in times of trouble. Lord, I appreciate all You have done for me. May I never hoard it and keep any of it just to myself. When I was weak and defeated, someone shared Your greatness with me. You saw to it that all my needs were met and forgave me from all my debts. I want to be the same with those around me. I want to be a channel through which You flow to them. Let physical healing, financial supply, emotional comfort, relational healing, and spiritual power flow through me to the weak and needy. May I never think I don't have the time or the resources to help them in any way You see fit. When I allow all Your resources to flow through me, You allow new resources to not only replace them, You bless me with much more than I had before.

Psa 41:2 (NIV) The LORD will protect him and preserve his life; He will bless him in the land and not surrender him to the desire of his foes. I am blessed and free. I have Your greatness and forgiveness. I have experienced multitudes of Your miracles and wonders. You have made me Your child; and I have inherited You in and through Christ Jesus. You have been supernaturally generous with me. I know You have not done all these things just so I could hoard them to myself. Your Holy Spirit has filled my heart with Your love so I can care about those who haven't experienced these things. Since You have protected and preserved my life, I want to help others to experience the same protection and preservation. Since You have blessed me while I am on this earth, I want those around me to be blessed. You have not surrendered me to the desires of my foes. You have set me free from their power. I am asking You to empower and equip me to do the same for others. Flow through me with Your life and Your ministry.

Psa 41:3 (NIV) The LORD will sustain him on his sickbed and restore him from his bed of illness. Make sure, O Lord, that I always care for the weak and needy. Make sure that I always serve their needs. Let Your heart of love and Your all seeing eyes make me aware of where You want me to minister. Keep me in health so I can always be ready to supply You and Your provisions to everyone in need. Let Your supernatural power and God-sized supply flow through me to the needs of Your people. Reveal Your healing power and all it takes to make it available to the sick and afflicted. Let my health be a radiant light to all so they can know what You want to provide for them.

Psa 41:4 (NIV) I said, "O LORD, have mercy on me; heal me, for I have sinned against You." Don't give me what I deserve, O Lord. Without You and Your power, I am nothing but a failure and a constant sinner. The only reason I live the Christian life with success and power is because You are flowing through me with Your power. I have sinned against You and You have forgiven me of all those sins. You have given me Your grace and mercy so that I would be able to get the provisions I didn't deserve. I couldn't earn them; nor could I deserve them. You had to make them available through grace. I believe in Your provisions of grace and mercy. Therefore I accept Your salvation, sanctification, and healing through faith in Your love.

Psa 41:5 (NIV) My enemies say of me in malice, "When will he die and his name perish?" God, You have put me in this world; but You have made me so that I am not of this world. You have empowered me to stop thinking and living by the principles of this world. This makes me different from those around me. This causes them to not like the way I think and act. This causes them to think that if feel I am superior to them. The life You have given me causes them to see that they need to live a much better life than they are living. They think I am living this life by my own determination. They know they can't change the way they are living and it convicts them. Now they are faced with a dilemma. We have to decide whether they are going to find out how I am living this life or whether they should try to tear me down to their level. Some are coming to You for help as I show them Your provision of the Savior. Others have decided to attack me. Protect me from those who do not want Your help.

Psa 41:6 (NIV) Whenever one comes to see me, he speaks falsely, while his heart gathers slander; then he goes out and spreads it abroad. Those who don't want You are trying to destroy me so they won't have to face the fact that You are the way to righteousness. My life shines brightly into their lives and they resist it. They don't want to change so they try to get rid of the proof that there is a way to change. They are lying to me trying to convince me that I am a fraud. They think I am just acting like I am transformed. They are accusing me of being a hypocrite and a sham. They are trying to tear me down so I will stop being proof that You can save anyone who comes to You. Since they don't want to let You save and transform them, they go out and spread lies about me. They hope to destroy my credibility with those around me. They hope they can keep others from becoming further proof of Your existence and power.

Psa 41:7 (NIV) All my enemies whisper together against me; they imagine the worst for me, saying, My enemies are those who are Your enemies. They are those who have found the truth You provide and have rejected it. They love sin and evil. They have rejected Your holiness and righteousness. They have positioned themselves between You and me and those who would like to find out about Your salvation. They don't want to take advantage of You and Your provisions and they don't want anyone else taking advantage of them. These are the people who are whispering together against me. They are the ones who are hoping that horrible things happen to me. Keep their plans and efforts from succeeding, O Lord.

Psa 41:8 (NIV) "A vile disease has beset him; he will never get up from the place where he lies." My enemies are saying that You have allowed insanity or physical disease to bring me down. Satan would like to attack me in such a fashion. Keep my enemies' words and Satan's plans from coming true, I pray.

Psa 41:9 (NIV) Even my close friend, whom I trusted, he who shared my bread, has lifted up his heel against me. I have befriended many as I have shared the bounty of Your love and provisions with the needy. I have made myself their closest friend and have accepted them as my closest friend. I have opened my heart to them and trusted them with all You have given me. We have taken communion together and eaten together in Your name. But, after they finally understood Who You are and what You are offering, they decided they didn't want You. Some of them not only decided they didn't want You, they decided to try to destroy Your message. They have made themselves Your enemy and have tried to discredit me and You. The reality of Your truths are in their mind and it is infuriating them. It is showing them just how evil they are and they don't want to know that. It is proving to them that they don't have to live the way they are living and they are resisting that truth. So, they have made it their mission to destroy all evidence of that truth. This decision has caused them to lift their heel against me.

Psa 41:10 (NIV) But You, O LORD, have mercy on me; raise me up, that I may repay them. Since they know the truth and have rejected it, reject them. Take away their power and influence. They have the right to decide whether or not they want You; but they don't have the right to keep others from getting to know You and Your truth. Keep them from being able to hurt and stop me. Let me be able to defeat their efforts. Give me Your grace and mercy so I can continue to spread Your truth to the people around me. Don't allow these people, Your and my enemies, to succeed in their desires and plans. Allow me to defeat them and bring Your message to those who are willing to hear it.

Psa 41:11 (NIV) I know that You are pleased with me, for my enemy does not triumph over me. I can see Your approval of my life and ministry. You are empowering me to serve the needs of the needy in spite of all my enemies' efforts. They haven't been able to stop me or discredit me in the eyes of the sincere. You have renewed my influence and credibility so that the hungry for the truth will listen to me. In spite of all Your and my enemies' plans and efforts, You and I are still working together to bring Your salvation to those who want Your help. My foes have been defeated and You and I are still spreading the deliverance of Your truth to all who want to hear.

Psa 41:12 (NIV) In my integrity You uphold me and set me in Your presence forever. I now have the integrity that You have given me. You have provided me with honesty, integrity, and a good reputation. You are upholding me and setting me in Your presence forever. You will never allow me to be destroyed. For as long as I live on this earth, I believe You will empower me to be faithful to You and Your truth. I believe You are empowering me to spread all You are to those around me until the sincere give glory to Your name and serve You forever.

Psa 41:13 (NIV) Praise be to the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. Amen and Amen. You alone are worthy of praise. You alone have upheld the truth about holiness, godliness, purity, and love. No one has represented the kind of life and relationships that You have represented. None of us would have ever thought of or presented such a life of purity and kindness. We would have never been able to even imagine the kind of life You are making available to us. All our relationships would have been filled with mistreatment and sin. Even if we could have thought of the way of living You are showing us, we still wouldn't have been able to live it. In all our efforts to live up to those qualities, we would have failed miserably. I praise You for the truth that raised my eyes to a whole new way of living and treating people; and I praise You for the power to live that life.

PSALM 42

God, I want Your song in my heart.

Psa 42:1 (NIV) For the director of music. A maskil of the Sons of Korah. As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for You, O God. Your relationship with me has awoken an appreciation, thankfulness, and love that grows every day. I have become filled with a hunger for Your presence and provisions. You have raised my expectations up to a God-size level. I now see possibilities of a way of life that I never dreamed possible. I am seeing Who You are and what You want to do for Your people. Your desires are so wonderful and so loving that I am overwhelmed by Your greatness. You desire to give us Yourself in all Your glory. There is nothing You are holding back from us. This generosity is filling my heart with a deep desire to spend all my time with You. You have created a great hungering and thirsting for all You have to offer. I no longer want to be away from You even for a second. I have always needed You; but now I know why. You are greater and more wonderful than anything or anyone could ever be. My soul pants for You, O God.

Psa 42:2 (NIV) My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God? I have made many things my god. I have filled my life with many things I thought would satisfy my longings and needs. I exhausted all my best efforts to find anything that would bring me happiness and peace. But, it wasn't until I opened my heart to You, O God, that I found what and who I was looking for. Since I have found out Who You are and what You do for Your children, a deep dependency has been created in my heart. I long for the God that is alive and can really do what is needed in me. All my dead gods required that I do it all for myself. They made me the answer to all my needs. I fell far short of being able to be my own supply. I soon realized that all these other gods were dead. They were completely powerless to do anything for me. I needed You for You alone are alive and able to do all You have promised. I am looking forward to spending eternity with You.

Psa 42:3 (NIV) My tears have been my food day and night, while men say to me all day long, "Where is your God?" One of the things that happened to me was a time when I tried to mix You with other gods. When I first came to You, I didn't realize that You were able to meet all my needs. There were areas where I felt I had been successful in meeting my own needs. I decided to keep those efforts, beliefs, and dependencies. All of the areas where I put my complete dependency on You succeeded and blessed me. All the places where I kept my old philosophies and methods failed me. Even though You had forgiven me of all my sins and saved me for eternity, I lived a very miserable life because of the mixture I had added to Your provisions.

Tears and stress started dominating my life. It seemed like Christianity hadn't worked for me. I felt like You were failing me and wouldn't help me with my problems. While I was calling out to You day and night, I was still looking for Your help in my efforts to help myself. I kept looking to the philosophies of the world to work me the miracles I was asking You to provide. I was convinced that You would use them to set me free from my problems. I started living a life that brought discredit to Your name. I had told those around me that my trust had been placed in You. But much of what they saw in my life was defeat and pain. It caused them to ask, "Where is your God?" Since I have started giving up all world philosophies and principles, my life shows the power of Your might and love.

Psa 42:4 (NIV) These things I remember as I pour out my soul: how I used to go with the multitude, leading the procession to the house of God, with shouts of joy and thanksgiving among the festive throng. From time to time I forget how bad it was when I mixed the principles and philosophies of the world with Your truths. As things start to fall apart again, I remember how it was when I put my complete trust in You and Your Word. I recall just how great things were when You and I were working together on all the issues of my life. I can hear the shouts of joy and thanksgiving when my life was given completely over to You. I remember how I used to go with the rest of Your people and worship You together with them. It is clear in my mind as I see myself leading the procession into Your presence for praise. Finally my heart becomes willing to give up all my human effort and I once again put my trust in You and You alone.

Psa 42:5-6a (NIV) Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise Him, my Savior and my God. I start asking myself why I am willing to stay in the state of depression and defeat. I start wondering why I would be willing to hang on to my own efforts. I wonder why I would rather try to get the credit for my successes rather than turning to You for help. The momentary feelings of self-accomplishment soon fall away and I sit in defeat. I ask myself why I would rather try to build up "self-esteem" rather than accepting Your "God-esteem"? If I put my trust in You and You work me a miracle, it is true that I have to give You the credit. I wonder why I would rather suffer defeat just so I can get the credit if somehow I succeed.

I have decided to give up my own efforts and put my trust in You. Help me see how downcast I become, when I look to myself or the world for answers. All I have to do is put my hope in You, O God and I am no longer feeling downcast and disturbed. Soon the victories come from You and I find myself more than glad to give You the praise and the honor for all the answers. I am not my savior. You are my Savior and my God.

Psa 42:6b (NIV) My soul is downcast within me; therefore I will remember You from the land of the Jordan, the heights of Hermon--from Mount Mizar. The way back to trusting in You is for me to see just how bad my life is when I put my trust in myself. The other way is for me to remember how much better my life was, when I was trusting You for all my needs. Help me allow the pain of my life when I am trusting myself to push me toward You. Help me not blame You for why I am suffering. Give me Your wisdom so I can see that I have brought all this pain on myself. I must not blame You and allow it to drive me away from You. Give me the ability to trust You and doubt my own abilities. We have had wonderful times together. Let me see why they have discontinued.

Psa 42:7 (NIV) Deep calls to deep in the roar of Your waterfalls; all Your waves and breakers have swept over me. The more time I spend with You, the more wonderful experiences I get from You. The more wonderful experience I get from You, the more I want to put my complete trust in You. Let the depth of our relationship call for an even deeper relationship. May I never get so satisfied that I cease to feel a need for more and more of You. When You answer a prayer or meet a need, let me still see how much I still need You. I don't just want the solutions to my problems. I want a loving relationship with You. I need Your help with my problems; but I need You and a relationship with You more than anything else. If I had too, I would rather have the problems than sacrifice our relationship. Fortunately, You don't require me to make such a choice.

Psa 42:8 (NIV) By day the LORD directs His love, at night His song is with me-- a prayer to the God of my life. I open my entire life up to You, my heavenly Father. My source of happiness is not in the things this world provides. None of the things I got from the world a few weeks ago are still making me happy. The world gives me fleeting happiness and feelings of success. As You direct Your love to me, I get a peace and satisfaction that heals my heart to its deepest level. Even when things really look bad and threatening, I feel Your love. You put a song in my heart and empower me to keep trusting in You all during the turmoil. I am able to pray to You and know that I has been settled. Once I have put the issues in Your hands, I feel Your love and start singing Your song. I know You have heard and are answering my prayers. I can trust You with all I am and all I need.

Psa 42:9 (NIV) I say to God my Rock, "Why have You forgotten me? Why must I go about mourning, oppressed by the enemy?" There are times when I listen to another song. Sometimes I hear the songs of the world and the music of Satan. They are songs of defeat and destruction. There are times I allow Your song to leave my heart and I allow songs of doubt to fill my heart. Unfortunately these songs cause me to pray prayers of doubt and unbelief. But, You allow me to open my heart and pour out my distress. You already know that I feel like You have forgotten me. It would be impossible for me to hide those feeling from You. So, I simply open my heart and allow You to see those feelings so You can take them and heal them.

I know You have a timing that You use to help me with my problems. Sometimes I feel like You don't care that I am suffering. In my head I know You care. But, in my heart I feel rejected and neglected. Sometimes I would just like to know why You have decided to delay Your giving me the help I am praying for. It would be helpful (in my opinion) if you would allow me to know Your thinking on this. I don't want to be disrespectful like a rebellious child; but, if it is something You are willing to do, I would like to know why I must go about my day mourning? Why do You sometimes allow me to be oppressed by the enemy? If You want me to have this answer, then I receive it. If You want me to trust You without this information, then help me to be patient and just trust Your wisdom and love for me.

Psa 42:10 (NIV) My bones suffer mortal agony as my foes taunt me, saying to me all day long, "Where is your God?" Sometimes I allow people to get the best of me, heavenly Father. At times it gets so bad that it starts to affect me physically. They can be relentless in their attacks against me. It usually is most difficult during those times when You are delaying the answers to my prayers. I can start identifying with the way they are thinking. It looks like You aren't there for me. I know in my head that You are doing what is best for me. I know in my mind that You are much wiser, know all things, and love with a love greater than I can understand. But in the feelings of my heart I get down and sometimes sick. It is during those times that people's opinions affect me the most. Even though I know You will come through like You always do, I feel like it is hurting my witness to Your faithfulness and power. Help me to trust You with Your reputation as it relates to those I am telling about You.

Psa 42:11 (NIV) Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise Him, my Savior and my God. Since You always come through, I don't understand why I get so worried, downcast, and disturbed. May I always live on the basis of faith and trust in You. Give my heart the strength it needs to feel the assurance that You will always do the right thing in every situation. Help me to not only put my trust in You in my head, but to put my trust in You in my heart. Put Your assurance in my heart so that my emotions come into agreement with Your Word. Put praise, peace, and worship in my heart all during crises periods. You are my Savior and my God not only in the area of forgiveness for sin but in all areas of my life.

PSALM 43

God, I want my circumstances to facilitate my work for You.

Psa 43:1 (NIV) Vindicate me, O God, and plead my cause against an ungodly nation; rescue me from deceitful and wicked men. Protect our nation, O Lord. Deliver us from ungodly men who are leading it away from You. Give us people who will lead us into godliness, purity, and spiritual growth. Let the world leaders of all nations come to You and listen to Your guidance. Rescue us from deceitful and wicked men. Give us a mighty move of Your Spirit that leads us to You. Help us to pray and seek Your presence, turn from our wicked ways, and come to You for our leadership. Vindicate us and plead our cause before the throne of grace. Give us grace and mercy as You set us free from evil people who are leading us into destruction.

Psa 43:2 (NIV) You are God my stronghold. Why have you rejected me? Why must I go about mourning, oppressed by the enemy? You are the only answer to my needs. You alone are able to deliver us and surround us with Your presence. If there is anything in my life that is separating me from You, I repent of it and ask for Your deliverance from it. I don't want to just keep on mourning and crying rather than repenting. I don't want to keep complaining rather than doing what it takes to be delivered from the enemy of my soul. Whatever it takes to keep my heart in a right place, I want Your healing power to flow through me and set me free from it. Change me spiritually so You can deliver me from the oppressions of the enemy.

Psa 43:3 (NIV) Send forth Your light and Your truth, let them guide me; let them bring me to Your holy mountain, to the place where You dwell. Your light and Your truth will heal me spiritually. They will open my eyes to all that is going on in my heart and enable me to see where I need Your transforming power. Let them guide me into specific repentance and change. Let them show me exactly where my heart and life need to change so I can be completely pleasing to You. I know all my sins have been forgiven. But, I want to live out that forgiveness by having my thoughts, words, and actions changed. Since I have a good relationship with You, help me to have a good relationship with the people around me. Sanctify my life and make it one where all my thoughts, words, and deeds are a blessing to the people around me. Let them experience Your greatness through me.

Bring me to Your holy mountain of Your presence. Take me away from the pit of Satan's works. Elevate me above all the powers and beings that are against You and me. Let me sit at Your right hand inside of Jesus. Raise me far about all the evil powers that are trying to destroy me and Your work in and through me. Help me to remain where You dwell all the days of my life. Let me spend eternity in Your presence.

Psa 43:4 (NIV) Then will I go to the altar of God, to God, my joy and my delight. I will praise You with the harp, O God, my God. I give my heart to You and all You have planned for me. I lay my will, plans, and goals on Your altar of repentance. I present my body as a living sacrifice on Your altar. I give my life to You. Live Your life and do Your ministry in and through me. Meet the needs of the needy by working Your work through my life and ministry. Give them all they need without any resistance from me. Be everything You need to be; go everywhere You need to go; do everything You need to do; say everything You need to say; accomplish everything You want to accomplish, so everyone's needs are met by all You have to offer. Let it all be done in and through me and everyone else that is willing to yield to You.

Psa 43:5 (NIV) Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise Him, my Savior and my God. Help me to stop living a downcast and disturbed life. All I have to do is put all my faith and hope in You, my God. You are my God and my Savior. I have accepted Your salvation and I yield everything I have and am to You as my God. Be God in my life and service to all those who live on this planet. Be God in all my desires, thoughts, feelings, words, and deeds. Be God in and through my life and service to others. Be my God through time and eternity. I praise and worship You with all I am and will ever be.

PSALM 44

God, I want Your life-training.

Psa 44:1 (NIV) For the director of music. Of the Sons of Korah. A maskil. We have heard with our ears, O God; our fathers have told us what You did in their days, in days long ago. God, our lives have been changed by all the great reports we have received from Your Word. Your people from times past have been moved by Your Spirit to write down a report of Your great and mighty works among them. These reports have inspired us and encouraged us as we have been allowed to look into the past and see Your great deliverances and blessings. Your Word has helped us to understand just how great and mighty You are. We have been able to see how much You love Your people and how much You are willing to do for all who will look to You for their needs being met. Thank You for allowing us to look into the past through the report of the Holy Spirit.

Psa 44:2 (NIV) With Your hand You drove out the nations and planted our fathers; You crushed the peoples and made our fathers flourish. Through Your Word I have seen You drive out nations of people who wouldn't serve You or acknowledge Your ways. Those who cheated, killed, and damaged those around them were driven out and people who were serving You were put in their place. You crushed those who lived lives filled with evil deeds and prospered Your people who allowed You to establish their laws and their government. You rewarded those who allowed You to be God in their lives and drove out those who followed false gods that represented evil treatment of fellow humans.

Psa 44:3 (NIV) It was not by their sword that they won the land, nor did their arm bring them victory; it was Your right hand, Your arm, and the light of Your face, for You loved them. Your people weren't able to use their power or skills to make all this happen. But, because their trust was in You and Your ways, You used Your right hand, Your arm, and the light of Your face to give them the victory. Because You are alive, our relationship with You is one of faith, trust, and dependency on You. Because You are alive, we have a faith in a real God Who provides for His people. You are the only true and living God that uses Your power to meet the needs of all who put their faith and trust in Him. You are the God of love and You work Your miracles for the benefit of Your people.

Psa 44:4 (NIV) You are my King and my God, who decrees victories for Jacob. I allow You to be my King to rule over my life. I want the same kind of provisions that come to those who put their faith, trust, reliance, and dependency in You. I don't want those things that I can produce through my efforts, skills, and power. I want the greatness of all You provide Your people. I allow You to be God in my life. I give up control and the decision making for my paths. I accept You and Your victories into all I am and do. I yield to what You can do rather than what I can do. I want God-sized victories to pour in and through me to all who will accept You.

Psa 44:5 (NIV) Through You we push back our enemies; through Your name we trample our foes. I have felt that I was my answer for all my needs. Even after I became a Christian and started receiving Your power into my life. I still thought that I was the one who was making things happen. I gave myself the credit for Your work. I saw it as being my commitment, my quality decisions, my pure attitudes that were making Christianity work. You changed me and my attitudes and gave me all the miracles that were happening in my life. Yet I took the credit for most of them. Your Holy Spirit has helped me to realize that I am a Christian only through Your great love. All that I am able to think, feel, say, and do has been provided by You. You allow me to push back my enemies using Your great power. You enable me to trample my foes through Your great grace and mercy. Even though You allow me to be involved, it is all You that is making it happen. Thank You for allowing me to be a part of the victory of the battle. Thank You for letting me feel included as we work together to accomplish Your great plan for me and all who will accept You. I give You all the praise, all the credit, and all the glory.

Psa 44:6 (NIV) I do not trust in my bow, my sword does not bring me victory; I now realize that my abilities, strategies, skills, talents, and efforts are not bringing any results. I give up my trust in myself. I give up self-reliance, self-esteem, and self-centeredness. I accept a reliance on You. I receive the esteem that You give me. I yield to You as the central control of my life. You are allowing me to make these decisions and I willingly decide to make You the Lord, King, and God of all I am. I am free to make these decisions because You have given me a free will; because You have given me freedom from the slavery of sin; and because You have given me the right to use that freedom any way I want. I now use that freedom to choose You and all You have to offer.

Psa 44:7 (NIV) but You give us victory over our enemies, You put our adversaries to shame. Now that I have You as the God of my life, I am able to start seeing what You are capable of doing. I am now able to live the victorious Christian life because of all You are able to do. When I was dependent on myself for my victories, I found my enemies to be greater than I was able to handle. Now that You are the strength, control, and strategy of my life, I am experiencing Your victories over my enemies. You are putting our adversaries to shame. All who put their trust in You rather than in themselves are experiencing the greatness of Your love.

Psa 44:8 (NIV) In God we make our boast all day long, and we will praise Your name forever. Selah. I give up all bragging on myself. I admit that it isn't me that is bringing about all these victories. I now know that it is all You that is making these great things happen. It isn't because I now trust You. It isn't because of my faith. It is because You have given me faith and trust in You. Everything I have that is opening up the doors to Your greatness have come from You. Nothing good has come from me. You drew me, You created a desire for You in me, You provided the words that gave me faith, You honored that faith, and You are producing Your greatness in my life because of the faith You gave me. I make my boast in You, my God. All day long I give You all the credit. Help me to never take any of the credit. When I do, it starts to destroy me. My eyes get off of You as my source and I end up being defeated by my enemies. Help me to praise Your name forever. I now stop and meditate on You and Your greatness.

Psa 44:9 (NIV) But now You have rejected and humbled us; You no longer go out with our armies. Every time I start looking to myself and start giving me the credit for all the things You have provided, I find myself alone. Your provisions stop and I feel Your rejection of my attitudes. I cause You to have to humble me and bring me back to my senses. My warning and signal for letting me know I have entered into pride is the results I am getting in my life. You no longer go with me to fight against the temptations of the devil. You let me be defeated by the allure of the world. You let me fail when my body makes demands of me. Weakness and defeat start to become normal for me. They all point me to the fact that I have made me the lord of my life. I have put my faith, dependency, reliance, and trust in myself and what I can do. The freedom of salvation is being used to choose me rather than You. I always have that freedom. Even when I choose You and all You have to offer, I am still free to take my permission back any time I want. And sometimes I use that freedom to take my life back from You.

Psa 44:10 (NIV) You made us retreat before the enemy, and our adversaries have plundered us. What a difference my life is when I take my life back from Your control. There are times I don't want anyone to control me. Sometimes I just want to be in charge of myself. I listen to Satan and start to distrust Your love. I start to see You from Satan's view point. When I do, life starts to fall apart. Rather than being strong in You and in the power of Your might, I start having to retreat before my enemies. My life gets plundered and my relationships start falling apart. Rather than Satan being a defeated foe, I become a defeated Christian.

Psa 44:11 (NIV) You gave us up to be devoured like sheep and have scattered us among the nations. I can see this pattern in all the accounts I read in the Old Testament. Every time Your people take their lives back from You, their lives start to experience defeat. Sometimes Your people didn't take the warning and heed the signals. There were times that they ignored them and went their own way. It was then that their lives progress on a downward trend getting worse and worse. If they ignored this downward trend, You would allow them to be defeated by their enemies and be scattered among the nations. Finally they would wake up and realize their mistake and open their hearts to You. When they did, You came back into their lives with power and victory. Help me to understand that I have to give You permission to intervene in my life. You have given me the freedom to always decide who is going to be running my life. If I reject Your help, You will honor that rejection and give me the freedom to decide.

Psa 44:12 (NIV) You sold Your people for a pittance, gaining nothing from their sale. Like You did in days past, You will let us go. We are people with a free will and You will not take that right away from us. Even though You have bought us with a great price, You will allow us to sell ourselves out to the cheap things of this world. It brings You no pleasure and benefit to let us go. But, You will honor our free will. Help me to always choose You. Help me to stop looking to myself, my body, the world, or the devil for my supply.

Psa 44:13 (NIV) You have made us a reproach to our neighbors, the scorn and derision of those around us. I never get the things I reach out for, when I turn from You and look to another source. It always turns out bad, when I decide to take my life back. Those things I thought I would gain never are gained. If it is an effort to gain popularity and people acceptance, it always ends up with me receiving reproach, scorn, and derision from the people around me. Why, God, don't I learn this? I always need You and Your help. My ways never work. Why do I keep thinking that I can do it better than You? What causes me to yield to these false ideas and keep going down this path to defeat? Help me to stop this pattern and keep my faith and trust in You.

Psa 44:14 (NIV) You have made us a byword among the nations; the peoples shake their heads at us. When I make the decision to take my life back, I hurt Your name. They know I am a Christian and use me as a false example that Christianity doesn't work. The non-Christians use me to prove that Christians are hypocrites. This is a false message I am sending out to them. It isn't You that is causing my life to look this way. I am sorry that I am causing them to use Your name as a byword among the nations. I am sorry that my name is tied to Your name and that I am hurting Your message. When people shake their head at me, they are rejecting me and the name that is united with me. I am bringing reproach to Your name. Forgive me God for taking my life away from Your control. I am glad You haven't turned me into a robot. I am glad I have this freedom of choice. You are wonderful for allowing me to decide whom I will serve. But, I want to use this freedom to freely give my life to You on a constant basis.

Psa 44:15-16 (NIV) My disgrace is before me all day long, and my face is covered with shame at the taunts of those who reproach and revile me, because of the enemy, who is bent on revenge.

PRAYER FOR VERSE 15: Help this disgrace to become obvious to me. Help me to feel shame for what I have done. Help me to repent of my ignorant decision and realize that it is harmful to me. Help me see how wonderful You are and how trustworthy You have been. You have never taken advantage of me. You have never treated me wrong. You have always used Your power, greatness, and wisdom for my benefit. Even though You can overpower me and abuse me anyway You choose, You have never taken away my right to choose the paths of my life. I chose Your salvation and You have never taken it away. When I choose Your help, You always only do what I allow You to do. You never cheat me or mistreat me. Please keep these facts before my face all the time.

PRAYER FOR VERSE 16: Help me to see what I have done that is opening the door to the taunts, reproach, and reviling that is coming my way. The enemy of my soul has always wanted to hurt me. He would have done many evil things had I not been under Your protection. Now that I have decided that I can do a better job of running my life, I have open the door to the enemy who is bent on revenge. I have taken away my permission for You to give me Your protection. Help me to stop making these foolish decisions.

Psa 44:17 (NIV) All this happened to us, though we had not forgotten You or been false to Your covenant. Help me to so serve You that the reproach I receive it unjust. Help me to be so bold in my sharing Your message that I start getting resistance from the people who don't want You. If I am going to be persecuted by the people around me, let it be because they are hearing Your message and they are rejecting it and me. Help me to stop being persecuted because I deserve it. Help me to start being persecuted because I am serving You.

Psa 44:18 (NIV) Our hearts had not turned back; our feet had not strayed from Your path. Help my heart to not turn back from You. Enable my feet to not stray from Your path. Take my life back under Your care. Give me such a dedication to You and Your ways that I start not only living the Christian life but I start sharing it with others. Let me start so invading the enemy's territory that he has to do everything in his power to resist me. Make me such an instrument for Your work that Satan's people hate me. But, for the sake of Your work, give me an open path of ministry for Your work. Give me complete victory of all of Satan and his people's efforts.

Psa 44:19 (NIV) But You crushed us and made us a haunt for jackals and covered us over with deep darkness. You have had to expose me to a lot of correction and pruning in the beginnings of my life and ministry. You did it not because I had rejected You or turned from You. You had to do it so You could trim me down and perfect me for a bigger and better work. You allowed be to be exposed to jackals and deep darkness so I could understand the pain of those I was going to be helping in the future.

Even though I was still giving You permission to take control of my life, there were times when I still had to face tough times. This type of crushing wasn't because of my rebellion it was in fact because of my dedication to You. I asked You to let me be a channel through which You could flow to the needs of the people around me. I wanted and still want Your life-training so I will be able to be a powerful help to the needy.

You put me in situations of life that prepared me for the ministry. You broadened my training beyond the areas of my own needs. I experienced difficulties that wouldn't typically come my way. You made me a person who understood numerous situations and problems. You gave me a heart that was able to understand and care about the sufferings that others go through. There were times when this training felt like the crises I had gone through when I took my life back. It caused me to question You and feel like You were being unfair to me.

I lifted my heart up before You and You didn't indicate that I had any areas that I had taken back. Yet I was experiencing things similar to the life I have when I do take it back. It was then that You helped me to see the Holy Spirit's work as He continued to lead me into all truths. He was making me into a person who was able to be used by You for the needs of others. Their needs weren't all like mine. Until Your life-training, I wasn't able to identify with their problems. I thank You for broadening my experiences so I am able to appreciate the magnitude of their needs.

Psa 44:20-21 (NIV) If we had forgotten the name of our God or spread out our hands to a foreign god, would not God have discovered it, since he knows the secrets of the heart?

PRAYER FOR VERSE 20: I haven't forgotten Your name and I haven't reached out of the god of this world. I now know that I am still committed to You and Your Lordship over my life. Your Holy Spirit has assured me that I am still under Your control and that these tough issues are coming as life-training for the ministry of Your Word. Thank You for removing the confusion. Thank You for allowing me to enter into Your school of training so I can do Your work. I want to help those who have forgotten Your name and have reached out to other sources for the meeting of their needs. Train me and make me a great tool for Your work. Shape me into a person who doesn't just grow spiritually for my own needs. Let me help all those on this planet to experience the greatness You have shown me.

PRAYER FOR VERSE 21: I now know You know that I have not taken my life back. I know You see the secrets of my heart. I accept the fact that I must go through many issues of life-training so I can be prepared to serve Your people. I want to be the very best trained and skilled minister of Your Word. I believe You know the secrets of my heart and are doing Your work in me as I yield to Your will. Sometimes it is hard to yield to the training issues You are sending my way. Help me to understand them and learn the things You are wanting me to learn. Help me not to allow anything from Satan, my body, or the world to teach me their ways. Help me to only follow Your voice and to run from everything else.

Psa 44:22 (NIV) Yet for Your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered. If it were not for You, we would already be dead. If we get too hot, we die. If we get too cold, we die. If we get exposed to too much acid, we die. If we get exposed to too much alkaline, we die. If we fall too far, we die. If we don't have enough air, we die. If we get shot or stabbed and are injured too much, we die. We are so vulnerable, heavenly Father. Diseases, poisons, and injury are all around us. If it were not for Your constant protection, we would have never made it down the birth canal. Without You protecting us, we don't stand a chance of survival.

We are like sheep being led to the slaughter. We don't stand a chance of staying alive. But You have made sure that we have stayed alive in spite of all the things that could have killed us. I commit myself to sharing You even in places where my life is on the line. Help me to stay willing to lay my life down for Your sake. I wouldn't have even been born, if You hadn't made it possible. Help me to appreciate the fact that You have given me my life. I want to love You and work for You even if it means losing my life. I believe that You Who have given me this life and have kept me alive this far will keep me alive for as long as it is Your will for me to be on this planet. Take my life and use it for Your glory and honor.

Psa 44:23 (NIV) Awake, O Lord! Why do You sleep? Rouse Yourself! Do not reject us forever. Sometimes I get frustrated with my prayer relationship with You. In the world where money is the method of exchange, all I have to do is make enough money and I can buy anything I want. But, in the spiritual world, I have to trust You and wait on You to decide when You are going to meet my needs and answer my prayers. I know You never sleep or slumber; but it seems like You aren't paying any attention to me or my cries. My need for You is constant and I have to have Your supply all the time. Yet there are times when I can't seem to get the things I feel I need from You. I feel rejected and ignored, when You delay Your answers to things I feel I desperately need. Help me to keep my faith and trust in You. Let me know that Your timing for my life is perfect. Strengthen my heart so I don't lose faith and damage my chances of being blessed by You. You will never fail me or neglect me. You always do the right things all the time.

Psa 44:24 (NIV) Why do You hide Your face and forget our misery and oppression? If there is something that is wrong in my life that is blocking off Your supply, show it to me so I can give it up to You for healing and deliverance. Empower me to be able to ask why without being filled with doubt. When it feels like You are hiding Your face from me, help me to always know that You are doing the right thing. Keep me from pride in thinking that You are somehow at fault. If there is a problem in our relationship, keep me aware of the fact that it has to be my fault and not Yours. You are perfect and can never make a mistake. I, on the other hand, make lots of mistakes. When I am in misery and oppression, I suffer and the pain and fear that comes from it pushes me toward blame. I want out of my suffering so much that I try to force all those things around me to quit hurting me. I know You are my only answer; but I try to get You to meet my needs by using techniques that are not good. Forgive me and help me to patiently wait for Your deliverance. Keep my attitudes in a pure and godly condition and empower me to stay in constant faith in You.

Psa 44:25 (NIV) We are brought down to the dust; our bodies cling to the ground.

There are times when it seems like everything is going wrong. Our lives are pushed down to the lowest we can go. I don't like it, when this happens. I only like it, when You see a negative situation in my life and fix it immediately. During times of suffering and defeat I can only see my situation. I forget about others and their needs. My eyes turn inward and I can only care about the pain and suffering I am going through. I forget that You are training me and preparing me for serving others. I get distracted from learning how to get the victory through faith and the truth of Your Word. During these times I stop wanting to fight the good fight of faith and just want deliverance. I just want You to deliver me without me being responsible for doing my part. Teach me Your Word. Help me to apply Your truths to my situations. Help me to learn how to be delivered so I can teach these principles to others. Deliver me from selfishness and fill my heart with love. Let me learn all of Your truths so I can be a constant source of Your mighty power for those around me.

Psa 44:26 (NIV) Rise up and help us; redeem us because of Your unfailing love. I don't deserve Your help. Sometimes I get to feeling like You owe me something. I start telling You what to do rather than allowing You to teach me. I stop letting You be God in my life and I start thinking that I am the one who knows what is best. I allow my opinions to be superior over Your wisdom and knowledge. I apologize for these attitudes of pride and rebellion. I don't mean to be damaging our relationship. I know You are a God of unfailing love. Help my prayers to be requests rather than demands. Help me to ask You to rise up and help us. Deliver me from ever demanding that You rise up and help us. If it were not for Your love, we wouldn't have redemption and freedom from sin. You were the One Who gave us Your only Son so we could be saved. I was still a sinner, when You sent Your Son. I was still being Your enemy and was doing things that were against Your holiness and purity. I didn't deserve Your grace and mercy. I am only able to love You because You loved me first. I humbly pray that You would rise up and help us; redeem us because of Your unfailing love.

PSALM 45

God, I want You to be my King.

Psa 45:1 (NIV) For the director of music. To the tune of "Lilies." Of the Sons of Korah. A maskil. A wedding song. My heart is stirred by a noble theme as I recite my verses for the King; my tongue is the pen of a skillful writer. Jesus, You are my King. You are the governing authority for my life. You are the ruler over my decisions and plans. You know what is best for me. There was a time when I thought that I was the only one who had my best interests in mind. I thought that I cared about me so much that I was the only one who should make the decisions for my life. I protected myself from all decisions and influences that went contrary to what I thought was best for me. But, after years of experiencing You and Your love, I have discovered that You love me more than I love myself. I have experienced Your love, wisdom, authority, and power. For years I have compared Your plan for my life with my plan for my life. I have found that my life is freer and more wonderful, when You take control of the decisions for my life. You never abuse me or take advantage of me. You always have my best interests in mind. I choose to make You the King and Lord of my life.

Psa 45:2 (NIV) You are the most excellent of men and Your lips have been anointed with grace, since God has blessed You forever. You were born on this earth in the likeness of a human. You have all the rights and authority of a man. Yet You came to earth as God. You have all the rights and authority of God. You represented me as the sacrifice for my sins on a human level. You died in my place by allowing Your body to be killed. You suffered for me and have taken away all my judgment. I will never be punished for all the sins I have committed. You loved me when I couldn't even love myself. Even though You are God, You made sacrifices that are beyond my comprehension. You have loved me with a love that exceeds anything I can conceive of. You are the most excellent of men. There has never been a human that has lived as perfect and pure life as You lived. Everything You said and did was anointed with a grace that blessed mankind beyond anything we could ever deserve. Our heavenly Father has blessed You with the throne and kingship over all mankind forever. You and You alone deserve to be our King.

Psa 45:3 (NIV) Gird your sword upon Your side, O mighty One; clothe Yourself with splendor and majesty. Take Your position over all creation. I pray that You would move before us and empower us to set the people of this world free from the slavery of Satan and sin. Enable us to deliver all who are will from their sins. Let the whole world see Your splendor and majesty so they can respond to Your greatness. Help them to understand just how great You really are. You have proven Yourself to me. You have helped me to see Your love and power to set us free. I have been able to devote my entire life to You because of Your great love. Do the same for all those around the world who are willing to see. Let Your delivering sword go in front of us and let it cut to bonds of those enslaved to the power of sin. You have died for their sins; let all mankind gain the benefits from that provision.

Psa 45:4 (NIV) In Your majesty ride forth victoriously in behalf of truth, humility and righteousness; let Your right hand display awesome deeds. Live Your life in and through us. Use my body to accomplish this last day work. Let the people of this world see You rather than me. Help me to become so transparent that I don't obscure any of Your majesty. Use all who are willing to yield to Your life and ministry and ride forth victoriously in behalf of truth, humility, and righteousness. Do Your mighty and awesome deeds so the hearts of these people could be set free. You have purchased all of mankind with Your blood. You have provided salvation for everyone. Satan is a defeated foe. We have all been purchase by Your blood. Use our bodies and in Your majesty ride forth victoriously.

Psa 45:5 (NIV) Let Your sharp arrows pierce the hearts of the King's enemies; let the nations fall beneath Your feet. There are those who are resisting You and Your message. They won't accept You as their King and they don't want anyone else to accept You. They have made themselves Your enemies. They don't want Your truth and they are spreading lies against it. I want to proclaim Your truth to all nations. We want to be Your people and do Your work. Open the doors for Your message and ministry. Let Your sharp arrows pierce the hearts of all Your enemies, dear Jesus. Let all the nations fall beneath Your feet. Let those who will accept You as their King be set free; and let all who will not accept You fall beneath Your feet.

Psa 45:6 (NIV) Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever; a scepter of justice will be the scepter of Your kingdom. I serve Your eternal kingdom. I accept You as the eternal God. I believe in You as my God; and I know that Your throne will last forever and ever. I have devoted myself to You because You alone have a scepter of justice. No one has matched Your purity and holiness. No one has demonstrated Your kind of love and sacrifice. You alone are willing to share all Your greatness to all who will yield to Your kind of purity, kindness, holiness, and love. We all want Your kind of life of fairness, mercy, and grace. But, frequently, we aren't willing to treat others with the kind of purity we want for ourselves. Heal us so we will live out to others the kind of life we want for ourselves. Your kingdom will only have citizens who become like You.

Psa 45:7 (NIV) You love righteousness and hate wickedness; therefore God, Your God, has set You above Your companions by anointing You with the oil of joy. You and You alone love righteousness and hate wickedness. You alone died so that everyone who put their faith in You could be filled with righteousness and delivered from wickedness. You alone have shared all You are with all of us. No one has been so generous as You. You alone are worthy of praise and honor. No one has lived the life You have lived and been the kind of person You are.

We all can see how wonderful the things are that You stand for. We all want to experience the things You provide. Some aren't willing to get them through You. They want to create them by their own efforts. I was a person like that. However, I found that You alone have the power to create them in me and in those around me. I want to be that kind of person and I want to be surrounded by this kind of people. I know that I will find this kind of a life in Your Kingdom.

God has set You above everyone else. He made the right and righteous choice. He knows that You are His Son and that You live like Him. You deserve to be above all mankind. You deserve it because You are our creator. You deserve it because You are our Savior. You deserve it because You are our God. You deserve it because You love righteousness and hate wickedness. You deserve it because God, Your God, anointed You with the oil of joy. I honor You and bow my knees before You. You are my King.

Psa 45:8 (NIV) All Your robes are fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia; from palaces adorned with ivory the music of the strings makes You glad. You wear the robes of righteousness. You have clothed Yourself in all the purity and holiness of Your Father. When we see You, we see our heavenly Father. You have taken on all of His character. You are His perfect representative. We have accepted Him and have loved Him because You have shown how great He is.

Everything that is beautiful and wonderful You have made Your clothing. You have set up Your Kingdom in beauty and wonder. I want to live in Your Kingdom. I want to do whatever it takes to be a part of everything You are and everything You do forever. I want to sing Your praises and speak forth Your glory to all mankind. You are worthy of all credit, honor, and praise.

Psa 45:9 (NIV) Daughters of kings are among Your honored women; at Your right hand is the royal bride in gold of Ophir. I am a member of the bride of Christ. I am the inheritor of You and Your relationship. You have prepared a people to become one with You. You have included me in that group. You have lifted us up with You and in You for all eternity. You have made us all one with each other and one with You. You have called us to unity in You. I yield to that unity. I give up discord, dissention, gossiping, lying, cheating, hurting people, and all the works of the body. I receive all of the fruit of the Spirit. I want all the characteristics and qualities that it takes to become one with You and the rest of Your bride.

Psa 45:10 (NIV) Listen, O daughter, consider and give ear: Forget your people and your father's house. Help me to forget the people who were pulling me into the world. Help me to give up all worldly pleasures and principles. I give up being a child of Satan and his lies. Deliver me from any desire to go back to those things my body craved, the world enticed me with, and the things the devil tempted me with. Being with You is far better than anything the world has to offer. Enable me to completely forget all of it and come to You with no regrets.

Psa 45:11 (NIV) The King is enthralled by your beauty; honor Him, for He is your Lord. Jesus, You have made me beautiful. You set me free from the hideousness of sin. You transformed me into a whole new creation. You have given me more than I could have thought of, desired, or asked for. I honor You. You are my Lord.

Psa 45:12 (NIV) The Daughter of Tyre will come with a gift, men of wealth will seek Your favor. I sought to be popular with the people of the world. I tried to win them over as my friends. I followed their patterns so I could be accepted into their group. I lowered my standards and gave in to their philosophies. I did everything I could to be one of them. Then I realized that this wasn't who I wanted to be. I want becoming a person I couldn't respect. My goals were taking me down a path that was destroying me. I want trying to please the wrong people. So, I turned to You for direction. You showed me a way of life that was beautiful and joyous. I gave my life over to You and You have never directed me into anything that I couldn't appreciate or honor. Now I am trying to be pleasing in Your sight. I am turning all my goals and plans over to You. You have proven that You are the One I want to be like. Since then I have been accepted by people like You.

Psa 45:13 (NIV) All glorious is the princess within her chamber; her gown is interwoven with gold. I tried to get wealth by devoting myself to its pursuit. I gave my life over to studying how to have a career and a good position in a good company. I put all of my time and effort into becoming a person who could earn as much money as possible. I spent all my time, poured out my heart, and invested my money in getting ahead. I didn't have time for You. I was too busy pursuing my financial goals. I filled my life with everything money could buy. But after reaching my goals and obtaining the objects of my desires, I found no happiness or satisfaction. I was tempted to increase my efforts. I thought that maybe I hadn't tried hard enough. I thought that my way was right I just hadn't done it right. I almost spent the rest of my life trying harder to get happiness through possessions. But, You interrupted my pursuit and showed me another way. Now I pursue You and all these other things are being added to me.

Psa 45:14 (NIV) In embroidered garments she is led to the King; her virgin companions follow her and are brought to You. There is a world and a life that You are preparing for me. It is far better than anything this world can ever be. This new world and life have everything I have ever wanted and more. I want to do whatever it takes to get ready for that world. I want to do all those things You want me to do in this world so I can inherit that world. Help me to not get distracted by this world and fail to properly prepare for Your new world. Lead me to You my King. Keep me heading in Your direction. Help me see Your future plans. Prepare us Your people for eternity. Empower us to maintain an eternal perspective.

Psa 45:15 (NIV) They are led in with joy and gladness; they enter the palace of the King. There will be a special moment when You call us to all come to You, my King. You will sound the trumpet and will catch us all up in the air. You will come for us and will take us to be with You forever. Right now You are helping us to get dressed for this great event. You have been preparing our hearts so we would be able to be a part of all You are. You have cleansed me, transformed me, dressed me in righteousness, and prepared me for this moment. You have given me the opportunity to excel in all You have for me.

Some of the things I have been exposed to have been difficult and painful. I have had to suffer many rejections and corrections. You have had to chastise me and correct me many times. You have had to prune me and cut off many of my achievements. I have been persecuted and accused. Some persecutions have been justified concerning me and others have been false accusations. You have been giving me many difficult assignments so as to prepare me for now and eternity. But, in it all, it will be worth it for eternity. I will be led with joy and gladness into the great palace of You, my King. Then I will be totally glad that You did all You did to prepare me for that day.

Psa 45:16 (NIV) Your sons will take the place of Your fathers; You will make them princes throughout the land. There are those that You wanted to be Your people. You wanted to make them a nation and a people for Your name. Some of them responded to Your plan; but others refused to let You be their Lord. Those who have accepted You as their Lord will take the place of many who were in Your human lineage. It isn't by natural birth that we enter into Your Kingdom, my King. It is those who hear Your Words and obey them that will enter Your Kingdom. They will be Your princes in the land You have prepared for them.

Psa 45:17 (NIV) I will perpetuate Your memory through all generations; therefore the nations will praise You for ever and ever. I want to let everyone know how great You are. I want to tell everyone all You have done for me and for all who will accept You. I want to show my appreciation for Your great work You have done to provide salvation to all. It isn't Your fault that some will not accept that great salvation You have provided. I want all to see that You made all of these things available to everyone for free. All we have to do is accept You and Your provisions in faith and they are ours. Help me to let the nations know about Your greatness. Provide me with the opportunity to praise You by expressing my thanksgiving to all mankind. Let me help anyone who wants to, to touch the lives of everyone on this planet. I will praise You forever and ever.