

### **Psalm 25:1-10 (NIV)**

1 To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul; 2 in you I trust, O my God. Do not let me be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me. 3 No one whose hope is in you will ever be put to shame, but they will be put to shame who are treacherous without excuse. 4 Show me your ways, O LORD, teach me your paths; 5 guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long. 6 Remember, O LORD, your great mercy and love, for they are from of old. 7 Remember not the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways; according to your love remember me, for you are good, O LORD. 8 Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in his ways. 9 He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way. 10 All the ways of the LORD are loving and faithful for those who keep the demands of his covenant.

The beauty of Psalm 25 is that every Christian could put their name in place of the author and pray this prayer. It is the heartfelt prayer of every Christian. It expresses trust in the Lord. It expresses a realization of where they were as a sinner. It articulates a desire to live sanctified lives by doing God's will. It praises the Lord for his salvation.

The Psalm starts where every prayer should start, by putting everything into God's hands. The Psalmist asks that God would protect him from his enemies. This isn't simply from physical harm, but from the shame that words can bring. We in the United States don't face much physical persecution for our faith; however, there is definitely verbal persecution. We ask that God would keep us from that. How can we be sure that God will hear and answer our prayer? No one whose hope is in the Lord will ever be put to shame! That doesn't mean that we won't be persecuted. That doesn't mean that life will be easy. It means that we will not be shamed eternally. No one can shame us into hell if we believe in Jesus as our Savior.

What a beautiful transition the Psalmist now makes. He now asks the Lord to help him live a life according to his Word. The world will not approve of this. The world will be even more inclined to try and shame him; but this is the life of the sanctified believer. It is counter to everything the world stands for. Why does the believer want to follow God's paths and ways? What is his motivation? God is his Savior and his hope! Gospel motivation streaming from the Old Testament before Jesus was born!

The Psalmist realizes that he has not always followed the way of the Lord. That's the battle that rages inside of every Christian. The old man verses the new man. You can't reform the old man; you have to beat him down every day. The Psalmist calls on the Lord to remember him, not according to his sins, but according to God's love. Again, what a beautiful picture of grace! God's undeserved love for sinners! That love gently instructs the sinner in the way of the Lord. Through hardship and trial, the Lord strengthens the faith of his believers. He forces them to trust in him alone. What wondrous love is this! For good and upright is the Lord! The ways of the Lord are loving and faithful. Dear Christian, pray this prayer with the Psalmist! Lift up your soul to the Lord! Put your hope in him!