



PRAYER SERVICE WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30TH, 7PM

Join us outside in the pavilion or on [Facebook](#) and use this Guide to pray with us.

• INTRO

Welcome to Prayer Service! Last week, we took a break from our journey through the Psalms for a special night of prayer in the community. It was a wonderful time to see believers from different churches and organizations join together in prayer for the Kingdom! Stay tuned for more opportunities like this to come. Tonight, we're getting back into praying through the Psalms with Psalm 7. As we pray through God's Word tonight, be reminded of its power to challenge and transform us—God's word can be sweeter than honey, refreshing as a quiet stream, and as powerful as a double-edged sword. Hebrews 4:12 says, *"Indeed the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart."* As we read God's word, we are also seeking to let God's word *read us*: to show us where we need to break ties with falsehood and conform to God's perfect wisdom, to both comfort us and challenge us in these tumultuous times so we can live faithfully. Let's pray.

• PAUSE

Here is a prayer written by Dr. Brian Russell to help us approach the Scriptures:

"Gracious God: Embolden us today with the courage to read your Word and receive, to breathe in your guidance and to breathe it out in faithful practice and praise. Continue to astonish us anew with the riches of your Word so that we may be shaped and formed into the people that you desire us to be. Unleash us to live by faith, be known by love and to serve as voices of hope for all creation. In Jesus' name: Amen."

Pause and pray

As we read **Psalm 7** together, be open with the parts that confuse or challenge you; meditate on the parts that stand out to you:

"¹ LORD my God, I take refuge in you; save and deliver me from all who pursue me, ² or they will tear me apart like a lion and rip me to pieces with no one to rescue me. ³ LORD my God, if I have done this and there is guilt on my hands—⁴ if I have repaid my ally with evil or without cause have robbed my foe—⁵ then let my enemy pursue and overtake me; let him trample my life to the ground and make me sleep in the dust. ⁶ Arise, LORD, in your anger; rise up against the rage of my enemies. Awake, my God; decree justice. ⁷ Let the assembled peoples

gather around you, while you sit enthroned over them on high. ⁸ Let the LORD judge the peoples. Vindicate me, LORD, according to my righteousness, according to my integrity, O Most High. ⁹ Bring to an end the violence of the wicked and make the righteous secure—you, the righteous God who probes minds and hearts. ¹⁰ My shield is God Most High, who saves the upright in heart. ¹¹ God is a righteous judge, a God who displays his wrath every day. ¹² If he does not relent, he will sharpen his sword; he will bend and string his bow. ¹³ He has prepared his deadly weapons; he makes ready his flaming arrows. ¹⁴ Whoever is pregnant with evil conceives trouble and gives birth to disillusionment. ¹⁵ Whoever digs a hole and scoops it out falls into the pit they have made. ¹⁶ The trouble they cause recoils on them; their violence comes down on their own heads. ¹⁷ I will give thanks to the LORD because of his righteousness; I will sing the praises of the name of the LORD Most High.”

- **SONG**

“How Firm A Foundation” Click Here - <https://youtu.be/cY6k2QhdCn0>

VERSE 1

How firm a foundation ye saints of the Lord
Is laid for your faith in His excellent word
What more can He say than to you He hath said
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled

VERSE 2

Fear not I am with thee O be not dismayed
For I am thy God I will still give thee aid
I'll strengthen thee help thee
And cause thee to stand
Upheld by My gracious omnipotent hand

VERSE 3

When through the deep waters He calls
thee to go
The rivers of grief shall not thee overflow

For He will be with thee in trouble to bless
And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress

VERSE 4

When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie
My grace all-sufficient shall be thy supply
The flames shall not hurt thee I only design
Thy dross to consume and thy gold to refine

VERSE 5

The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose
I will not I will not desert to its foes
That soul though all hell should endeavor to shake
I'll never no never no never forsake

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- **Psalm 7:1-5**

“¹ LORD my God, I take refuge in you; save and deliver me from all who pursue me, ² or they will tear me apart like a lion and rip me to pieces with no one to rescue me. ³ LORD my God, if I have done this and there is guilt on my hands—⁴ if I have repaid my ally with evil or without cause have robbed my foe—⁵ then let my enemy pursue and overtake me; let him trample my life to the ground and make me sleep in the dust.”

Many times the Psalm give reference to enemies: the Psalms came from a variety of circumstances from a people who experienced much hardship; they teach us to run to God with all our troubles. Remember, whenever we see reference to “enemies” and “all who pursue me” we can think of not only people, but any situations and issues that threaten our well-being. Reflect on your life for a moment: what troubles and issues “pursue” you and threaten to “tear you apart like a lion”? Name this fears and troubles to God directly with the attitude of verse 1: “Lord, my God, I take refuge in you; save and deliver me...” Pause and pray.

Now think of others you know: what troubles afflict them? What issues are stalking them like a vicious lion? Ask boldly for God’s protection and deliverance for them, for God’s Kingdom to be made known in their life. Pause and pray.

- **Psalm 7:6-9**

“⁶ Arise, LORD, in your anger; rise up against the rage of my enemies. Awake, my God; decree justice. ⁷ Let the assembled peoples gather around you, while you sit enthroned over them on high. ⁸ Let the LORD judge the peoples. Vindicate me, LORD, according to my righteousness, according to my integrity, O Most High. ⁹ Bring to an end the violence of the wicked and make the righteous secure—you, the righteous God who probes minds and hearts.”

This Psalm gives us a powerful focus on God’s justice and a deep awareness of the injustice of the world. What issues in the world right now, locally and globally, cause you to cry out for God’s justice? What situations cause you to pray, “Arise Lord...rise up...decree justice,”? Pause and pray.

This Psalm also displays a bold vulnerability with God, a sense of confidence that God knows the life of the one who is praying inside and out. Verse 9 states, “...you, the righteous God who probes minds and hearts.” Would you be bold enough to ask God to “probe your mind and heart” at this time? To bring your life before God and give Him permission to show you the truth about yourself? With all that’s happening in our world, this might be what we most deeply need right now. Ask God to search your heart and show you what He wants to show you. Pause and pray.

- **Psalm 7:10-17**

“¹⁰ My shield is God Most High, who saves the upright in heart. ¹¹ God is a righteous judge, a God who displays his wrath every day. ¹² If he does not relent, he will sharpen his sword; he will bend and string his bow. ¹³ He has prepared his deadly weapons; he makes ready his flaming arrows. ¹⁴ Whoever is pregnant with evil conceives trouble and gives birth to disillusionment. ¹⁵ Whoever digs a hole and scoops it out falls into the pit they have made. ¹⁶ The trouble they cause recoils on them; their violence comes down on their own heads. ¹⁷ I will give thanks to the LORD because of his righteousness; I will sing the praises of the name of the LORD Most High.”

With all the darkness and brokenness of this world, it is an actual encouragement to know that God ultimately does judge and defeat evil. At the same time, we know that none of us are free from guilt: we pray for mercy and we pray for justice. We cling to the cross of Christ for our salvation. As you have invited God to search your heart, do you have any sins you need to confess, or wrongs of others you need to forgive? Pause and pray.

After praying so intensely for deliverance and justice in the midst of dire circumstances, the Psalm ends with this confident note of praise: "I will give thanks to the Lord because of his righteousness; I will sing the praises of the Lord Most High." Even before these prayers are answered, the Psalmist chooses to praise God for God's own character and in the confidence that this prayer has been heard. Do you have any prayers you are waiting to be answered, that you can choose to praise God and thank God in advance for? Take time to conclude by simply giving God thanks and praise. Pause and pray.

- **SONG**

"Great Are You Lord" Click Here - <https://youtu.be/vQLMnPYoR9k>

VERSE

You give life You are love
You bring light to the darkness
You give hope You restore ev'ry heart that
is broken
And great are You Lord

CHORUS

It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise
We pour out our praise
It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise to You only

BRIDGE

And all the earth will shout Your praise
Our hearts will cry these bones will sing
Great are You Lord

CCLI Song # 6460220 David Leonard | Jason Ingram | Leslie Jordan © 2012 Integrity's Alleluia! Music

- **Closing**

***"Father, help me to live this day to the full, being true to you in every way.
Jesus, help me to give myself away to others, being kind to everyone I meet.
Spirit, help me to love the lost, proclaiming Christ in all I do and say. Amen."***
(Lectio365)