



PRAYER SERVICE WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21ST, 7PM

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

• INTRO

Welcome to Prayer Service! Every Wednesday night we pause from our busy schedules to pray through the Psalms. Tonight's Psalm is another prayer for God's righteous justice for the oppressed and afflicted. It begins with a desperate question, "Why, God?" yet, ends with the confident declaration, "The LORD is King." Wherever you are, let's pray through this journey together.

• PAUSE

"As I enter prayer now, I pause to be still; to breathe slowly; to re-center my scattered senses upon the presence of God." (Lectio365) *Pause and pray.*

As we read **Psalm 10** together, be open with the parts that confuse or challenge you; meditate on the parts that stand out to you:

"¹ Why, LORD, do you stand far off? Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble? ² In his arrogance the wicked man hunts down the weak, who are caught in the schemes he devises. ³ He boasts about the cravings of his heart; he blesses the greedy and reviles the LORD. ⁴ In his pride the wicked man does not seek him; in all his thoughts there is no room for God. ⁵ His ways are always prosperous; your laws are rejected by him; he sneers at all his enemies. ⁶ He says to himself, 'Nothing will ever shake me.' He swears, 'No one will ever do me harm.' ⁷ His mouth is full of lies and threats; trouble and evil are under his tongue. ⁸ He lies in wait near the villages; from ambush he murders the innocent. His eyes watch in secret for his victims; ⁹ like a lion in cover he lies in wait. He lies in wait to catch the helpless; he catches the helpless and drags them off in his net. ¹⁰ His victims are crushed, they collapse; they fall under his strength. ¹¹ He says to himself, 'God will never notice; he covers his face and never sees.' ¹² Arise, LORD! Lift up your hand, O God. Do not forget the helpless. ¹³ Why does the wicked man revile God? Why does he say to himself, 'He won't call me to account'? ¹⁴ But you, God, see the trouble of the afflicted; you consider their grief and take it in hand. The victims commit themselves to you; you are the helper of the fatherless. ¹⁵ Break the arm of the wicked man; call the evildoer to account for his wickedness that would not otherwise be found out. ¹⁶ The LORD is King for ever and ever; the nations will perish from his land. ¹⁷ You, LORD, hear the desire of the afflicted; you encourage them, and you listen to their cry, ¹⁸ defending the fatherless and the oppressed, so that mere earthly mortals will never again strike terror."

- **SONGS**

“King of Kings” Click Here - <https://youtu.be/Of5IcFWiEpg>

VERSE 1

In the darkness we were waiting
Without hope without light
Till from Heaven You came running
There was mercy in Your eyes
To fulfil the law and prophets
To a virgin came the Word
From a throne of endless glory
To a cradle in the dirt

CHORUS

Praise the Father
Praise the Son
Praise the Spirit three in one
God of Glory, Majesty
Praise forever to the King of Kings

VERSE 2

To reveal the kingdom coming
And to reconcile the lost
To redeem the whole creation
You did not despise the cross

For even in Your suffering
You saw to the other side
Knowing this was our salvation
Jesus for our sake You died

VERSE 3

And the morning that You rose
All of heaven held its breath
Till that stone was moved for good
For the Lamb had conquered death
And the dead rose from their tombs
And the angels stood in awe
For the souls of all who'd come
To the Father are restored

VERSE 4

And the Church of Christ was born
Then the Spirit lit the flame
Now this Gospel truth of old
Shall not kneel shall not faint
By His blood and in His Name
In His freedom I am free
For the love of Jesus Christ
Who has resurrected me

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- **PSALM 10:1-9**

¹ Why, LORD, do you stand far off? Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble? ² In his arrogance the wicked man hunts down the weak, who are caught in the schemes he devises. ³ He boasts about the cravings of his heart; he blesses the greedy and reviles the LORD. ⁴ In his pride the wicked man does not seek him; in all his thoughts there is no room for God. ⁵ His ways are always prosperous; your laws are rejected by him; he sneers at all his enemies. ⁶ He says to himself, ‘Nothing will ever shake me.’ He swears, ‘No one will ever do me harm.’ ⁷ His mouth is full of lies and threats; trouble and evil are under his tongue. ⁸ He lies in wait near the villages; from ambush he murders the innocent. His eyes watch in secret for his victims; ⁹like a lion in cover he lies in wait. He lies in wait to catch the helpless; he catches the helpless and drags them off in his net.’

“Why, LORD, do you stand far off?” (v.1). Sometimes, we need space to ask “Why, God?” Sometimes, the community of faith can make it seem like we should never have questions, never doubt, never struggle. The Scriptures show us otherwise:

Rather than deny the challenges of life and ignore the situations that don't make sense, the Psalms challenge us to vent our frustrations, our fears, and our doubts to the Lord. In doing so, we have the opportunity to refocus on the greatness of God and the sufficiency of His promises. Our capacity of faith grows as we learn how to trust even when we don't understand. Are you holding on to a doubt that you need to release to God? Are you suppressing a question that needs to be voiced to the Lord? *Pause and pray.*

"In his pride the wicked man does not seek him; in all his thoughts there is no room for God," (v. 4). As the Psalmist reflects indignantly on the nature of the wicked and the unjust, he makes this piercing observation: *"in all his thoughts there is no room for God."* We are hopefully far removed from the type of wickedness described here, but this statement should give us pause: does this reflect my life in any way right now? *"In all his thoughts there is no room for God."* How are you "making room" for God in your mind, your heart, your life? Would you ask the Lord how He would like you to "make room" in your life right now? *Pause and pray.*

- **PSALM 10:10-18**

"¹⁰His victims are crushed, they collapse; they fall under his strength. ¹¹He says to himself, 'God will never notice; he covers his face and never sees.' ¹²Arise, LORD! Lift up your hand, O God. Do not forget the helpless. ¹³Why does the wicked man revile God? Why does he say to himself, 'He won't call me to account'? ¹⁴But you, God, see the trouble of the afflicted; you consider their grief and take it in hand. The victims commit themselves to you; you are the helper of the fatherless. ¹⁵Break the arm of the wicked man; call the evildoer to account for his wickedness that would not otherwise be found out. ¹⁶The LORD is King for ever and ever; the nations will perish from his land. ¹⁷You, LORD, hear the desire of the afflicted; you encourage them, and you listen to their cry, ¹⁸defending the fatherless and the oppressed, so that mere earthly mortals will never again strike terror."

If you've been praying through the Psalms with us so far, already in these first 10 chapters you might have noticed one theme that comes up often: a fierce desire for *justice* and a concern for the *poor and oppressed*. It is a central part of life for those who would follow and worship the one true God. *"But you, God see the trouble of the afflicted; you consider their grief and take in in hand. The victims commit themselves to you; you are the helper of the fatherless... You, LORD, hear the desire of the afflicted; you encourage them, and you listen to their cry, defending the fatherless and the oppressed..."* (v. 13-18). The all-powerful, all-loving God of the universe notices and cares for the powerless, the unloved, the oppressed and abused. Do we?

Where do you see yourself in this Psalm: are you observing brokenness in the world and crying out for justice? Are you feeling crushed, forgotten, or abused? Are you in some way allowing wickedness to rule you actions towards others? Whether your focus is justice, deliverance, or repentance, respond accordingly in prayer. *Pause and pray.*

The Psalm began with a desperate and frustrating question, “Why, God?!” But it ends with a confident declaration: “The LORD is King for ever and ever...” As we look to God with our pain and struggles, we remember the He is King. Those who inflict evil in this world are, after all, *mere mortals*: our God of justice and love is *forever*. In Christ, we have full confidence that in His timing, the King will return to set *all things right* and make *all things new*. In the meantime, we live to make His Kingdom known and make this earth look more like Heaven. Pray for the Kingdom of God to overtake any situation of pain, oppression, and injustice that comes to your mind, great or small. *Pause and pray.*

- **SONG**

“One Thing Remains” Click Here - https://youtu.be/6_KXsMCJgBQ

VERSE 1

Higher than the mountains that I face
Stronger than the power of the grave
Constant in the trial and the change
One thing remains
One thing remains

VERSE 2

On and on and on and on it goes
It overwhelms and satisfies my soul
And I never ever have to be afraid
One thing remains
One thing remains

CHORUS

Your love never fails
It never gives up
Never runs out on me
Your love
Can separate my heart from Your great love

BRIDGE

In death in life I'm confident and
Covered by the power of Your great love
My debt is paid there's nothing that

CCLI Song # 5508444 Brian Johnson | Christa Black Gifford | Jeremy Riddle © 2010 ChristaJoy Music Publishing

- **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)