



**Sunday June 05, 2022**  
**With God By My Side**

**INTRODUCTION:**

In today's message we are going to look at a song composed by the psalmist David - Psalm 18

Psalm 18 is one of the lengthier psalms with 50 verses and there are only 3 other psalms longer than this and they are: Ps 78 (72 verses), Ps 89 (52 verses) & Ps 119 (176 verses)

It is interesting to note that Psalm 18 is a repeat of the song recorded in 2 Samuel 22 where David seems to have sung it at the very end of his life.

So, it is quite possible that David wrote this song in his younger days and sang it once again (as recorded in 2 Samuel 22) looking back at his whole life with gratitude, thanksgiving and praises to Almighty God.

**THE TITLE**

If we would turn in our Bibles to Psalm 18, we read this as the title of the psalm:

*To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David the servant of the Lord, who spoke to the Lord the words of this song on the day that the Lord delivered him from the hand of all his enemies and from the hand of Saul and he said:*

So, David writes this in response to experiencing God's deliverance, protection and mercy – after all the years of living as a fugitive being hunted down by Saul had come to an end, and after all his struggles and conquests as a King.

Though this is not a verse-by-verse study of all 50 verses, we are going to observe the truths that are highlighted here for us and see how we can apply these in our own lives.

**THE CIRCUMSTANCES**

**Psalm 18:4-6**

**4 The pangs of death surrounded me,  
And the floods of ungodliness made me afraid.**

**5 The sorrows of Sheol surrounded me; The snares of death confronted me.**

**6 In my distress I called upon the Lord, And cried out to my God; He heard my voice from His temple, And my cry came before Him, even to His ears.**



The Psalmist lived under and faced these circumstances.

1) DEATH THREATS

Vs. 4 – ‘Pangs of death’

Vs. 5 - ‘Sorrows of Sheol’

Same word used for both pangs and sorrows

Figuratively meaning a rope, a noose.

It refers to a sudden sharp pain or painful emotion

The psalmist was surrounded on all sides by threats to his life.

2) OVERWHELMING UNGODLINESS

Vs. 4 – ‘floods of ungodliness.’

*Floods*: an overflow of a large amount of water beyond its normal limits, especially over what is normally dry land.

*Ungodliness*: wickedness, evil, worthlessness

These waves of unrighteousness people and their acts caused David to be afraid, terrified. These fears threatened to overwhelm him.

3) SNARES

Vs. 5 – ‘snares of death confronted me’

*Snare*: a trap, a hook, a noose – used to ensnare animals

*Confronted*: prevented

David’s enemies’ schemes to trap him and capture him prevented him from living a normal life.

4) DISTRESS

Vs. 6 – ‘in my distress, I called’

*Distress*: narrow and tight place, a place of suffocation

He faced these circumstances both physically and emotionally.



## THE CHOICE - 'I WILL'

### Psalm 18:1-3

**1 I will love You, O Lord, my strength.**

**2 The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; My God, my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.**

**3 I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised; So shall I be saved from my enemies.**

### Psalm 18:49

**Therefore I will give thanks to You, O Lord, among the Gentiles, And sing praises to Your name.**

In the above mentioned verses, David makes a conscious choice - an act of his will to do something. And he chooses how he is going to relate to the Lord.

#### 1) He chooses to LOVE God

The Hebrew word *racham* used here for love conveys expressing a very deep, compassionate and tender emotion. It is not a very common word and this is the only place in the entire Old Testament that this word is used.

*Love is defined as an intense feeling of deep affection.*

Feelings can sometimes betray us.

They can fluctuate – go up and down. But, love goes beyond mere feelings.

It is also an act of our will – we can choose to love.

It is also a commitment – we can commit to love.

When we choose to love and commit to love, feelings of love will follow.

Do I love God only when I *feel* it?

Do I love God's people, others God has placed in my life only when I *feel* it?

Choose to love God!

#### 2) He chooses to TRUST God

*Trust:* to flee for protection. To confide in, have hope in and to make our refuge.

David chooses to make God his refuge, his hope.



Can I choose to trust the Lord even when circumstances, emotions, reasons and logic seems contrary?

Choose to trust God!

3) He chooses to CALL UPON the Lord

*Call*: conveys the meaning to proclaim, to invite, to mention the name, to encounter

The psalmist chooses to:

- Proclaim the truth of who the Lord is
- Invite the Lord into his situation, circumstance
- Mention the name of the Lord – the name that is higher, greater, powerful, almighty.
- Encounter – His presence, His power

Can I choose to call upon the Lord... first?

Can the Lord be the first person I turn to... before anyone else?

Choose to call upon the Lord despite everything!

4) He chooses to GIVE THANKS & SING PRAISES to the Lord.

#### **Psalm 18:49**

**Therefore I will give thanks to You, O Lord, among the Gentiles, And sing praises to Your name.**

*thanks (yadah)*: extend one's hand and worship with thanksgiving

*praises (zamar)*: make music on a stringed instrument and sing praise

Choose to list your blessings and choose to give thanks!

- Make a list of blessings – material, relational, spiritual, financial, etc.
- Give heartfelt thanks to the Lord for each of them
- Make a list of breakthroughs that God brought forth.
- Give heartfelt thanks to the Lord for each of these

Choose to sing praise!

- Especially when emotionally down and depleted of strength
- When full of joy and when everything seems fine!



## THE REVELATION & EXPERIENCE

The Psalmist declares who God was for him.

### Psalm 18:1-2

**1 I will love You, O Lord, my strength.**

**2 The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; My God, my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.**

In the first two verses itself, the psalmist proclaims a list of 9 titles and attributes of God – a *firsthand revelation* and his *personal experience* of the *character, nature* and the *power* of God.

- 1) 'my strength' - the One who helped/empowered him to survive and defeat his enemies.
- 2) 'my rock' - a place of shelter/*shade*, safety/*protection*, and a secure standing/*firm footing*
- 3) 'my fortress' - a place of strength and safety.
- 4) 'my deliverer' - the One who made a way of escape for him.
- 5) 'my God'
- 6) 'my strength' - Here, David uses a different Hebrew word than in Ps 18:1. The idea behind this word is something unshakeable, a refuge – like a cliff, a rock, a boulder.
- 7) 'my shield' - the one who defends both his head and his heart.
- 8) 'my horn' - David's strength and defense.
- 9) 'my stronghold' - the high tower of refuge where one could see an enemy from a great distance and be protected from the adversary.

The revelation of who God has revealed Himself to be personally to us is:

- our source of strength
- our personal powerful weapon, sword of the Spirit
- an anchor for our soul – emotions, imaginations

So, let us SEEK Him, PURSUE His presence and RECEIVE from Him.



## THE DELIVERANCE

Ps 18:7-19 describes in the most dramatic and poetic manner the deliverance of the Lord experienced by the psalmist. The Lord moved on behalf of the one in whom He delighted.

### Psalm 18:7-19

**7 Then the earth shook and trembled; The foundations of the hills also quaked and were shaken, Because He was angry. 8 Smoke went up from His nostrils, And devouring fire from His mouth; Coals were kindled by it.**

**9 He bowed the heavens also, and came down With darkness under His feet.**

**10 And He rode upon a cherub, and flew; He flew upon the wings of the wind.**

**11 He made darkness His secret place; His canopy around Him was dark waters And thick clouds of the skies.**

**12 From the brightness before Him, His thick clouds passed with hailstones and coals of fire.**

**13 The Lord thundered from heaven, And the Most High uttered His voice, Hailstones and coals of fire.**

**14 He sent out His arrows and scattered the foe, Lightnings in abundance, and He vanquished them.**

**15 Then the channels of the sea were seen, The foundations of the world were uncovered, At Your rebuke, O Lord, At the blast of the breath of Your nostrils.**

**16 He sent from above, He took me; He drew me out of many waters.**

**17 He delivered me from my strong enemy, From those who hated me, For they were too strong for me.**

**18 They confronted me in the day of my calamity, But the Lord was my support.**

**19 He also brought me out into a broad place; He delivered me because He delighted in me.**

## THE POSTURE

David continued to be righteous, keep the ways of the Lord, kept himself blameless, kept himself from iniquity. He was far from perfect. He sinned greatly and fell.

When he sinned and when it was pointed out, he was quick to repent, be remorseful and get right with God



**Psalm 18:20-24**

**20** The Lord rewarded me according to my righteousness; According to the cleanness of my hands He has recompensed me.

**21** For I have kept the ways of the Lord and have not wickedly departed from my God.

**22** For all His judgments were before me, And I did not put away His statutes from me.

**23** I was also blameless before Him, And I kept myself from my iniquity.

**24** Therefore the Lord has recompensed me according to my righteousness, According to the cleanness of my hands in His sight.

Despite David's sins, the Lord showed mercy. The Lord delivered.

**Psalm 18:50**

**50** Great deliverance He gives to His king, And shows mercy to His anointed,  
To David and his descendants forevermore.

**CONCLUSION**

With God by my side, I CAN.

**Psalm 18:29**

**29** For by You I can run against a troop, By my God I can leap over a wall.

**Psalm 18:46**

**46** The Lord lives! Blessed be my Rock! Let the God of my salvation be exalted

**Psalm 18:49**

**49** Therefore I will give thanks to You, O Lord, among the Gentiles,  
And sing praises to Your name

**Some ACTION points:**

- 1) Choose to LOVE God**
- 2) Choose to TRUST Him**
- 3) Choose to seek Him & CALL UPON His Name**
- 4) Choose to GIVE THANKS & SING PRAISES to Him**



### **SALVATION CALL**

If you ask, does God love me? We can tell you what the Bible says: John 3:16, Romans 5:8

If you ask, how can I have my sins forgiven? We can tell you what the Bible says: Acts 10:43; 1 John 2:2,12

If you ask, what is the way to God? We can tell you what the Bible says: John 14:6

If you ask, how can I become a child of God? We can tell you what the Bible says: John 1:12

If you ask, where can I find salvation? We can tell you what the Bible says: Acts 4:12

If you ask, what must I do to experience salvation? We can tell you what the Bible says: Acts 16:30-31

As an act of your own free choice, we invite you to make this decision to follow Jesus.





LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

**Sunday June 05, 2022**  
**With God By My Side**

The is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

**Preparation**

To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full-length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at our [sermons page](#) . Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

**Welcome**

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship, and a fun activity.

**LISTEN to God's Word**

Take turns to read the following Scripture references (each person can read a reference)

- Psalm 18:1-6
- Psalm 18:7-19
- Psalm 18:20-24
- Psalm 18:29
- Psalm 18:46, 49

**INVESTIGATE God's Word Together**

Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.



*1, Can you identify with any of the circumstances that the psalmist went through? Can you share that experience or a similar experience of being surrounded, overwhelmed?*

*2, Can you share some lessons learnt, revelations received and experiences as the Lord brought you through and delivered you?*

*3, Take turns to pray for one another for God to reveal Himself in all these ways.*

If time permits, each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key learning and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

**FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey**

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

**ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another**

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

*1, families to be protected and strengthened*

*2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.*

*3, for the BUILD TO IMPACT project - for God's hand to guide us through the land search and acquisition process, and for finances to be more than enough to get this project done.*

Close by thanking God together.



**USEFUL RESOURCES**



Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

**YOUTUBE:** <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

**WEBSITE:** <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

**CHURCH:** <https://apcwo.org>

**FREE SERMONS:** <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

**FREE BOOKS:** <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

**DAILY DEVOTIONALS:** <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

**JESUS CHRIST:** <https://examiningjesus.com>

**BIBLE COLLEGE:** <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

**E-LEARNING:** <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

**COUNSELING:** <https://chrysalislife.org>

**MUSIC:** <https://apcmusic.org>

**MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP:** <https://pamfi.org>

**CHURCH APP:** <https://apcwo.org/app>

**CHURCHES:** <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

## KEYWORDS

The Psalms, a Psalm of David, Psalm 18, My God, My rock, My Strength, My shield, My horn, My salvation, My stronghold, with God by my side.

## REFERENCES/CITATIONS

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