

Psalm 16 (ASV)

¹ Preserve me, O God; for in thee do I take refuge.
² *O my soul*, thou hast said unto Jehovah, Thou art my Lord:
I have no good beyond thee.
³ As for the saints that are in the earth,
They are the excellent in whom is all my delight.
⁴ Their sorrows shall be multiplied that give gifts for another *god*:
Their drink-offerings of blood will I not offer,
Nor take their names upon my lips.
⁵ Jehovah is the portion of mine inheritance and of my cup:
Thou maintainest my lot.
⁶ The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places;
Yea, I have a goodly heritage.
⁷ I will bless Jehovah, who hath given me counsel;
Yea, my heart instructeth me in the night seasons.
⁸ I have set Jehovah always before me:
Because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.
⁹ Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth:
My flesh also shall dwell in safety.
¹⁰ For thou wilt not leave my soul to Sheol;
Neither wilt thou suffer thy holy one to see corruption.
¹¹ Thou wilt show me the path of life:
In thy presence is fulness of joy;
In thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

Study the Psalm and fill in the categories as Scripture reveals.

God:

I:

Wicked:

Prayer

Dear Lord of my life, Your presence fills my heart with joy. Remind me that You are all I need when events and surroundings threaten to steal that joy. Find me singing songs of praise when I am opposed, oppressed, facing odious obstacles, and offensive overindulgence. Allow Your light to shine through me and let me share who You are with everyone. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Reflection

1. Research the internet with this phrase: "What was the value of a cup in King David's time?" (specifically, David's cup) Then relate what you find to God.
2. Write a prayer to God describing who He is to You.
3. Add to the prayer by thanking Him for how the relationship with Him helps you when facing undesirable circumstances.

Response

I mentioned before that I have read many Psalms 20+ times, but only 11 times with Psalm 16. However, one of those instances was in Moldova in 2022 when I served for a week at a Ukrainian refugee camp. I mention this because in verse three, David refers to saints. The note in my Bible says that the saints are "those who are God's people, set apart through dedication and service to God." I've never considered myself a saint, more of whatever the opposite of that is, until God pulled me out of the nasty, sticky mire I created for my life. *Thank You, God, I am so thankful and blessed for Your love, power, and faithfulness, and have the same sentiments as David.* Now, I want to serve Him for the rest of my life in whatever small way I can. I believe it's through the gift He gave me—writing.

It is no coincidence that my heart was searing, and tears were rolling with pain from a broken relationship, and that this is the morning I read this particular Psalm. In it, David speaks of his joyous relationship with the Lord, regardless of the opposition and danger he experienced around him. As I read, my heart started healing, and my tears dried up.

There aren't enough or sufficient words to express the gratitude I feel for the Lord our God, but I will give it a shot in the context of this Psalm:

- ❖ He has never abandoned me.
- ❖ I can expect to live with Him eternally.
- ❖ His Presence fills me with joy.
- ❖ He is my refuge.
- ❖ He has protected me all the days of my life, even in the numerous harsh periods and times of opposition.
- ❖ He is my cup, my portion, and my refuge.

I am thankful that the words David wrote are included in the Word of God. No matter what we go through, we can find comfort, peace, rest, joy, hope, and faith in Scripture. As I write this, I look at my stationary bike and think the Bible is a lot like that. We have to use it to get the desired results. The difference between these two is that one creates more pain with the burn, and the other burns the pain. Don't just let either of them sit idle. Use them!

~Lisa Pritchard

Guest Response

In Psalm 16, its author, King David, is in a good place, both in his life and his relationship with his God. Because we have the benefit of having possession of David's entire collection of writings, we know that's not always the case. Yes, David is a holy man of God's choosing, but he's still a man. And therefore, he goes through his ups

and downs, his good times and his bad times.

Sound familiar? That sounds like me. And I'm willing to guess ... you too. Life is not always easy, and as our life situations occasionally grow difficult and dark, so do our moods and our faith in God.

But in Psalm 16, David is happy and strong. "Keep me safe, O God, for in you I take refuge ... You are my Lord; apart from you I have no good thing." (New International Version, verses 1 and 2).

This gives me an important reminder that every positive thing I possess in life, every success I've earned, and every strong relationship I enjoy is due to God's goodness. Because apart from Him, I have "no good thing" either.

When preparing to write this Response, I pulled a Bible randomly off my shelf. I think my collection is up to about a dozen Bibles now. This particular one, in the New International Version, with a brown leather cover, was the Bible I read straight through when I was in high school.

As a teenager, in the margins of Psalm 16:8-10, I notated "Acts 2:25-28." Curious as to why I wrote that, I flipped to those verses in the New Testament and guess what I discovered (or more accurately, what I re-discovered, because I obviously learned it back in 1979!): when the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost like the blowing of a violent wind from heaven, everyone in a large group of gatherers began to speak in tongues. Of course, everyone was confused and amazed.

That's when Jesus's disciple Peter stood up and addressed the crowd, trying to explain to everyone what was happening. He bravely explained that God had sent them Jesus, a man of miracles, wonders, and signs, and instead of welcoming him, these people had killed him. "But God raised him from the dead," (Peter continued) "freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him." (Acts 2:24).

Then Peter quoted Psalm 16 by saying, "David said about him, 'I saw the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken...my body will live in hope, because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay.'" (verses 25 – 27).

Peter chose this particular psalm of David to convince the Israelites gathered at that first Pentecost, that Jesus was always part of God's plan, and that God will not abandon us now, despite the fears of the early church after Jesus's crucifixion and resurrection. Peter, by quoting Psalm 16, affirmed that David prophesied about the resurrection of Christ, emphasizing the hope and trust in God's protection and presence even in times of trouble and death.

It always blows my mind when New Testament characters quote Old Testament writings because it reinforces for me just how huge and mighty our God is, and how consistent he is forever and ever. The very same God that David wrote about in Psalm 16 is the same God that Peter talked about to the gathering at the first Pentecost, is the very same God that you and I worship today.

I feel honored and comforted and strengthened from being a part of this vast brother-and-sisterhood of believers from the very beginning of the written Word of God till now. Don't you?

By Laurie Larsen

Laurie Larsen is an award-winning author of inspirational Christian fiction. Her latest adventure is blogging and podcasting about all she learned the year she read the Bible.



Reminder

I would love to hear from you! Use the “Contact” page under “More” to submit your response about how God moved you in this passage. If permission is given in your response, I may post it on the main page of the website for the following week. If you don’t want it posted, that’s okay too. I will keep it private. Thank you, and I pray you are blessed in amazing ways.