

Praying Psalm 45

Release Date: March 25, 2018

Psalm 45 (ESV)

- 1 My heart overflows with a pleasing theme;
I address my verses to the king;
my tongue is like the pen of a ready scribe.
- 2 You are the most handsome of the sons of men;
grace is poured upon your lips;
therefore God has blessed you forever.
- 3 Gird your sword on your thigh, O mighty one,
in your splendor and majesty!
- 4 In your majesty ride out victoriously
for the cause of truth and meekness and righteousness;
let your right hand teach you awesome deeds!
- 5 Your arrows are sharp
in the heart of the king's enemies;
the peoples fall under you.
- 6 Your throne, O God, is forever and ever.
The scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of uprightness;
- 7 you have loved righteousness and hated wickedness.
Therefore God, your God, has anointed you
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions;
- 8 your robes are all fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia.
From ivory palaces stringed instruments make you glad;
- 9 daughters of kings are among your ladies of honor;
at your right hand stands the queen in gold of Ophir.
- 10 Hear, O daughter, and consider, and incline your ear:
forget your people and your father's house,
11 and the king will desire your beauty.
Since he is your lord, bow to him.
- 12 The people of Tyre will seek your favor with gifts,
the richest of the people.
- 13 All glorious is the princess in her chamber, with robes interwoven with gold.
- 14 In many-colored robes she is led to the king,
with her virgin companions following behind her.
- 15 With joy and gladness they are led along
as they enter the palace of the king.
- 16 In place of your fathers shall be your sons;
you will make them princes in all the earth.

17 I will cause your name to be remembered in all generations;
therefore nations will praise you forever and ever.

Adoration

The images of Psalm 45 point us to reflect upon the love that Jesus has for his bride, the Church.¹ Let's begin by praying Psalm 45:1 in the adoration and worship of our God: "My heart overflows with a pleasing theme; I address my verses to the king" Lift your voice and speak words of praise to God, exalting him for his glorious appearance, the favor poured upon his lips, and that he is forever blessed — as described in verse 2. Praise him with the language of verse 3, for his splendor, majesty, and might.

[Pray for 25 seconds.]

Hear, again, the declaration of Psalm 45:6—"Your throne, O God, is forever and ever." And, according to verse 17, the name of our Lord will be remembered in all generations; therefore nations will praise him forever and ever. Praise God that his reign as king is forever, and that he is worthy of the praise of nations of peoples for all eternity.

[Pray for 35 seconds.]

O God, we declare your glory among the nations, your marvelous works among all the peoples! For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; you are to be feared above all gods. Splendor and majesty are yours; strength and joy are in your dwelling place. We ascribe to you the glory due your name. You are worthy of nations of peoples ascribing glory and honor and strength and might to you, O Lord. Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice, and let the nations say, "The Lord reigns!"² Hallelujah! Lord, you are worthy.

Confession

Jesus, our Messiah King, is the only one to ever truly embody Psalm 45:7 — he has loved righteousness and hated wickedness. Confess specific ways that we have been guilty of doing the opposite—loving wickedness and hating righteousness.

[Pray for 20 seconds.]

O Lord, your Word is upright, and all your work is done in faithfulness. You love righteousness and justice; the earth is full of your steadfast love.³ For us, it feels like our intentions are consistently evil in your sight.⁴ Thank you for convicting us in the power of your Spirit, to see the

¹ "This is no wedding song of earthly nuptials, but an Epithalamium for the Heavenly Bridegroom and his elect spouse." C. H. Spurgeon, *The Treasury of David*, vol. 1 (McLean, VA: MacDonald), 315.

² The preceding sentences from this paragraph adapted from 1 Chronicles 16:24–31.

³ Cf. Psalm 33:4–5.

⁴ Cf. Genesis 6:5.

filth of our wickedness for what it is—sin. We need you to turn our desires away from evil things and give us hearts that long to worship you.

Psalm 45:11 presents the image of a princess bowing to her Lord. And verse 15 describes the palace of the king as full of joy and gladness. Acknowledge before the Lord specific ways we have not honored him with a posture of submission and service, and confess the times we neglect to see his presence with joy and gladness.

[Pray for 20 seconds.]

Thanksgiving

Hear, again, the description in Psalm 45:4–5 of the Lord as our Warrior King — he rides out victoriously for the cause of truth and meekness and righteousness, he does awesome deeds, he conquers his enemies, and the peoples fall under him. First, thank him for specific awesome deeds that you have seen him do in your life.

[Pray for 15 seconds.]

Now, praise him for his majesty, his power and might over all people, and his victories over his enemies. Mention specific ways that he has delivered you and those around you.

[Pray for 20 seconds.]

We say “... thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”⁵ You are the One who has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of the beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.⁶ All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to you,⁷ and you invite us as your image bearers to experience your resurrection power as we have life in your name — by grace, through faith. Thank you. We give you thanks and praise for who you are and what you’ve done for us as your people.

Supplication

Pray for the Church of Jesus Christ today. Like the image of a princess being led with joy and gladness into the presence of a king — Psalm 45:13–15, may the Church realize the status that we’ve been given in Christ, our Lord and Bridegroom. Ask the Lord to let our love for him stir us up to love and good works in his name.⁸

[Pray for 25 seconds.]

⁵ 1 Corinthians 15:57.

⁶ Cf. Colossians 1:13–14.

⁷ Matthew 28:18.

⁸ Cf. Hebrews 10:24.

Benediction

Our hearts overflow, O God, with wonder at the love that you've lavished on us, that we should be called sons and daughters of God, for that is what we are!⁹ Yes, we know that the definition of love is not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.¹⁰ God, thank you for allowing us to come to know and to believe the love that you have for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.¹¹ As we go into the moments of our day, enable us to love others all the more faithfully because you have first loved us.¹²

AMEN.

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⁹ Cf. 1 John 3:1.

¹⁰ Cf. 1 John 4:10.

¹¹ 1 John 4:16.

¹² Cf. 1 John 4:19.