

Praying Psalm 63

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This week's readings from Sunday to Saturday: Psalm 59–65

Psalm 63 (ESV)

Psa. 63:1 O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you;
my soul thirsts for you;
my flesh faints for you,
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

2 So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,
beholding your power and glory.

3 Because your steadfast love is better than life,
my lips will praise you.

4 So I will bless you as long as I live;
in your name I will lift up my hands.

Psa. 63:5 My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food,
and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips,

6 when I remember you upon my bed,
and meditate on you in the watches of the night;

7 for you have been my help,
and in the shadow of your wings I will sing for joy.

8 My soul clings to you;
your right hand upholds me.

Psa. 63:9 But those who seek to destroy my life
shall go down into the depths of the earth;

10 they shall be given over to the power of the sword;
they shall be a portion for jackals.

11 But the king shall rejoice in God;
all who swear by him shall exult,
for the mouths of liars will be stopped.

Adoration

Psalm 63 begins with a statement of personalization — “O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you.” Express with your own voice that the living God, revealed in the Bible, is the Lord over your life. Verbalize your desire to seek him today.

[Pray for 10 seconds.]

The Psalmist has seen God’s power and glory, as mentioned in verse 2. In your own words, adore God for being both powerful and glorious. Praise him for the ways that you personally have seen his power and glory with your own eyes.

[Pray for 20 seconds.]

Psalm 63, verse 3, declares God’s steadfast love as a reason to praise him. Lift up your voice in praise to God for the greatness of his love, for you and for all of his people.

[Pray for 25 seconds.]

O God, you alone are the Lord, our God.¹ None can compare with you. Among all possible gods, O Lord, who is like you? No one and nothing else is like you — “majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds,” working wonders!² You are worthy of our worship, our hope, and our trust today, and to you alone we say: “You are my God.”³ As your people, we have seen your glory in Jesus Christ the Son and through your Word, and we express a desire today to see more of you. You are all-powerful and all glorious. And your steadfast love is incredible — it is measureless; and so much greater and higher than we can comprehend.⁴ For all of this and more, God, we magnify and exalt you today.

Confession

Psalm 63 speaks to our desires. As much as our souls thirst for God and our flesh faints for him, as in verse 1, we also desire other sinful things in our hearts. Invite the Holy Spirit to convict you of the sinful things that you are tempted to worship instead of God.

[Pray for 15 seconds.]

Worship given to anything other than God is idolatrous worship. Verbally, Admit these sins to God, and, in repentance, ask him to give you a heart that desires him above all else.

[Pray for 15 seconds.]

God, we confess our sins before you today — that we have loved this world and the things of this world with an idolatrous love. Forgive us for the desires of the flesh and the desires of our eyes.⁵ As your people, we have been crucified with Christ. The lives we now live in the flesh, we live by faith in the Son of God.⁶ O Lord, turn our affections back to you, today, in this moment.

¹ Cf. Psalm 86:10.

² Cf. Exodus 15:11.

³ Cf. Psalm 31:14.

⁴ Cf. Psalm 57:10.

⁵ Adapted from 1 John 2:15–16.

⁶ Cf. Gal 2:20.

Because of who we are in Christ and raised with Christ, let us say along with Psalm 63: “O God, you are my God earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.”⁷

Thanksgiving

As verse 5 reminds us, God satisfies our souls as rich food satisfies our physical hunger. Thank him for the satisfaction and rest for our souls that is available in him today.

[Pray for 10 seconds.]

God is also a help to his people, in verse 7, and he upholds us, in verse 8. In your own words, thank God for sustaining us. Give God thanks for the ways he has been your help in this life and for the eternal life that he has provided for us in Jesus.

[Pray for 15 seconds.]

God, we thank you that we can find satisfaction in you for every want and every need. The Lord is our shepherd, and in you, we shall not want.⁸ Thank you for giving us life, and thank you for giving us new life in Christ. Give us the grace to live today from a place of rest in the finished work of Jesus on our behalf. Satisfy us again today with your steadfast love — a love that you have displayed for us most clearly in the person of Jesus Christ — that we may rejoice and be glad today, and all of our days.⁹

Supplication

In Psalm 63, verse 6, the Psalmist finds satisfaction from the Lord as he meditates upon him in the middle of the night. Ask the Lord to train your desires to meditate on his Word in the watches of the night. Ask him to make us into people who remember his character and his goodness as we fall asleep and as we rise.

[Pray for 20 seconds.]

What do you think about in the quiet and still moments of the night? What are the worries, cares, and desires of your heart? Ask God to allow you to hear his voice in the midst of your circumstances. Ask him for specific things and specific ways to bring him glory in the days ahead.

[Pray for 20 seconds.]

⁷ Psalm 63:1–3.

⁸ Cf. Psalm 23:1.

⁹ Cf. Psalm 90:14.

Benediction

O God, we declare that you are our delight. At the same time, we ask that you increase our delight in you. Give us eyes to see you today, and give us ears to hear your voice. Our desire is to be faithful to follow wherever you may lead us today. We ask that our desires be your desires — for your kingdom, for your glory. Father, you are the source of every good and perfect gift.¹⁰ So, we come to you with the worries, cares, desires, and ambitions of our heart today. Give us the grace to pursue whatever is honorable, just, pure, lovely, commendable, and excellent, in your sight.¹¹ And whatever we do, in word or deed, may it all be done in the name of our Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.¹²

AMEN.

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¹⁰ Cf. James 1:17.

¹¹ Cf. Phil 4:8.

¹² Cf. Col 3:17.