

## Study Questions on Psalm 5 (NKJV)

### 1. How does David describe the way God hears prayer in the opening verses?

David recognizes that prayer involves more than spoken words. He asks God to “*give ear to my words*” (v.1), to “*consider my meditation*” (v.1), and to “*give heed to the voice of my cry*” (v.2). This progression shows increasing intensity—from words, to silent thoughts, to urgent cries. God is attentive to all three. By calling Him “*My King and my God*” (v.2), David affirms both God’s authority and his personal allegiance. Prayer is not casual—it is offered to the Sovereign King who rules, but also to the covenant God who listens.

### 2. What significance does the morning have in David’s prayer life?

Morning prayer reveals David’s priority: before engaging with people or problems, he seeks God. The phrase “*I will direct it to You*” (v.3) carries the sense of arranging carefully, like preparing a sacrifice. Prayer is intentional and ordered, not haphazard. The phrase “*I will look up*” reflects expectation—David waits for God to respond. This shows that prayer is not simply speaking to God but watching for His answer. Morning devotion frames the day in dependence and faith.

### 3. What do verses 4–6 reveal about God’s holiness and His stance toward wickedness?

God’s character is holy, and His presence is incompatible with sin. He does not “*take pleasure in wickedness*” (v.4), nor will “*evil dwell with*” Him. The arrogant and boastful cannot stand before Him, for He “*hates all workers of iniquity*” (v.5). His judgment falls on liars, murderers, and deceivers (v.6). These verses remind us that sin is not only what God punishes but what He abhors—it is contrary to His very nature. The holiness of God provides both a warning (to the wicked) and assurance (to the righteous) that God will deal justly.

### 4. On what basis does David approach God in worship?

David contrasts himself with the wicked not by claiming righteousness of his own, but by relying on God’s mercy: “*I will come into Your house in the multitude of Your mercy*” (v.7). His worship is marked by reverence: “*In fear of You I will worship*” (v.7). This fear is not terror but awe, recognizing God’s holiness. His focus is directed toward God’s holy dwelling. Worship in Scripture always flows from God’s grace, not human merit—here foreshadowing the access believers have in Christ (Hebrews 10:19–22).

### 5. Why does David ask for God’s guidance, and what does he desire?

In a hostile environment, David knows his own wisdom is insufficient. He prays, “*Lead me, O Lord, in Your righteousness because of my enemies*” (v.8). The presence of enemies increases the need for God’s direction, lest he stumble or retaliate wrongly. He desires a straight path, one cleared of obstacles, aligned with God’s will: “*Make Your way straight before my face*” (v.8). This prayer reveals dependence on God for clarity, righteousness, and integrity, especially under pressure.

### 6. Are the teachings of David’s prayer valuable beyond David’s specific circumstances?

David's situation was specific (oppression from deceitful and violent enemies), but the structure of his prayer models how any believer can respond when under pressure:

- **Cry for God's attention (vv. 1–3):** Bring the burden honestly before Him.
- **Anchor in God's character (vv. 4–6):** Remember that God does not align with wickedness or injustice.
- **Commit to walk faithfully (vv. 7–8):** Approach God with reverence and ask for His leading.
- **Entrust judgment and protection to God (vv. 9–10):** Place enemies or obstacles in His hands.
- **Rest in assurance (vv. 11–12):** End with confidence that God blesses the righteous.

This progression can apply to challenges beyond enemies — illness, false accusations, cultural pressures, workplace opposition, or even inner struggles with sin.

### **7. What response should the righteous have toward God, according to verses 11–12?**

The righteous are called to rejoice and shout for joy because God is their defender: “*Because You defend them*” (v.11). This joy is not circumstantial but rooted in God's protection and covenant love. Those who “*love Your name*” (v.11) find joy in God Himself, not merely in His gifts. Verse 12 closes with a promise: God blesses the righteous and surrounds them with favor like a shield. This image suggests not only defense from attack but also a complete encirclement of divine grace.

### **8. How does Psalm 5 contrast the destiny of the wicked and the righteous?**

The psalm draws a sharp line between two paths. The wicked are destroyed for their lies, bloodshed, and rebellion (vv. 5–6, 9–10). Their way leads to guilt and ruin. In contrast, the righteous are received through mercy (v.7), guided in God's righteousness (v.8), and blessed with joy, protection, and favor (vv. 11–12). This contrast underscores God's justice and covenant faithfulness: the wicked cannot remain in His presence, but the righteous—those who trust in Him—are surrounded with His shield of blessing.